

AABA 2022-2023 Student Liaison Report **Submitted by Dori Kenessey**

Committee Structure

As per the structure created by the Executive Committee of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA), the *ad hoc* Student Committee co-chairs are the current and incoming Student Liaisons for the AABA Executive Committee. The current (and outgoing) liaison is Dori Kenessey. The incoming liaison is Elise Adams.

Student Liaison Activities

- The eighth annual AABA Student Mixer is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023. It will be held in Naples 3 of the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino. Considering the ease in COVID restrictions, most student members are expected to attend the 2023 conference in-person. Therefore, an additional mixer is not currently scheduled for the virtual setting of the conference (the 2023 conference is held both in-person and virtually). The mixer will involve a networking activity to encourage student discussion. Completion of the activity will come with a small reward.
- The AABA Student Members Facebook group has been suspended. This was a previous forum for students to interact, ask questions, receive notification of field school and workshop opportunities, and share current research in the field. The deactivation of this group was caused by COVID and the misuse of the group by members. There has been additional discussion about the suitability of Facebook as a preferred social media platform by the new generation of students. Currently, there is no forum to facilitate student member discussion and the liaison has no effective way to communicate with student membership. Establishing a new method of student communication will be raised by the Student Liaison at the 2023 AABA Executive Meeting.
- Several student programs and efforts established pre-COVID have fallen through the cracks due to quarantine. With in-person meetings reinstated, whether to bring these programs back needs to be evaluated. These programs include the “AABA Room Sharing” group, the Buddy Program, the Student Newsletters, the *ad hoc* Student Committee meeting, the AABA Student Mixer and discussion panels.
- During and directly after COVID, the virtual and hybrid nature of the meetings has caused difficulties in the liaison transition process. Once the student programs to continue post-COVID are agreed upon, a formal, itemized document (*e.g.*, handbook) listing all responsibilities that come with the role of AABA Student Liaison should be created to facilitate the transition process. Such a document will provide clear guidance on Student Liaison roles and responsibilities. Should these roles change, the document can be revised with approval by the Executive Committee.

Planned 2023 AABA Meeting Student Committee Events

- AABA Student Mixer: Wednesday 5-6pm, April 19, 2023