

**Student Programs Committee  
2021-22 Annual Report**

**Submitted by Chelsey Juarez**

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 traditionally for travel funds to attend the annual meeting, for which they write an essay on a topic chosen by the Executive Committee. In this report, I first summarize the 2021 student prizes awarded at the virtual meetings in 2021, and finally, I present the 2022 travel award awardees and preliminary information on the 2022 Student Presentation Prize Competition.

**I. 2021 Student Presentation Prizes**

The deadline for entry to the 2021 AAPA Student Presentation was March 1, 2021. This was the fourth year that we relied on an online submission form. We received significantly fewer student presentation prize applications than in the past (n=23) and 16 judges evaluated these presentations.

The 2021 AABA student presentation winners were:

**American Association of Biological Anthropologists Awards for Outstanding Student Presentations.**

1. **Alex DeCasien**, New York University and the New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology - Patterns of sex-biased gene expression in rhesus macaque brains are similar to those observed in human brains.
2. **Colton Unger**, University of Calgary, Canada- Why the long face? A study of cranial shape change in mice artificially selected for longer limbs.
3. **Aleksey Maro**, University of California, Berkeley - Dietary ethanol in the main food (*Ficus mucuso*) of chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) in a tropical rain forest.
4. **Jordan Anderson**, Duke University - Early life adversity predicts DNA methylation levels in wild adult baboons.

**Mildred Trotter Prize** Elizabeth Cho, University of Missouri. "*The influence of climate and population structure on East Asian skeletal morphology*"

**Patricia Whitten Prize** Arielle Fogel, Duke University. "*Mapping putative genetic barriers to gene flow in hybrid baboons*"

**The AAA-AAPA Anatomy in Anthropology podium prize** Alexa Kelly, University of North Texas Health Science Center - Energetic Demands and Sexual Dimorphism in Inuit Nasal Morphology

**Journal of Human Evolution Prize** on human or primate evolution

**American Association of Biological Anthropologists Honorable Mention for Student Presentations.**

1. **Faye McGechie** (University of Missouri). 3D Functional Anatomy of Nuchal Musculature in Primates.
2. **Leslie Quade** (Masaryk University, Czech Republic, and Durham University, UK). Stressed to the tooth? A pilot study of cortisol in archaeological tooth structures.
3. **L. Creighton Avery** (McMaster University). Investigating Social Age Changes in the Roman Empire through Dietary Stable Isotopes.

### 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
2020	53	-
2021	23	16
2022	14	11

### II. 2022 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 traditionally provides \$500 to each recipient to defray travel costs to attend AAPA's annual meeting.

This award is open to all AABA 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 AABA at the time of the meeting and should not have been granted their PhD prior to the submission deadline for 2022 the submission deadline was (January 14, 2022).

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 2022 was:

*How does diversity in biological anthropology impact our practice and education? In your answer, reflect on recent events in biological anthropology at the intersection of race and racism. What do you think about the state of diversity in our discipline at present? How can the discipline change the status of diversity in our discipline at present? What does a more inclusive biological anthropology look like to you?*

The deadline for entry was January 14<sup>th</sup>, midnight UTC -11hours. The submission website went live in December 2021 and we received entries starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January through to the last few minutes before the deadline. We received 30 original essays. A committee of 16 judges was convened.

### **Committee of Judges for the 2022 Pollitzer Travel Award**

Teresa Wilson

An-Di Yim

Maja Šešelj

Scott Maddux

Eric Bartelink

Thierra K. Nalley

Mark Hubbe

Chrisandra Kufeldt

Zaneta Thayer

Addison Kemp

Nicholas Passalacqua

Amy Lui

Krista Fish

Evan Garofalo

Lori Tremblay

Chelsey Juarez

Evaluation was done on a 60-point scale based on a five-part scale (50 points total for originality and creativity, reasoning based on evolutionary biology and theory, and the current literature of our discipline, including references as needed; and 10 points for grammar and spelling). In an effort to standardize the scoring system, a rubric was utilized.

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 ~8 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. Neither the named essays nor the number/name key was 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 3.5 points deducted from their final score. There were three entries from previous winners. Two of these ranked high enough to win a Pollitzer award again this year even with the penalty.

AAPA had funds to award 30 awards. The winners are listed below.

#### **2022 Pollitzer Travel Award Recipients:**

Julia Galway-Witham New York University

Madeline Walker University Minnesota

Kathryn Sokolowski University of Utah

Isis Dwyer University of Florida

Catherine Kitrinos University MASS Amherst

Rachel Orkin LA Pierce College

Alyssa Bolster Vanderbilt

Jacob Haffner University of Oklahoma

Gina Palefsky University California Merced

Nikki Appel University New Mexico  
 Urvi Kaul University Connecticut  
 Emma Thureau City University New York  
 Faye Harwell Boston University  
 Alexandra Kralick University Pennsylvania  
 Trent Trombley University California Berkeley  
 Mary Stough University Alaska  
 Malorie Albee The Ohio state University  
 Baonhu Tran University Texas Arlington  
 Esteban Rangel Eastern New Mexico University  
 Valerie Sgheiza University Illinois Urbana Champagne  
 Emma Lagan Ohio State University  
 Hannah Cantrell University of New Mexico  
 Tisa Loewen Arizona State University  
 Carla Goldsmith Ohio State University  
 Abigail Gancz Penn State University  
 Zoe Albert Boston University  
 Abigail Colby University of Calgary  
 Dominic Mayo University Michigan  
 Sina White University of Kent  
 Nicholas Jaworski Miami University

**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
2021	31	28
2022	40	30

**III. 2022 Student Presentation Prizes**

The deadline for entry to the 2021 AAPA Student Presentation was March 1, 2022, and will proceed following the protocol used for the last several years with modifications given the hybrid meeting. We received significantly fewer student presentation prize applications this year than in the past (n=14) and 11 judges have been organized to evaluate these presentations.

