

Report for the 2020 AAPA Business Meeting
Student Programs Committee
Christina Torres-Rouff, 8 March 2020

The Student Programs Committee primarily implements two student competitions. The first occurs at the annual meeting, when students who are presenting research in either a poster or podium format compete for seven named prizes. The second competition is for travel funds to attend the annual meeting, for which they write an essay on a topic proposed by the Early Career Liaison and approved by the Executive Committee. Both competitions rely on a committee of judges that varies slightly in composition based on the judges' availability. In this report, I first summarize the 2019 Student Presentation Prize competition that occurred during the 2019 AAPA Cleveland meeting and then report on the 2020 Pollitzer Essay competition that was run in anticipation of the 2020 AAPA Los Angeles meeting. Finally, I present preliminary information on the 2020 Student Presentation Prize Competition for Los Angeles.

I. 2019 Student Presentation Prizes

The deadline for entry to the 2019 AAPA Student Presentation was February 22, 2019. This was the third year that we relied on an online submission form, with some minor adjustments that improved the process. We received 91 entries (which included a 1,000 word essay) to be judged for presentations at the 2019 annual AAPA meeting in Cleveland. Forty-two judges were convened to evaluate these presentations and we thank them for their work

History of the number of entries and judges for the Student Presentation Prizes

Year	Number of entries	Number of judges
2014	39	-
2015	31	-
2016	45	21
2017	69	34
2018	63	39
2019	91	41

Committee of Judges for the 2019 Student Presentation Prizes

Alicia Rich	Corina Kellner	Jeremy DeSilva
Andrea Baden	Daniel Temple	Jessica Joganic
Angela Garcia	Daniel Wescott	Julie Lesnik
Anna Waterman	David Green	Krista Fish
Ashley Edes	Emily Middleton	Libby Cowgill
Barbara Piperata	Erik Bartelink	Maja Seje
Ben Trumble	Erin Riley	Mark Grabowski
Cara Wall-Scheffler	Evan Garofalo	Mark Hubbe
Chrisandra Kufeldt	Halszka Glowacka	Maureen Devlin
Christina Torres-Rouff	Holly Dunsworth	Michele Buzon
Colleen Cheverko	Jackie Eng	Michelle Bezanson

Mike Wassermann
Milena Shattuck
Myra Laird
Nathan Holton
Noreen Von Cramon-
Taubadel

Peer Moore-Jansen
Robert Anemone
Robin Bernstein
Robin Nelson
Sabrina Sholts
Scott Maddox

Stephanie Poindexter
Susan Ford
Thierra Nalley
Zach Cofran

Each of the 91 entries was evaluated by 3 judges. As has been the case for the last few years, an online judging form was used with a simple scoring system between 1-5. This greatly facilitated the compilation of scores during the judges meeting when winners were determined.

There were **nine** named prizes awarded in 2019, with 5 honorable mentions. Six of the prizes came with a \$500 monetary award that was dispersed after the meeting. The two joint American Association of Anatomists/American Association of Physical Anthropologists prizes are awarded \$250 each.

In addition to the monetary award, recipients were given books that, in 2019, were generously donated by Springer (graciously facilitated by Eric Delson, as in years past) as well by Elsevier and Cambridge University Press. Members of the judging committee helped to fill out the award certificates and decide which winner would receive which donated book(s).

This was the first year that the Journal of Human Evolution Prize was implemented to recognize an excellent podium or poster presentation on human or primate evolution.

The winners were as follows:

Juan Comas Prize

Rachel Bell (University of Massachusetts Amherst). Comparing Evolutionary Models of Primate Hair Color Variation

Earnest Hooton Prize for best poster

Marianne Brasil (University of California, Berkeley). Morphological integration and modularity in the humerus of modern humans

Aleš Hrdlička Prize

Julia Alyssa White (University of Oxford). From flesh to mesh: Bodies as maps in 3D GIS

Mildred Trotter Prize for superior presentation on teeth or bones

Katherine Bishop (University of Alberta). Isotopic perspectives on the sheep-herd relationship at two Hellenistic (ca. 323-31 BCE) settlements in Thessaly, Greece

