



## Dear AABA Attendees,

Thank you for taking a moment to read this update from The Leakey Foundation. We are delighted to be here at the 94th Annual AABA Meeting and to have Education Director Arielle Johnson and Program Officer H. Gregory in Baltimore this year. It is great to see you!

Please stop by booth #9 if you have any questions about this report or any of our programs. If you are not attending the meeting but would like to connect, please email [grants@leakeyfoundation.org](mailto:grants@leakeyfoundation.org) for funding questions or [arielle@leakeyfoundation.org](mailto:arielle@leakeyfoundation.org) for information on our education and outreach programs.

## Program Highlight: Joan Cogswell Donner Field School Scholarship

Applications are now open for our newest funding initiative, the [Joan Cogswell Donner Field School Scholarship](#). This program provides up to \$2,000 toward field school tuition for students from countries with limited resources for training in fieldwork related to human origins research.

We've recently expanded this program to support field sites where Principal Investigators have committed to providing one-on-one field training to students during their field season. This is part of our ongoing effort to make fieldwork training in human origins more accessible and inclusive.

## New Members of Our Scientific Executive Committee

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Teresa Steele (University of California, Davis) and Dr. Erin Vogel (Rutgers University) have officially joined The Leakey Foundation's Scientific Executive Committee (SEC). Their expertise will be an invaluable contribution to the committee's funding recommendations. We are grateful for their strong commitment to supporting The Leakey Foundation's efforts to increase scientific research, education, and public knowledge of human origins, evolution, behavior, and survival.

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## **The AABA and Leakey Foundation Communication and Outreach Award in Honor of Camilla Smith**

The AABA and Leakey Foundation Communication and Outreach Award in Honor of Camilla Smith is awarded annually in recognition of outstanding public communication and educational outreach efforts in the field of biological anthropology.

The 2025 recipient of the AABA and Leakey Foundation Communication and Outreach Award in Honor of Camilla Smith is Sang-Hee Lee (University of California, Riverside).

## **Gordon P. Getty Award**

The Gordon P. Getty Award is presented to an individual who shows extraordinary originality and dedication in their intellectual and professional pursuits while exemplifying a multidisciplinary approach to human origins research. This year's Gordon P. Getty Award Laureate was selected from grantees who were awarded research grants during our 2024 spring and fall cycles.

The 2025 Gordon P. Getty Award Laureate is René Bobe (University of Oxford).

## **Our Climate Initiative: Leading by Example**

The Leakey Foundation is committed to being a climate-action leader in the nonprofit sector. For the past seven years, we have worked diligently to understand, reduce, and offset our carbon footprint in a meaningful way. In 2023 and 2024, we were certified as a carbon-neutral nonprofit, offsetting emissions not only for our operations, but also for all of our grantees, fellows, and leadership.

## **Why does this matter?**

A 2022 article by the National Council of Nonprofits urged all organizations to recognize their role in addressing climate change:

“Our collective response to climate change must be on a scale commensurate with the threat; it’s an all-hands-on-deck, all-sectors-step-up moment. If nonprofits don’t involve themselves in practicing and demanding solutions, none of us will be able to deal with the consequences.”

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However, despite this urgency, very few non-climate-focused foundations are engaging with this issue. A 2022 survey by the Center for Effective Philanthropy found that:

- Less than 15% of foundation leaders had board discussions on how climate change affects their ability to achieve their mission.
- Less than 10% had discussed climate impacts with their grantees.

Want to learn more about our climate initiative or explore ways to help us expand our impact? Email our Executive Director, Sharal Camisa Smith, at [sharal@leakeyfoundation.org](mailto:sharal@leakeyfoundation.org).

### **Origin Stories Podcast Turns 10**

In April 2015, The Leakey Foundation launched *Origin Stories*, a podcast that explores human evolution one story at a time. This year, we celebrate a decade of science and storytelling, and we are grateful to all of the AABA members who have appeared on the show, shared the podcast with their students, or who have simply listened.

If you have never listened, we invite you to subscribe and explore past episodes. [Click here to listen and subscribe.](#)

**Thank you for doing the work, teaching the public, reviewing our grants, and standing up for science. You make a difference.**

**Sincerely,**

**The Leakey Foundation Team**

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