

Vice President's Report – Business Meeting (4/13/18; submitted 3/29/18)
American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Austin, 2018
J. Josh Snodgrass

Annual Meeting Information

We are pleased to be joined in Austin by the Paleopathology Association (PPA), the Human Biology Association (HBA), the Paleoanthropology Society (PAS), the American Association for Anthropological Genetics (AAAG), and the Dental Anthropology Association (DAA). Meeting sessions and events are being held at the Hyatt Regency Austin (the main conference hotel) and the JW Marriott Austin (our secondary hotel). Wednesday AAPA events take place at the JW Marriott or Hyatt Regency, while Thursday through Saturday AAPA sessions and events are at the Hyatt Regency. All PPA, PAS, AAAG, and DAA events take place in the Hyatt Regency, while HBA events are in the JW Marriott.

This year we received a large number of abstract submissions (1229), the highest of any year except the 2017 meetings in New Orleans (1346). This year's program includes 1199 scientific presentations, which will be delivered in podium or poster sessions on Wednesday evening or during one of the three full days of the meetings. As of 3/29/18, 15 abstracts have been withdrawn.

Twenty-six proposals were submitted for invited symposia—17 podium proposals and 9 poster proposals. All were accepted, but not necessarily in the preferred format; two invited poster sessions later withdrew. The 75 scientific sessions include 8 invited podium symposia, 16 invited poster symposia, 22 contributed podium sessions, and 29 contributed poster sessions. In addition, there are 10 workshop sessions that run in parallel to the scientific program. We made the change this year to hold five simultaneous podium sessions, which increases the overall number of podium slots available in the scientific program and helps accommodate the large number of abstract submissions with podium presentation as their preference.

Abstract submissions were due 10/16/17—a full month later than in previous years. Notices of abstract acceptances were sent out on 1/2/18 and scheduling information e-mails (with format, session, and date/time) sent on 2/7/18. The annual meeting supplement document, which this year included only the abstracts and introductory material (but not the program) was sent to Wiley for production on 3/21/18. The final meeting program was posted on 3/27/18 and is available on the meeting website (http://www.physanth.org/documents/135/2018_AAPA_Final_Conference_Program_-_R5.pdf). The program has also been made available online and through Android and Apple apps.

Due to the size and complexity of our meetings and following similar associations, this year we required that podium presentations be uploaded onto a central secure server in the Speaker Ready Room no later than a half day before the presentation. This server then “pushes” presentations to the appropriate meeting room and will be available for the session.

This year we are holding a number of new activities that occur before and during our annual meeting. These events include three workshops on Wednesday (3D Morphology with Open-Source Software; Science Communication and Engagement with Religious Publics; and, Social Network Analysis using R); two events on Thursday (Professional Ethics in Biological Anthropology: How to Approach an Ethical Dilemma [sponsored by the AAPA Ethics Committee] and AAPA Diversity: Reflections on the 2017 Symposium and Future Directions for Biological Anthropology [co-sponsored by the AAPA Committee on Diversity]). The Friday lineup includes several events (Teaching in the 21st Century [sponsored by the AAPA Committee on Diversity AACT]; Balanced: A Panel on Family Life and Careers in Academia [sponsored by AAPA Committee on Diversity-WIN]; and, an open forum on the development of a formal AAPA mentoring program [sponsored by the AAPA Executive Committee and the AAPA Committee on Diversity]) and a Wikipedia editing workshop (sponsored by the AAPA History and Awards Committee). Our final day, Saturday, includes a lunchtime event (Families and Fieldwork: Navigating Work-Life Balance) and the Presidential Panel (Should the AAPA Change Our Name?).

This year we are transitioning away from our traditional AAPA Luncheon on Saturday (because of the high cost of the lunch) in favor a Plenary Lecture, which has been a popular event in the past. This year's Plenary Lecture was rescheduled from last year because of the cancellation resulting from the March for Science. It will be given on Friday by

primatologist and molecular ecologist Anthony Di Fiore and is entitled “In the House of the Piranha: Twenty-Five Years of Field Research in the Ecuadorian Rainforest”.