Sherwood Washburn Prize

William Aguado (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey). Effective seed dispersal of an economically important plant resource by western chimpanzees at Fongoli, Senegal

Patricia Whitten Prize for excellence in primatology

Matthew Zippel (Duke University). Intergenerational Fitness Effects of Early Life Adversity in Baboons

American Association of Anatomists - American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Anatomy in Anthropology Prize

Anna Ragni - podium presentation, (Richard Gilder Graduate School, American Museum of Natural History). Locomotor ontogeny and trabecular architecture within the hands and feet of great apes

Ingrid Lundeen - poster presentation, (The University of Texas at Austin). Olfactory system anatomy in Homunculus and the ecological importance of olfactory cues among stem platyrrhines

Journal of Human Evolution Prize

Emma Finestone (CUNY Graduate Center). ED-XRF study of Oldowan artifacts documents raw material selection and transport through time on the Homa Peninsula, Kenya

Honorable Mentions:

Alyssa Bader (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). Ancient oral microbiome of a fisher-hunter-gatherer community from the Pacific Northwest Coast

Amanda Ellwanger (University of Texas at San Antonio). Foraging in a landscape of fear: chacma baboons (*Papio hamadryas ursinus*) in the anthropogenic habitats of Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, South Africa

Jake Funkhouser (Washington University, St. Louis). Re-evaluating the analysis of dominance: Investigations of dominance in captive chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) and wild Tibetan macaques (*Macaca thibetana*) from a context-dependent perspective

Kris Sabbi (University of New Mexico). Sex differences in adrenal hormone production throughout development among Kanyawara chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) at Kibale National Park, Uganda

II. 2019 Pollitzer Travel Awards

The Pollitzer Student Travel Awards are designed to help students defray the costs of attending the AAPA meetings. They are named in honor of William S. Pollitzer, a Human Biologist who taught at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, a Darwin Lifetime Achievement Awardee, and past president of the AAPA. The number of awards is also tied to proceeds from the auction that is held at the annual meeting of the AAPA in the year prior. The award provides \$500 to each recipient to defray travel costs to attend AAPA's annual meeting.

This award is open to all AAPA student members (undergraduate and graduate) who are attending the annual meeting. Students do not need to be giving a presentation at the meeting to qualify but

they do need to be a member of the AAPA at the time of the meeting and should not have been granted their PhD prior to the submission deadline (Jan 1, 2019).

The Pollitzer competition falls under the purview of the Early Career Liaison, currently Dr. Kevin Hatala.

The essay question changes each year. Awards are made on the basis of an essay of no more than 750 words (excluding references). The specific prompt for this year was:

In 2019, the AAPA formally adopted a new position statement on race and racism (<https://physanth.org/about/position-statements/aapa-statement-race-and-racism-2019/>). The Association is uniquely positioned to offer such a statement, given the historical roles that biological anthropologists have played in the creation and perpetuation of racialized systems of oppression and discrimination. In our professional contexts, biological anthropologists have opportunities to address "race," educate students, and inform publics about the science of human biological variation. In an essay of 750 words or less, describe how you may approach such opportunities in the classroom or in other professional arenas, and how they can best be used to communicate an honest and accurate message concerning the science of race and racism.

The deadline for entry was January 1st, midnight UTC -11hours. The submission website went live in mid-November and we received entries starting on the 13th of November through to the last few minutes before the deadline. We received 154 original essays. A committee of 34 judges was convened.

Committee of Judges for the 2020 Pollitzer Travel Awards

Andrew Barr	Kevin Hatala	Sarah Schrader
Michael Berthaume	Sarah Hlubik	Jeremiah Scott
Michelle Bezanson	Mark Hubbe	Darcy Shapiro
Zachary Cofran	Chrisandra Kufeldt	Eric Shattuck
Libby Cowgill	Sarah Lacy	Nathan Thompson
Lucas Delezene	Scott Maddux	Zach Throckmorton
Maureen Devlin	Rachel Menegaz	Lori Tremblay
Jessica Dimka	Justyna Miskiewicz	Chris Walker
Andrew Du	Biren Patel	Anna Waterman
David Green	William Pestle	Todd Yokley
Elaine Guevara	Terry Ritzman	
Adam Hartstone-Rose	Neil Roach	

In an effort to standardize the scoring system, a rubric was used. Evaluation was done on a 100-point scale based on four criteria:

1. Specificity of the approach to the types of audiences and resources typically available to biological anthropologists. 20 points possible.
2. Originality of the approach. 10 points possible.
3. Soundness and completeness of the plan and its justification. 50 points possible.
4. Clarity of writing, grammar, and spelling. 20 points possible.

