Report for the 2025 AABA Business Meeting
Student Programs Committee
Kevin Hatala, 19, February 2025

The Student Programs Committee primarily implements two student competitions. The first occurs at the Annual Meeting, when students who present research in either a poster or podium format compete for eight Student Presentation Prizes. The second competition is for the Pollitzer Student Travel Awards, for which students write an essay on a topic chosen by the Executive Committee. In this report, I first summarize the student prizes awarded at the 2024 Annual Meeting. I then provide preliminary information on the 2025 Pollitzer Student Travel Awards.

I.   2024 Student Presentation Prizes

The 2024 AABA Student Presentation Awards followed the protocol used for the last several years. The number of student presentation prize applications decreased this year compared to last year (n=15 compared with n=30) and 27 judges were organized to evaluate these presentations.

Prize	Awardee	Presentation Title
AAA-AABA Anatomy in Anthropology	Baonhu Tran	*Asymmetrical heat and moisture exchange during the nasal cycle: Investigating the influence of mucosal congestion on human nasal form and function*
AABA Outstanding Presentation Prize	Allyson Simon	*The effect of developmental stress on survival in the Hamann-Todd Collection*
AABA Outstanding Presentation Prize	Lyndee Ward	*Deconstructing human nasal adaptation: An iterative assessment of morphological influences on intranasal air conditioning in two and three dimensions*
AABA Outstanding Presentation Prize	Chelsea Cataldo-Ramirez	*The use and misuse of proxy phenotypes in genotype-phenotype research*
AABA Outstanding Presentation Prize	Esteban Rangel	*A comparison of stature estimation methods for contemporary American Indians*
Mildred Trotter Prize	Hayley Welsh	*Interpreting Childhood Growth Disruption: Findings from a Medieval Toulousian Cemetery (10th-13th Century, France)*
Patricia Whitten Prize	Xue Wang	*Reevaluating the taxonomy of a lumbar vertebra (Omo 105-7) from lower Omo basin (Plio-Pleistocene) using 3D geometric morphometrics*
Journal of Human Evolution Prize	Hannah Farrell	*Locomotor signals in the clavicle of Australopithecus afarensis*
Honorable Mention	Claire Gold	*Incremental dentine microsampling: Reconstructing weaning age in rural Medieval Italy*
Honorable Mention	Yan Liu	*Beyond battle scars: An analysis of injury patterns in the eastern Eurasian Steppe*

Committee of Judges for the 2024 Student Presentation Prizes (20 judges):

Eric Bartelink	Chelsey Juarez
Jonathan Bethard	Addison Kemp
Elizabeth Cho	Chrisandra Kufeldt
Brooke Crowley	Jessica Lynch
Heather Edgar	Scott Maddux
Kelsey Ellis	Maja Seselj
Krista Fish	Daniel Wescott
Jessie Goliath	Teresa V Wilson
Kevin Hatala	AnDi Yim
Mark Hubbe	Lori Tremblay

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
2018	63	39
2019	91	41
2020	53	-
2021	23	16
2022	21	11
2023	30	21
2024	15	20

II.   2024 Pollitzer Student Travel Awards

The Pollitzer Student Travel Awards are designed to help students defray the costs of attending the AABA 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 AABA (AAPA). As of 2024, the award traditionally provides $500 to each recipient to defray travel costs to attend AAPA's annual meeting. The number of awards is also tied to proceeds from the auction at the prior year's Annual Meeting.

This award is open to all AABA student members (undergraduate and graduate) who are attending the Annual Meeting. Students do not need to be giving a presentation to qualify but they do need to be a member of the AABA at the time of the meeting and should not have been granted their PhD prior to the submission deadline for 2024 the submission deadline was (January 6, 2024).

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 2024 was:

The role of artificial intelligence (AI) in research and education has been a subject of discussion recently as the scientific community grapples with the widespread use of, for example, large language models such as ChatGPT in the classroom. Can AI be used ethically and in a way that is beneficial for multiple communities? Are there ways that it should not be used? How should we as a community move forward with artificial intelligence (should we restrict its use, provide guidelines etc.)? In your essay be sure to provide examples and address the ethical considerations of using AI in the biological anthropology spheres you inhabit (e.g., teaching/education, research/scholarship).

The deadline for entry was January 6[h], midnight UTC -11hours. The submission website went live in November 2023 and we received entries starting on the 4th of November through to the last few minutes before the deadline. We received 66 original essays, which were rated by a committee of 36 judges.

Committee of Judges for the 2024 Pollitzer Student Travel Awards (36 judges):

Laura Abondano	Chelsey Juarez
Eric Bartelink	Addison Kemp
Melanie Beasley	Chrisandra Kufeldt
Jonathan Bethard	Jessica Lynch
Erica Cartmill	Scott Maddux
Colleen Cheverko	Nicholas Passalacqua
Elizabeth Cho	Marissa Ramsier
Melissa Clark	Michael Rivera
Brooke Crowley	Jeremiah Scott
Heather Edgar	Maja Seselj
Kelsey Ellis	Valerie Sgheiza
Krista Fish	Sean Tallman
Alison Galloway	Zaneta Marie Thayer
Evan Garofalo	Jada Benn Torres
Jessie Goliath	Lori Tremblay
Kevin Hatala	AnDi Yim
Mark Hubbe	Daniel Wescott
Cris Hughes	
Teresa V Wilson	

Evaluation was done on a 27-point scale based on a seven-part scale (5 points total for addressing each component of the essay question, 2 points for grammar and spelling, 2 points for overall writing and clarity, and 3 points for proper citation formatting). 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 ~6 essays and one back up judge was used for conflicts of interest. The final score for each essay was determined as the average of the three independent scores. Neither the named essays nor the number/name key was accessible at any time to the judges. No judge evaluated a proposal from a

student at their same institution and the chair was not notified of any other conflicts of interest. In order to implement the policy that priority would be given to first-time entrants, students who had received a Pollitzer award previously had 1.5 points deducted from their final score.

