

**American Association of Biological Anthropologists
Business Meeting of the 94th Annual Meeting
March 14, 2025
Nominations Committee, In Memoriam, and Resolutions
President Elect, Anne C. Stone**

1. Nominations and elections committee

Three Executive Committee positions were open for election this year: Treasurer (4 year term), Member at Large—Chair of the Professional Development Committee, and Member at Large—Chair of the Membership Committee (both are 3-year terms).

Nominations (including self-nominations) were solicited from the AABA membership through the AABA website, email blasts, social media, and the online meeting registration and abstract submission system. The deadline for nominations was October 15, 2024 at 11:59 PST. All nominees were vetted to ensure that they were AABA members in good standing and that a Professional Conduct Disclosure Form was completed and submitted. The number of eligible candidates for each position included: (a) Treasurer—4 candidates, (b) Member at Large: Professional Development—7 candidates, and Member at Large: Membership—7 candidates.

Eligible members of the Executive Committee (without conflicts of interest) voted for each position. The two candidates for each position receiving the greatest number of votes and willing to accept the nomination were placed on the ballot for election by the AABA membership. The poll opened to all Regular Members on January 23, 2025 and closed on February 28, 2025 at 11:59 Hawaii Standard Time. The final count of members casting votes was 246. The results were certified by BAI and reported to the President on March 1, 2025.

The AABA welcomes the following new members of the Executive Committee for terms commencing on Saturday, March 16, 2025.

- President: Anne Stone
- Past President: Leslea Hlusko
- Treasurer: Jonathan Bethard
- Executive Committee Member at Large (Chair of the Professional Development Committee): Andrea Taylor
- Executive Committee Member at Large (Chair of the Membership Committee): Jesse Goliath

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all the candidates who generously agreed to run for election and to Lori Strong of BAI for her logistical assistance with the voting process.

2. In Memoriam

The AABA honors the memories of those whose lives and work impacted our professional community deeply.

Marshall Becker (1938-2024)

Marshall Becker was an archaeologist and biological anthropologist whose early work focused on Maya settlement patterns. After earning his undergraduate and PhD degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, he spent his career at West Chester University retiring as Professor Emeritus. In addition to the Maya, he focused on bioarchaeological analyses in the Mediterranean (particularly in Italy) and on colonial archaeology and ethnohistory of Lenape (Delaware people) investigating the use and trade of wampum. He was a strong mentor and supporter of students. He was quoted as saying: “We may be better known by our publications, but our students are our true legacy.”

Daniel C Benyshek (1963-2025)

Daniel Benyshek was a medical anthropologist who investigated maternal health practices. He received his Ph.D. and master’s degree in anthropology from Arizona State University. In 2001, he joined the faculty of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, serving as chair of the department from 2018-2020. Over the course of his career, his research examined the effects of maternal diet during and immediately after pregnancy on maternal and child health. This work broadened our understanding of the developmental origins of health and disease, particularly dietary factors related to obesity, and assessed the alternative maternal health practice of *maternal placentophagy* – the consumption of the placenta postpartum. His research focused on pregnant and new mothers in the United States, including among Native American communities in the Southwest and Alaska Natives.

Michelle Bezanson (1968-2024)

Dr. Michelle Bezanson was a biological anthropologist, primatologist, and artist. Her primary research addressed postural behavior of capuchins and mantled howlers in Costa Rica to explore the selective pressures shaping primate locomotion. Bezanson earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Arizona and in 2006 joined the Department of Anthropology at Santa Clara University (SCU). At SCU, she was a celebrated teacher and mentor, receiving the Logothetti Teaching Award and the Louis and Dorina Brutocao Award for teaching excellence. Michelle made transformative contributions to biological anthropology notably in research ethics in field settings, integrating artistic creativity into scholarship, and caring for colleagues at all career stages. In 2022, she was elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. For AABA, she served on student awards and programming committees, she was co-director of the AABA Committee on Diversity-Women’s Initiative (CODWIN), and her donations to the AABA auction were spectacular in form and function, as her artwork was unequalled in generating awe and revenue year after year.