Each entry was given a number, and essays were identified only by number during the evaluation process. Each essay was scored by three judges. Each judge was asked to score ~14 essays and one back up judge was used for conflicts of interest. The final score for each essay was determined as the average of the three independent scores. The judges were sent the rubric, scoring sheet, and assigned essays by Kevin Hatala. Neither the named essays nor the number/name key were accessible at any time to the judges. No judge evaluated a proposal from a student at their same institution and the chair was not notified of any other conflicts of interest.

In order to implement the policy that priority would be given to novel entrants, students who had received a Pollitzer award previously had 7 points deducted from their final score. There were 27 entries from previous winners. Eleven of these ranked high enough to win a Pollitzer award again this year even with the 7-point penalty.

We followed the protocol implemented in 2018 for increasing the number of Pollitzer prizes awarded and for ranking essays in order to increase representation at the AAPA meeting by traditionally underrepresented groups. Information to this effect was provided by Heide Rohland and only accessed by Kevin Hatala in determining rank.

AAPA had funds to award 50 \$500 awards. The winners are listed below.

2020 Pollitzer Travel Award Recipients

Donovan Adams	Obed Garcia	Lauren Michelman
William Aguado	Matthew Go	Brian Padgett
Sydney Baker	Amanda Hardie	Gina Palefsky
Christina Balentine	Victoria Harries	Erin Pinkston
Rebecca Biermann Gurbuz	Caitlin Hawley	Edward Quinn
Marianne Brasil	Marleigh Jenkins-Morse	Valerie Sgheiza
Grace Calhoun	M Shruti Kamath	Sofiya Shreyer
Caitlin Craig	Monica Keith	Cassie Skipper
Katherine Daiy	Brittany Kenyon-Flatt	Emma Thurau
Elizabeth Dinkele	Emma Lagan	Sharon Toth
Luke Fannin	Rose Leach	Xiaojia Wang
Aileen Fernandez	Naomi Levin	Devin Ward
Raquel Fleskes	Tisa Loewen	olawunmi winful
Alyssa Funk	Risa Luther	Jessica Wollmann
Jacqueline Galimany	Rebecca Mayus	Caitlin Yoakum
Skupham	Stephanie Medrano	Aaron Young
Abigail Gancz	Raphaela Meloro	Kendra Weinrich

History of the number of entries and winners for the Pollitzer Travel Essay Competition.

Pollitzer Travel Essay Competition		
Year	Number of entries	Number of winners
2012	-	43
2013	-	43
2014	-	50
2015	40	24

2016	68	42
2017	118	50
2018	75	57
2019	104	46
2020	154	50

III. 2019 Student Presentation Prizes

The deadline for entry to the 2019 AAPA Student Presentation was March 1, 2020, and will proceed following the protocol used in 2019 with minor modifications to streamline judging. This will be the fourth year that we relied on an online submission form.

We received a significantly reduced number of entries for this year's contest, more in line with previous years, instead of last year's exceptional participation rate. Thirty-eight judges have been organized to evaluate these presentations. We will continue to use an online judging system following the protocol first developed in 2017.

We are pleased to note the addition of a new prize this year. The *Journal of Human Evolution (JHE)* Prize was created by Elsevier Publishers and the *JHE* editors in 2019. The purpose for the prize is to support and encourage research excellence in human or primate evolution. The *JHE* Prize is awarded once a year to the most outstanding poster or podium presentation by a student at the AAPA annual meeting in any area of human or primate evolution supported by the journal. The prize is \$500 plus an annual digital subscription to the *Journal of Human Evolution*.