AABA had funds to award 30 awards (but two of the individuals attending virtually so we actually had 31 winners!). The winners are listed below.

2024 Pollitzer Student Travel Award Recipients:

Ayken Askapuli (University of Wisconsin Madison)
Lydia Bailey (Mississippi State University)
Madison Bradley-Cronkwright (Duke University)
Clara Brandon (University of Michigan)
Madison Butler (University of New Mexico)
Rebbeca Cook (Duke University)
Amanda Cooke (McMaster University)
Mary DeWitt (Purdue University)
Margaret Furtner (Louisiana State University)
Madison Grant (CUNY)
Matthias Hackl (University of Calgary)
Abigail Houkes (University of Illinois Champagne Urbana)
Nadine Hussein (University of Calgary)
Madeline Kelly (University of Chicago)

Keegan Krause (Northwestern University)
Megan Langlois (McMaster University)
Jessica Martin (Boston University)
Alexandra McDougle (Columbia University)
Elizabeth Poplavaska (Boston University)
Laura Pott (University of New Mexico)
Luke Quarles (The University of Buffalo)
Rebecca Reid (University of Dundee)
Isabel Roji (San Diego State University)
Chelsea Rose (University of Central Florida)
Anna Samsonov (Baylor University)
Livia Santos (George Mason University)
Rebecca Seegraber (University of Utah)
Rancis Short (Boston University)
Allyson Simon (The Ohio State University)
Julie Strain (CUNY)
James Tetreau (University of Calgary)

History of the number of entries and winners for the Pollitzer Student Travel Awards:

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
2019	104	46
2020*	154	50
2021	31	28
2022	40	30
2023	87	30
2024	65	30

III. 2025 Pollitzer Student Travel Awards

We are currently issuing awards for the 2025 Pollitzer Student Travel Awards. Again, the awards were made based on written essay submissions, and 93 applications were received. Due to new AABA funding initiatives, we had sufficient funds to issue 76 awards (one student could not travel to the Annual Meeting, so a total of 75 monetary awards were made). The winners are listed below.

2025 Pollitzer Travel Award Recipients:

Belkis Abufaur (University of Florida)
Elise Adams (UNLV)
Alexandra Adams (McMaster University)
Fnu Aditi (University of Tennessee)
Griffin Assance-Goulais (University of Toronto)
Michael Atogu (University of South Florida)
Patriece Ausili (New York University)
Lydia Bailey (Mississippi State University)
Kara Becker (George Mason University)
Jasmine Bonadies (SUNY at Albany)
Madison Bradley-Cronkwright (Duke University)
Alaina Brenner (UC Davis)
Thalia Burden (University of Toronto)
Seth Chagi (ASU)
Jordan Chatellier (University of Louisville)
Sophie Chorek (University at Buffalo)
Cédric Cordey (University of Zurich)
Alexis Cutshall (Mississippi State University)
Stacy Edington (Baylor University)
Sedona Epstein (University of Oregon)
Jimmy Erkens (Boston University)
Aiden Eylward (University of South Florida)
Sara Fatula (University of Tennessee)
Sarah Friesen (University of Toronto Mississauga)
Tessa Garces (CUNY)
Dana Gawlak (University of Toronto)
Katie Gerstner (Texas State University)
Madison Glenwinkel (Texas State University)
Claire Gold (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

Eimy Gonzalez Alvarez (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Haley Goren (University of Birmingham)
Madison Grant (City University of New York (CUNY))
Isobel Grimley (University of Bradford)
Grace Heyborne (University of Utah)
Juliana Hicks (University at Albany)
Michelle Hoskins (University of Texas at Arlington)
Abigail Houkes (University of Illinois)
Laura Hunter (University of Chicago)
Alexandra Idso (CUNY Graduate Center)
Hannah Jacobson (Northwestern)
Carlyn Jenkins (Southern Utah University)
Madeleine Kelly (University of Chicago)
Makoto Kobayashi (University of Chicago)
Autumn Koehling (University of Louisville)
Christine Lee (New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine)
Makenna Lenover Moyer (The Pennsylvania State University)
Cheng Liu (Emory University)
Hannah Lyles (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)
Alexandra McDougle (Columbia University)
Skylar McGinnis (Boston University)
Almond Mckinley (University of Colorado Anschutz)
Nicole Merullo (Boston University)
Lavania Nagendran (University of Toronto)
Horvey Palacios (University of Oklahoma)
Laura Pott (University of Minnesota)
Mriga Rao (UMBC)

Levi Raskin (University of California, Berkeley)
Vanessa Reeves (University of South Florida)
Katherine Rickelton (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
Emma Roach (Northern Michigan University)
Alexandria Sambrano (University of Pennsylvania)
Abby Scheeser (UW-Madison)
Allyson Schmidt (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
Ritika Sibal (Boston University)
Allyson Simon (The Ohio State University)

Taylor Simon (St. Mary's College of Maryland)
Amanda Slotter (Arizona State University)
Cristina Stan (University of Arkansas)
Nadine Steer (University of Missouri)
Christina Trent (University of Central Florida)
Bhavya Deepti Vadavalli (Boston University)
Samantha Vee (Boston University)
Sadie Wall (University of Minnesota TC)
Laura Watson (University of Tübingen)
Joseph Won (CUNY)
Jeanne Wood (Louisiana State University)