

**Report for the 2018 AAPA Business Meeting
Student Programs Committee**

By Leslea J. Hlusko, 15 March 2018

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 for travel funds to attend the annual meeting, for which they write an essay on a topic chosen by the Executive Committee. Both competitions rely on a committee of judges that varies slightly in composition based on the judges' availability. In this report, I first summarize the 2017 Student Presentation Prize competition that occurred during the AAPA New Orleans meeting and then report on the 2018 Pollitzer Essay competition that was run in anticipation of the AAPA Austin meeting. Finally, I present preliminary information on the 2018 Student Presentation Prize Competition.

I. 2017 Student Presentation Prizes

The deadline for entry to the 2017 AAPA Student Presentation was on March 1, 2017, following the protocol used in 2016. This was the second year that we relied on an online submission form, with some minor adjustments that improved the process. We received 69 entries (which included a 1,000 word essay) to be judged for presentations at the 2017 annual AAPA meeting in New Orleans (see Table 1).

Table 1. 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

Thirty-four judges were convened to evaluate these presentations.

Committee of Judges for the 2017 Student Presentation Prizes

Aaron Blackwell	Tim Weaver	Lee Gettler
Anna Waterman	Zaneta Thayer	Leslea Hlusko
Biren Patel	James Higham	Lucas Delezene
Bob Anemone	Jeremy M. DeSilva	Maja Seselj
Chris Robinson	Jessica Dimka	Maureen Devlin
Chris Schmitt	John Lindo	Michael Wasserman
Christine Lee	Julie Lesnik	Michelle Bezanson
Daniel Temple	Larissa Swedell	Michelle Singleton
Daniel Wescott	Ripan Malhi	Noreen von Cramon-Taubadel
Drew Halley	Terrence Ritzman	Becky Ackermann
Erin Vogel	Graciela Cabana	Rebecca Jabbour
Felicia Madimenos		

Each of the 69 entries was evaluated by 3 judges. For the first time, an online judging form was used with a simple scoring system between 1-5. The implementation went smoothly and greatly facilitated the compilation of scores during the judges meeting when winners were determined.

There are eight named prizes awarded in 2017, with 6 honorable mentions. Six of the prizes came with a \$500 monetary award that was dispersed after the meeting. The two joint American Association of Anatomists/American Association of Physical Anthropologists prizes are awarded \$250 each.

In addition to the monetary award, recipients were given books that, in 2017, were generously donated by Springer (graciously facilitated by Eric Delson, as in years past) and also a forensics text book and laboratory manual donated by the author S.N. Byers. Members of the judging committee helped to fill out the award certificates and also decide which winner would receive which donated book(s).

This was the first year that the Patricia Whitten Prize was implemented to recognize an excellent podium or poster presentation on research in primatology, an award generously created by the estate of Patricia Whitten. Professor Whitten was a long-serving faculty member at Emory University renowned for her research exploring the relationships between behavior, biology, and reproduction in wild primates.

The winners were as follows:

Juan Comas Prize

Amy Scott, Boston University

“Are male orangutans a threat to infants? Mother-offspring interactions with males in wild *Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii*”

Book received:

Diogo R. 2017. Evolution Driven by Organismal Behavior. Springer.
(<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319475806>)

Ernst Hooton Prize for best poster

Kate McGrath, George Washington University

“Quantifying linear enamel hypoplasia in Virunga mountain gorillas and other great apes”

Books received:

Byers SN. Introduction to Forensic Anthropology, 5th edition.
(<http://www.routledgetextbooks.com/textbooks/9781138188846/>)

Byers SN. Forensic Anthropology Laboratory Manual, 4th edition.
(<http://www.routledgetextbooks.com/textbooks/9781138188846/>)

Ales Hrdlicka Prize

Kristin Sabbi, University of New Mexico

“Attention to social grooming among immature East African chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) of the Kanyawara community at Kibale National Park”

Book received:

Reichard UH, Hirai H, Barlli C, editors. 2016. Evolution of Gibbons and Siamang. Springer.
(<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9781493956128>)

Mildred Trotter Prize for superior presentation on teeth or bones

Kathleen Paul, Arizona State University

“Comparative performance of deciduous and permanent dental morphology in reconstructing biological kinship”

Books received:

Cucina A, editor. Archaeology and Bioarchaeology of Population Movement among the Prehispanic Maya. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319108575>)

Marom A, Hovers E, editors. 2017. Human Paleontology and Prehistory. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319466446>)

Sherwood Washburn Prize

Amy Goldberg, Stanford University

“Neolithic familial migration contrasts Bronze Age male migration inferred from ancient X chromosomes”

Books received:

Iovita R, Katsuhiko S, editors. 2016. Multidisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Stone Age Weaponry. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9789401776011>)

Harvati K, Roksandic M, editors. 2016. Paleoanthropology of the Balkans and Anatolia. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9789402408737>)

Langley MC, editor. 2016. Osseous Projectile Weaponry. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9789402408973>)

Maier A. 2015. The Central European Magdalenian. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9789401772051>)