Upcoming Change

Beginning with the 2019 meeting, we will use new abstract classification categories that authors use to select session preferences. Our incoming VP, Steve Leigh, will lead a team to revise these categories in preparation for abstract submission (for the 10/15/18 deadline).

Acknowledgments and Thanks

Thanks to members of the Program Committee: Kari Allen, Bob Anemone, Melanie Beasley, Jon Bethard, Carola Borries, Nicole Burt, Stephanie Calce, Habiba Chirchir, Siobhan Cooke, Francisco Curate, David Green, Lauren Halenar-Price, M. Geoffrey Hayes, Jennifer Hotzman, James Holland Jones, Claire Kirchhoff, Haagen Klaus, Kristin Krueger, Christine Lee, Melanie Martin, Christina Nicholas, Robert O’Malley, Nick Passalacqua, Sean Prall, Ryan Raaum, Tom Rein, John Relethford, Terry Ritzman, Tara Cepon-Robins, Amy Schreier, Liza J. Shapiro, Michelle Singleton, Christina Torres-Rouff, Ben Trumble, Michael Wasserman, Andrea Waters, Julie Wieczkowski, Cathy Willermet, and Teresa Wilson. Thanks also to the Austin Advance Team (Leslie Aiello, Rachel Caspari, Ed Hagen, M. Geoffrey Hayes, Steve Leigh, Liza Shapiro, and Andrea Taylor); I assembled this group in Austin in late January to make session assignments and address space issues. Thanks also to members of the Executive Committee for reviewing symposium proposals.

Thanks are also due to our meetings guru, Lori Strong (from Burk & Associates), for her tireless work with meeting planning and all its complex elements from working with exhibitors, assigning rooms, and arranging catering and AV, and helping to negotiate the contract with the overflow hotel. Also from Burk, Heide Rohland, Brett Burk, Mary Lou Scarborough, Jill Drupa, Raelene Sok and Jennifer Rosenberg assisted in numerous ways, including sorting out registration issues, organizing volunteers, arranging invitation letters and certificates of participation, and sending out meeting-related e-mail blasts. And thanks to Amy Sullivan and Sean Sullivan from Summit Expo for assistance with exhibits and sponsorship sales and design work, and to Stacey Haines for managing our audiovisual needs.

Thanks also go to Ed Hagen, webmaster and system designer extraordinaire. Program assistant Christabelle Moore was extremely helpful. Special thanks to Leslie Aiello for stepping in on numerous occasions to help with details. Finally, thanks to the Local Arrangements Committee—the dynamic duo of Anthony Di Fiore and Liza Shapiro.

These meetings would not have been possible without all these exemplary individuals, so please join me in thanking them!

Meeting metrics, 2013-2018

| Meeting | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | Knoxville | Calgary | St. Louis | Atlanta | New Orleans | Austin |
| Registrations | 1634 | 1416 | 1552** | 1536** | 1895** | 1711*** |
| Abstracts submitted | 1053 | 1019 | 1080 | 1110 | 1346 | 1229 |
| accepted | 1004 | 955 | 1065 | 1100 | 1311 | 1214 |
| Symposia (submitted/ accepted/presented) | 23/20 | 22/20 | 22/22/21 | 25/25/23 | 29/29/28 | 26/26/24 |
| Podium symp. sessions | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| Poster symp. sessions | 14 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 21 | 16 |
| Contributed sessions | 35 | 36 | 39 | 35 | 43 | 51 |
| Podium sessions | 17 | 19* | 21* | 18 | 17 | 22 |
| Poster sessions | 16 | 16 | 18 | 16 | 26 | 29 |
| Evening poster sessions | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Withdrawn papers (as of 3/28/18) | 19 | 30 | 37 | 9 | 16 | 15 |

*includes half-sessions; ** pre-registrations only; *** pre-registered as of 3/28/18