Douglas Broadfield (1966-2024)

Douglas Broadfield was an anthropologist who studied brain evolution. He was an Associate Professor in the Department of Cell Biology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine where he was also Director of Anatomy and Director of the Willed-Body Program. He received his Ph.D. from the New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology. Previously, he held faculty appointments at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Florida Atlantic University. He was a dedicated teacher who received the George Paff Teaching Award in 2019 and 2020 for faculty members who go above and beyond their responsibilities to deliver the highest-quality education. His research focused on comparative anatomy and brain evolution in human ancestors, and he co-edited the book, "The Human Brain Evolving"

Mike Crawford (1939-2024)

Michael H. Crawford was an anthropological geneticist, whose career was defined by studying the genetics and population biology of human populations around the world. His first project focused on Tlaxcaltecan populations in Mexico, but subsequent field projects took him and his students and collaborators to Belize, Italy, Ireland, Hungary, Siberia, as well as Alaska, Kansas, and Nebraska. Michael's scientific output was prodigious, publishing nearly 200 peer-reviewed research papers and writing or editing 10 books, the last published posthumously. Among many accolades, Mike was elected a Fellow of the AAAS, and received the Charles Darwin Lifetime Achievement Award from the AABA, the Franz Boaz Distinguished Achievement Award from the Human Biology Association, and the Balfour-Jefferies Higuchi Award for Research Excellence at the University of Kansas. Of Mike's many achievements and accolades, one he was especially proud of was training over 40 PhD students in Biological Anthropology and Anthropological Genetics. He was a devoted mentor and a tireless supporter and advocate for his students.

Keith Jacobi (1957-2024)

Keith P. Jacobi was a bioarchaeologist and forensic anthropologists who carried out fieldwork throughout the Southeastern U.S., Arizona, Barbados, Belize, Peru, and India. He also worked as a consulting forensic anthropologist for the Alabama State Medical Examiner. His research included investigations of warfare, culture clash, and health in prehistoric and historic groups. Jacobi received his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and his Ph.D. in anthropology from Indiana University. He was Professor Emeritus and former chair of the anthropology department at the University of Alabama. He served also as Curator of Human Osteology in the Alabama Museum of Natural History. In 2018, his dedication to teaching was recognized by the College of Arts & Sciences at Alabama with the Outstanding Commitment to Students Award.

Simon (Goodluck) Peter Munishi (1975-2023)

Simon (Goodluck) Peter Munishi began his career with the Olduvai Gorge Landscape Paleoanthropology Project (OLAPP) in 1994 and quickly demonstrated exceptional skills in

survey, excavation, and curation, becoming an indispensable contributor to the project. Goodluck went on to lead excavations for the Olduvai Geochronology and Archaeology Project (OGAP) and surveys for the Olduvai Vertebrate Paleontology Project in 2009. For OGAP, he oversaw large scale excavations that often involved over twenty excavators and the recovery of thousands of artifacts and fossils. In 2014, he shifted his career to education by co-founding the Shule Yetu School in Kijenge, Arusha. Goodluck's contributions to paleoanthropology were remarkable and fundamental to current scientific knowledge of over two million years of human evolution, while his impacts on his local community were even greater. He was truly a renaissance man, and his loss is felt far beyond the field of paleoanthropology.

Thelma Rowell (1935-2024)

Dr. Thelma Rowell was a pioneering primatologist specializing in the reproductive and social behavior of monkeys. Her research included extensive field work in Africa as well as studies of captive animals housed at the UC Berkeley field station. She is particularly recognized for new perspectives regarding the behavior of female primates and the importance of subordination in dominance relations. Later in career, Rowell brought a primatologist's eye to the study of feral sheep. Her first faculty appointment was at Makerere University in Uganda, and then she joined the University of California, Berkeley faculty in 1974 as a member of the Department of Zoology and, later, the Department of Integrative Biology. Dr. Rowell retired in 1994, after which she returned to her native Yorkshire.

