

# American Association of Biological Anthropologists

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- **2026 Invited Symposia**
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Dear Members of AABA,

As the academic year comes to a close this month and next, we reflect on the great community that we have and the challenges that we face, particularly related to the support of science and our academic institutions here in the US.

## **IDEAS**

The IDEAS (Increasing Diversity in Evolutionary Anthropological Sciences) Program was funded by an NSF grant that was among the grants recently terminated. The IDEAS Program was an initiative aimed at recruiting, retaining, and supporting scholars from systematically marginalized groups (SMGs) within biological anthropology. Central to its activities at the AABA annual meetings was the IDEAS Workshop, which allows undergraduate and graduate students from SMGs to connect with faculty and postdoctoral mentors to build community, receive career guidance, and foster professional development. Evaluations consistently show that participants value the Program for enhancing their sense of belonging and reinforcing their interest in the discipline. Since 2016, the program has supported 114 undergraduate and graduate students.

The AABA executive committee feels strongly that continuing support of this program by AABA is important. We ask you to support this effort by giving to the AABA community fund. To do so, please go to <https://bioanth.org/donate/>.

## **Do you have an idea for one of the 2026 Invited Symposia in Denver?**

The submission portal for 2026 Invited Symposia at the AABA meetings in Denver (March 18-21, 2026) will open on July 15, but it's never too early to think about sessions you'd like to develop! Are there new discoveries, theoretical frameworks, or methods you'd like to explore? Careers or colleagues to honor? Creative ways to bring research, communication, and community together? We encourage you to think outside the box! Proposals will be due August 15!

**Please consider applying to be a member of the Program Committee.** The Program Committee reviews invited symposium proposals, meeting abstracts, and Late Breaking Science abstracts. The Program Committee also helps group abstracts into sessions for the meeting. Most of the reviewing work is completed in late August, late October, and in early February.

If you would like to volunteer, please use this link to log in and apply. The form will ask you to choose 2 or 3 areas of expertise to facilitate assigning reviews. Former members of the Program Committee are welcome to reapply. I will contact the final roster of ~50 Program Committee members in June.

### **Upcoming Colloquium**

<https://coloquiojuancomas.ia.unam.mx/inicio>

## **AABA Membership and Renewals**

Don't forget to check that your membership in AABA is up-to-date. Only up-to-date members can access content behind the AABA website paywall, vote in elections (regular members), receive the conference registration fee discount, be eligible for AABA offices, committee chairships, and committee memberships (providing you an opportunity to influence the shape of our discipline), and have full access to all issues of the *American Journal of Biological Anthropology* and the *Yearbook of Biological Anthropology*, and to monthly newsletters. Soon, there will be even more available exclusively to AABA members. Stay tuned!

If you know someone who may be interested in joining AABA, please encourage them to visit our [membership page](#), and go to the links at the bottom

Sincerely,

Anne Stone

President, American Association of Biological Anthropologists



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