

**Report for the 2023 AAPA Business Meeting**  
**Student Programs Committee**  
Chelsey Juarez, 19, April 2023

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 2022 student prizes awarded at the meetings in 2022, and finally, I present the 2023 travel award awardees and preliminary information on the 2023 Student Presentation Prize Competition.

**I. 2022 Student Presentation Prizes**

The deadline for entry to the 2022 AAPA Student Presentation was April 1, 2022. This was the fifth year that we relied on an online submission form. We received significantly fewer student presentation prize applications than in the past (n=21) and 11 judges evaluated these presentations.

The 2022 AABA student presentation winners were:

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

1. Natalie Swinford. UC Davis. Increased Homozygosity due to endogamy results in fitness consequences in a human population
2. Stephanie Fox. University of New Mexico. Social relationship quality predicts coalition formation among adult female chimpanzees at Kanyawara, Kibale National Park, Uganda
3. Isis Dwyer University of Florida. Limitations of Current Data and Methods for the Forensic Identification of Black Undocumented Immigrants
4. Catherine Kitrinou U Mass. Is there a core primate hair microbiome?

**Mildred Trotter Prize** Valerie Sgheiza University of Illinois Champagne Urbana. The effect of demographic variation on correlations between developing teeth in humans

**Patricia Whitten Prize** Jacob Feder StonyBrook. Social precursors and fitness outcomes of group fission in geladas

**The AAA-AAPA Anatomy in Anthropology podium** Zana Sims and Catherine J Llera Martin. Johns Hopkins University. Using weighted spherical harmonics to detect functional locomotor signals at the distal femoral articulation

**Journal of Human Evolution Prize** on human or primate evolution William Callison Harvard University. Andean populations adapted to high-altitude hypoxic environments use thoracic ventilation more than lowlanders to breathe while walking and running

**American Association of Biological Anthropologists Honorable Mention for Student Presentations.** Dori Kenessey : Identifying candidate SNPs shaping dental morphological trait expression

Alexandra Kralick: Relative leg to arm strength proportions in Bornean and Sumatran orangutans

**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	21	11
2023	30	21

**II. 2023 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 2023 the submission deadline was (January 6, 2023).

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:

*What does decolonizing biological anthropology mean to you? What steps can be taken to decolonize the research process? The classroom? Field work? What do you think would be the impact of decolonizing these spaces?*

The deadline for entry was January 6<sup>h</sup>, midnight UTC -11hours. The submission website went live in November 2022 and we received entries starting on the 4th of November through to the last few minutes before the deadline. We received 87 original essays. A committee of 16 judges was convened.

### **Committee of Judges for the 2023 Pollitzer Travel Award (25 judges)**

Chrisandra Kufeldt	Nicholas Passalacqua
Cheverko, Colleen	Teresa V Wilson
Evan Garofalo	Zaneta Marie Thayer
Krista Fish	Jada Benn Torres
Maja Seselj	Eric Bartelink
Mark Hubbe	AnDi Yim
Scott.Maddux	Kelsey Ellis
Addison Kemp	Melissa Clark
Cris Hughes	Jonathan Bethard
Michael Rivera	Heather Edgar
Melanie Beasley	Elizabeth Cho
Jessie Goliath	Lori Trembly

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 (but two of the individuals attending virtually so we actually had 31 winners!). The winners are listed below.

#### **2023 Pollitzer Travel Award Recipients:**

Jordie Hoffman	University of Calgary
Laura Hunter	University of Chicago
Daniela Orozco	The National Laboratory of Genomics for Biodiversity
Magdalena Palisson	Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
Dayanira Lopez	University of Nevada Las Vegas

Kyle Smith	The Pennsylvania State University
Lydia Bailey	University of Pittsburg
Staphanie Fannin.	The Ohio State University
Sharmi Sen	University of Michigan
Te Wai Pounamu	University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
Carlotta Zeppilli.	Sapienza University of Rome
Krista Bennett	Louisiana State University
Robin Singleton	University of Oregon
Celia Cleary	George Mason University
Siobhan Summers.	University of Florida
Madeleine Kelly.	University of Chicago
Maria Sellers	George Mason University
Laura Pott	University of New Mexico
Isis Dwyer	University of Florida
Lindsey Warshawski.	University of Victoria
Rosa Taylor	University of Oregon
Megan Malherbe.	University of Zurich
Jana Valesca Meyer	University of New Mexico
Lucia Freedberg	UC Santa Barbara
Andrea Zurek-Ost	University of North Carolina
Liam Johnson	University of Nevada Las Vegas
Jaime Zolik	University of New Mexico
Kaita Gurian	The Ohio State University
Taylor Flaherty	University of Nevada Las Vegas
Alexandra Kralick.	University of Pennsylvania
Sterling Wright	Penn State 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
2023	87	30

### **III. 2023 Student Presentation Prizes**

The deadline for entry to the 2023 AAPA Student Presentation was March 24, 2023, and will proceed following the protocol used for the last several years. We received an increase in student

presentation prize applications this year compared to last year (n=30) and 21 judges have been organized to evaluate these presentations.