Elisabeth Vrba (1942-2025)

Elisabeth Vrba was a paleontologist and evolutionary theorist who asked fundamental questions about how species originated. Her Ph.D. research examined African mammals, particularly bovids, recovered from the limestone caves of the Transvaal, including Sterkfontein, Swartkrans and Kromdraai, and this, as well as her subsequent work, provided insights into the paleoecology of African mammals including members of the human lineage. Vrba's turnover-pulse hypothesis, that major climatic or ecosystem changes result in rapid extinctions and a high rate of speciation, was based on her work on antelopes and provided an explanation for the diversification of hominids 2.5 to 3 million years ago. She and Stephen Gould coined the term word "exaptation" for features that evolved for one function and later were adapted for another. She received her Ph.D. in Zoology and Palaeontology at the University of Cape Town in 1974 and was the Head of Department of Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology at the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria (1973-1986) before becoming a Professor in Department of Geology and Geophysics at Yale University (1986-2014). She was a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa.

Frans de Waal (1948-2024)

Frans de Waal was a primatologist and behavioral biologist who employed observation and experiments to investigate conflict resolution, cooperation, and empathy in primates. He was also well-known to the general public because of his TED talks and many books, beginning with

“Chimpanzee Politics: Power and Sex Among Apes”. In 2020, his book *“Mama’s Last Hug: Animal Emotions and What They Tell Us about Ourselves”* won the PEN / EO Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. After obtaining his PhD from the University of Utrecht in 1977, he moved to the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center in 1981. In 1991, he moved to Emory University where he retired (in 2019) as the C. H. Candler Professor of Psychology, as well as the founding director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes (now Emory) National Primate Research Center. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences (US) and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also remembered as a generous and supportive mentor.

Curtis Wienker (1945-2024)

Curtis W. Wienker was a forensic anthropologist who received his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington and master’s and PhD degrees from the University of Arizona. His research resulted in more than 70 publications relating to human biology, biomedical anthropology, forensic anthropology, and skeletal biology. He started his long career at the University of South Florida in 1972, retiring as Professor emeritus in 2003. Dr. Wienker was a strong voice for civil rights issues and received the President’s Distinguished Affirmative Action award as well as University’s Distinguished Service Award in 1989 among others. He also assisted local law enforcement and medical examiners with forensic analysis of skeletal remains, and he served on the National Disaster Mortuary Team, Region 4 (1995-2003). In 2009, he was recognized by the AAPA with the Gabriel W. Lasker Service Award.

3. Resolutions

As we come to the close of the Business Meeting for the 94nd annual meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists, it is my duty as President-Elect, and my honor to offer resolutions.

So be it resolved that AABA offers deep thanks

- To all the members of the Executive Committee, especially our President Leslea Hlusko and Vice President Amy Rector, for their dedicated work for AABA in implementing the vision and aims of our Association.
- To this year’s program committee, session chairs, symposium and workshop organizers for this meeting’s celebration of biological anthropology. We must find joy especially in challenging times.
- To the Local Arrangements Committee, Siobhan Cooke, Matt Ravosa, and Adam Sylvest for welcoming us to Baltimore and sharing the charms of this great city. Also, to Sam Lyall for assistance with sending and receiving packages related to organizing the conference.

- To all of the participants in this 94nd annual meeting. The program and this association are strong because of the amazing work and support that you give to this gathering.
- And, to the excellent team at Burk and Associates, who make our conference run so smoothly and aid our association in so many many ways.

Be it resolved that, AABA remains committed to diversity, equity and inclusion as stated in our mission. The next year will likely be challenging, so I encourage us to support each other in and beyond our community of scholars. In this spirit, I invite you all to the Closing Reception on Saturday evening when we come together to celebrate the outstanding contributions of our student and postdoctoral members, the next generation of the American Association of Biological Anthropology.