Patricia Whitten Prize for excellence in primatology

Caitlin O’Connell, Boston University

“Examining social stress through self-directed behavior in wild orangutans”

Books received:

Sievert LL, Brown DE, editors. 2016. Biological Measures of Human Experience across the Lifespan. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319441016>)

Henke W, Tattersall I, editors. 2015. Handbook of Paleoanthropology Volume 2. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783642399787>)

American Association of Anatomists - American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Anatomy in Anthropology Prize

Carrie Mongle, SUNY Stony Brook

“The developmental cascade biases rates of evolutionary change in the dentition” (poster)

Books received:

Jones SC, Stewart BA. 2016. Africa from MIS 6-2. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9789401775199>)

Jagers op Akkerhuis, GAJM, editor. 2016. Evolution and Transitions in Complexity. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319438016>)

Jaap Saers, University of Cambridge

“Mobility and trabecular bone variation in the human foot” (podium)

Books received:

Kivell TL, Lemelin P, Richmond BG, Schmitt D, editors. 2016. The Evolution of the Primate Hand. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9781493936441>)

Haile-Selassie Y, Su D, editors. 2016. The Postcranial Anatomy of *Australopithecus afarensis*. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9789401774277>)

6 Honorable Mentions:

Erin Kane, The Ohio State University

Books received:

Henke W, Tattersall I, editors. 2015. Handbook of Paleoanthropology Volume 3. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783642399787>)

Jasienska G, Sherry DS, Holmes DJ, editors. 2017. The Arc of Life. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9781493940363>)

Elizabeth Tinsley-Johnson, University of Michigan

Books received:

Fernandez Jalvo Y, King T, Yepiskoposyan L, Andrews P. 2016. Azokh Cave and the Transcaucasian Corridor. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319249223>)

Haidle MN, Conard NJ, Bolus M, editors. 2016. The Nature of Culture. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9789401774246>)

Dominique Bertrand, The University at Buffalo, SUNY

Book received:

Shively CA, Wilson ME, editors. 2016. Social Inequalities in Health in Nonhuman Primates. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319308708>)

Elizabeth Sawchuk, University of Toronto

Books received:

Fernandez Jalvo Y, Andrews P. 2016. Atlas of Taphonomic Identifications. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9789401774307>)

Odonabhain B, Lozada Cerna MC, editors. 2014. Archaeological Human Remains, Global Perspectives. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319063690>)

Tesla Monson, University of California Berkeley

Books received:

Henke W, Tattersall I, editors. 2015. Handbook of Paleoanthropology Volume 1. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783642399787>)

Brinkman DB, Holroyd PA, Gardner JD, editors. 2013. Morphology and Evolution of Turtles. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9789400743083>)

Sam Larson, University of Pennsylvania

Books received:

Surviving the 21st Century. Springer

Fernandez Jalvo Y, King T, Yepiskoposyan L, Andrews P. 2016. Azokh Cave and the Transcaucasian Corridor. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319249223>)

II. 2018 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 provides \$500 to each recipient to defray travel costs to attend AAPA's annual meeting.

This award is open to all AAPA 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 AAPA at the time of the meeting and should not have been granted their PhD prior to the submission deadline (Jan 1, 2018).

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 this year was:

Mosquitos have a deep evolutionary interconnectedness to all primates, including humans, and several genetic adaptations have come about through interactions between humans, pathogens, and the mosquitoes that carry those pathogens. Perhaps the most widely known example of a disease-related human adaptation is sickle cell, in which the heterozygote condition confers resistance to malaria transmitted via the Anopheles mosquito. The New York Times (<https://nyti.ms/2xdFkOo>) recently reported that another mosquito species, Aedes aegypti, has been reported across a much wider geographic range compared to just a few years ago, including parts of California and Nevada where they were previously unknown. This mosquito genus and species is not a host for the malarial parasite, but it is known to spread yellow fever, Zika, dengue, and chikungunya.*

As primates and other organisms face rapid and dramatic changes to our environments as a result of the fast pace of climate change today, mosquitos may prove to be a critical selective force operating through other mechanisms besides malarial infection. For this year's Travel Award essay topic, imagine that you have been asked to write a 700-750 word blog post for Scientific American. For this blog post, you are to rely on evolutionary biology and anthropology to imagine a scenario that may play out over the next century with the range expansion of Aedes aegypti. The biology needs to be based in reality, and as such, please use references.

The deadline for entry was January 1st, midnight UTC -11hours. The submission website went live in early December and we received entries starting on the 4th of December through to the last few minutes before the deadline.

A committee of 18 judges was convened:

Anna Watermann	John Lindo	Mark Grabowski
Biren Patel	Julie Lesnik	Maureen Devlin
Christine Lee	Leslea Hlusko	Michelle Bezanson
Daniel Temple	Libby Cowgill	Mike Wassermann
Daniel Wescott	Lucas Delezene	Moses Schanfield
Jessica Dimka	Maja Seje	Rachel Menegaz

Evaluation was done on a 100-point scale based on three criteria (30 points for originality and creativity of the position; 50 points for the soundness of the scenario and logical reasoning based on evolutionary

biology and theory, including references as needed; and 20 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 ~13 essays with the Committee Chair scoring the extra few. The final score for each essay was determined as the average of the three independent scores. Judges accessed the numbered essays, their scoring sheet/assignment, and rubric through a shared Google Drive folder. Neither the named essays nor the number/name key were accessible at any time to the judges.

