

AABA 2024–2025 Student Liaison Report
Submitted by Luke Fannin

Committee Structure

Per the structure created by the Executive Committee of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists, the *ad hoc* Student Committee co-chairs are the current and incoming Student Liaisons for the AABA Executive committee. The current (and outgoing chair) is Luke Fannin, Dartmouth College. The incoming liaison is Abigail Houkes, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Student Liaison Activities:

- The 10th Annual AABA student mixer is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12th at 5pm in Essex C in the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront. We are expecting around 100 to 200 students to attend this event out of the ~1,000 registered conference goers.
- A new subsection of the monthly newsletter was created, with approval of the executive committee, with the sub header “Student Business”. This section outlines the AABA student-relevant sections of the newsletter.
- To attract more student interest in the Friday Business meeting, we have implemented our first-ever student business meeting raffle, where we are set to give away 10 complementary student conference registrations for next year for those in attendance.

Comments, Concerns, and Future Liaison Aspirations:

- Active student participation and engagement remains challenging post COVID. For the year duration of my tenure as student Liaison, only 2 students directly reached out over email with their comments or concerns. Future discussion should center around increasing the visibility of the position and its use as a forum for student concerns.
- There was discussion of creating an informal early career mentoring network to be implemented at the meetings. The current liaison referred to this as “**SMART**” — the **S**tudent **M**entoring and **A**dvice **R**ound **T**able. It was originally planned as a way for students to receive informal advice on a variety of topics—from grant applications to job applications—from some of the more experienced members of our association. The current liaison still has high aspirations to implement this program and will try to work with the incoming liaison to implement it at a later conference.
- The current liaison strongly recommends that the incoming liaison try to implement a “student programming” committee to jointly work together to implement student programming at future venues.

