

**AAPA Annual Meeting, 2017
Annual Report**

Joan T. Richtsmeier

Early Career Mentoring Award

We had four outstanding proposals for the Early Career Mentoring opportunity. Felicia Gomez was chosen as our new mentee and will be shadowing several of our AAPA Officers. In her application, Dr. Gomez spoke of missed opportunities that she has witnessed for young scholars to connect with Physical Anthropology. Felicia spoke of the special place of AAPA members of color and her goal of making the AAPA a more inclusive organization by working closely with the Committee on Diversity. She underscored the need for an early career representative to give voice to these issues, her personal experiences, and her vision for and commitment to the AAPA. Felicia hopes to use the connections that she has identified between her work in biomedicine and Physical Anthropology to mentor others to find similar connections and to develop new relationships. While we wish Felicia Gomez the best during her appointment as the American Association of Physical Anthropologists Early Career Executive Committee Mentee, we thank Nicole Burt for her service as outgoing Early Career Mentee.

Professional Development Awards (PDA)

The AAPA PDA committee reviewed 25 applications in 2016-2017. As is our pattern, we had many applications from outside of the United States and many of the projects concerned international work and collaborations. This was a top-notch set of applications! Each application was reviewed by at least three independent reviewers and the Committee Chair. In reviewing proposals, the Committee considers the significance of the work, the quality of the proposal, the potential impact of the award on the applicant's career, and the strength of the recommendation letter and CV. The Committee also makes every effort to fund broadly across the discipline. The Committee recommended funding seven proposals, each in the amount of \$5000. Award and declination letters were emailed to applicants on March 16, 2017.

The award recipients are as follows:

Jimena Barbeito Andrés

Institute for Biomedical Science, Institute Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
"Interpreting brain and skull phenotypic outcomes when Zika virus and undernutrition interact during early development"

Stephen G.B. Chester

Brooklyn College, City University of New York
"New Paleogene Primate Skeletons from Fossiliferous Limestones"

Ashley S. Hammond

George Washington University
"Hominoid-like fossils from the late Oligocene of Kenya"

Justin Ledogar

University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia
"Evolutionary modeling of craniofacial shape and functional performance in fossil hominins and extant durophagous primates"

Corey Ragsdale

Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville

“Biological consequences of Spanish colonization in Mexico”

Michelle A. Rodrigues

University of Illinois

“The biological impact of tend-and-befriend strategies: How female social relationships mediate stress in female scientists of color”

Amanda Tan

Dartmouth College

“Using stable isotopes to measure the nutritional advantages of stone-tool use by long-tailed macaques”

A committee of 16 provided excellent reviews of the submitted proposal. Each reviewer brought insights to the projects and the qualifications of the applicants. The committee included:

Robert Anemone

Karen Baab

Graciela Cabana

Sharon DeWitte

Sarah McClure

Christopher Schmitt

Jeffrey Schoeneberg

Herman Pontzer

Patrick Mahoney

Connie Mulligan

Nathan Young

EA Quinn

Gary Schwartz

Rolian Campbell

Aaron Blackwell

Mary Silcox

Career Development Committee

The Career Development Panel event for the 2017 AAPA meeting took place on Friday, April 21 from noon-2 pm. The Executive Committee acknowledges that career challenges facing PhDs have evolved significantly over the past 10-15 years and that many of our members are increasingly dependent upon funding from granting agencies to accomplish the goals of their research. This year, the Executive Committee invited leaders from three agencies that provide significant financial support to pre-professionals and established investigators in Anthropology. Representatives from the National Science Foundation, the Leakey Foundation, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation provided data and introductory remarks about their respective foundations and then opened the floor to questions. In this two hour interactive workshop, attendees were free to ask questions pertaining to funding in general and about their specific research endeavors. Participants were shown how to look for the right grants to apply for, how to approach funding agencies to get important questions answered, and how to develop targeted research questions that can turn into funded projects.