No judge evaluated a proposal from a student at their same institution or who had another type of conflict of interest that the judge had notified the chair of. A graduate student of the chair's (Catherine Taylor) entered the competition this year. The chair was very careful to anonymize Taylor's essay quickly and not refer to the number/name key in order to avoid a conflict of interest. Hlusko did not evaluate Taylor's essay.

In order to implement the policy that priority would be given to novel entrants, students who had received a Pollitzer award previously had 7 points deducted from their final score. There were 12 entries from previous winners. Eight of these ranked high enough to win a Pollitzer award again this year even with the 7-point penalty.

In coordination with the Committee on Diversity (Chaired by Susan Antón) and the Early Career Liaison to the Executive Committee Felicia Gomez, we developed and implemented a new policy for increasing the number of Pollitzer prizes awarded and for ranking essays in order to increase representation at the AAPA meeting by traditionally underrepresented groups.

AAPA had funds to award 57 \$500 awards. The winners are listed below. Fifty-eight names are listed as one (Antonia Carter) was declined as she is a recipient of an IDEAS program fellowship and all of the costs associated with attending the meeting are covered through those funds. She will be considered a first-time entrant in next year's competition, should she choose to participate again.

2018 Pollitzer Travel Award Recipients:

Alisha Anaya (The George Washington University),
Carly Batist (Central Washington University),
Rachel Bell (The University of Massachusetts Amherst),
Amy Beresheim (University of Toronto),
Emma Berthiaume (University of Massachusetts, Amherst),
Madison Bradley (University of Calgary),
Emma Brzezinski (Miami University),
Timothy Campbell (Texas A&M University),
Emma Cancelliere (The Graduate Center City University of New York),
Thuan Cao (University of Cambridge),
*Antonia Carter (University of South Alabama, award declined),
Morgan Chaney (Kent State University),
Carlye Chaney (Yale University),

Colleen Cheverko (The Ohio State University),
Mark Conaway (University at Buffalo),
Isabelle Coupal (University of Montreal),
Erika Danella (Quinnipiac University),
Sophia Dent (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill),
Kaitlin East (McMaster University),
Zachary Enfinger (University of South Florida),
Ellen Fricano (Johns Hopkins University),
Elise Geissler (University of Florida),
Lauren Gilhooly (University of Western Ontario),
Matthew Go (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign),
Andrew Holmes (University of Toronto),
Mareike Janiak (Rutgers University),
Kelsey Jorgensen (Wayne State University),
Hyunwoo Jung (University at Buffalo),

Brittany Kenyon (University at Buffalo - SUNY),
 Katherine Kling (Stony Brook University),
 Klara Komza (The University of Toronto),
 Emma Lagan (The Ohio State University),
 Natalie Laudicina (Boston University),
 Brittany Matheney (University of South Florida),
 Sara McGuire (The Ohio State University),
 Fernando Mercado Malabet (University of Toronto),
 Sarah Mincer (Stony Brook University),
 Emily Nett (University of Notre Dame),
 Brian Padgett (The Ohio State University),
 Amber Pirson (University of South Florida),
 Kelsey Pugh (The Graduate Center City University of
 New York),
 Crystal Riley Koenig (Washington University in Saint
 Louis),
 Danielle Rubinstein (New York Institute of
 Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine),
 Sofiya Shreyer (Bridgewater State University),

Izzy Starr (The State University of New York,
 University at Buffalo),
 Tessa Steiniche (Indiana University),
 Zane Swanson (The Graduate Center City University
 of New York),
 Catherine Taylor (University of California Berkeley),
 Emma Thureau (Northern Illinois University),
 Nicole Torosin (University of Utah),
 Alexandra Tuggle (The Ohio State University),
 Nicole Webb (The Graduate Center City University of
 New York),
 Nicole Weiss (The Ohio State University),
 Samantha Yaussy (University of South Carolina),
 An-Di Yim (University of Illinois at Urbana-
 Champaign),
 Alexandra Zachwieja (University of Illinois at Urbana-
 Champaign),
 Kaya Zelazny (The Johns Hopkins University School of
 Medicine),
 Trisha Zintel (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

* declined the award as she is a recipient of an IDEAS program participant and all of the costs associated with attending the meeting are covered through those funds.

Table 2. 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

III. 2018 Student Presentation Prizes

The deadline for entry to the 2018 AAPA Student Presentation was on March 1, 2018, following the protocol used in 2017 with minor modification for improvement. This was the third year that we relied on an online submission form.

We received 63 entries. In light of the number of entries, 38 judges have been organized to evaluate these presentations. We will be using an online judging system following on the protocol first developed last year.

