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Dear Members of AABA,

We are approaching the abstract deadline (October 15) for the 2026 AABA meeting in Denver! I am pleased to announce that the plenary lecture in Denver will be given by Dr. Herman Pontzer (Duke University)! October 15 is also the deadline for nominations for AABA awards, including two new mid-career awards, for nominations for AABA officers, and for student presentation award applications. This year we will be electing three important positions: president-elect, vice president, and secretary. Finally, we look forward once again to supporting an outstanding group of junior scholars in the IDEAS program. Please donate to assist us in this effort!

AABA 2026 plenary speaker: Herman Pontzer

On Thursday morning at the AABA meetings in Denver, Herman Pontzer, professor at Duke University will deliver the plenary lecture. His talk is entitled “Calories In, Calories Out: Energy, Ecology, and Evolution in Humans and other Primates”. Please join us!



95th Annual AABA Meetings in Denver, Colorado, March 18-21, 2026

It's time to start thinking about our [95th Annual Meeting in Denver](#)! We already have an amazing lineup of invited symposia, an exciting plenary speaker, and the most excellent swag!! Buy your t-shirt, hat, bag, or sweatshirt from [our store](#) today and look cool while helping us support student travel! You can also support students by donating to the [silent auction](#)! Once again, we are excited to be holding our 2026 graduation ceremony - please [sign up](#) to be recognized for your achievement (no matter when it occurred!) by walking during our AABA ceremony at the closing reception!

In anticipation of increased communications related to the meetings, please go to your [AABA member profile](#) and confirm that you are receiving emails via the XCD system. Click on "Manage My Account" and uncheck the box that says "Do Not Contact" under the Contact Info tab. Vice President and Program Chair Amy Rector will be sending updates and information emails exclusively through this platform. Please contact her with any questions at vicepresident@bioanth.org.

Abstract submission deadline is October 15th

Abstract submission will occur via our new platform again this year! Information on how to craft your abstract and the submission process is available on our [website](#) and [here](#).

Navigate directly to your [AABA member profile](#) to find the "Register for AABA 2026" button and, once registered, you can click on the "Abstract Submissions" button. Also consider updating your affiliations (you may now select three!) in your Contact Info tab in your [member profile](#).

Student Presentation Award Applications (due October 15)

New this year: applications for student awards are due October 15th. Students will be asked to indicate whether they will be submitting their projects for [student awards](#) when they submit their

abstracts. Upon abstract submission, applicants for student awards must also complete a [brief supplemental form](#), providing details on their presentation.

AABA Highest Recognition Award Nominations (due October 15)

A final reminder to consider nominating your colleagues for the AABA's highest honor awards, which recognize career achievement, service and outreach in Biological Anthropology. Two new awards were announced this year to recognize midcareer accomplishments in service and research. Nominations for all high recognition awards are due **October 15**. Please go to <https://bioanth.org/about/#awards>.

AABA Officer Elections: Seeking Nominations (due October 15)

Three Officer positions will turn over with the 2026 annual business meeting. These are critical leadership roles for the Association, as the people who fill them will be responsible for deciding the outward and inward-facing activities of the AABA for the next 2-4 years.

- **President-Elect:** Serves a 4-year term, one as President-Elect, two as President, and one as Past-President. The President chairs the Executive Committee and takes responsibility for the activities of the Association.
- **Vice President and Program Committee Chair:** Serves a 2-year term. The Vice President is responsible for organizing the 2027 (Philadelphia) and 2028 (Chicago) annual conferences, along with other scientific programming.
- **Secretary:** Serves a 2-year term. This Officer maintains Association records and chairs the Web & Communications Committee.

Please make nominations (including self-nominations) by logging into your [Member account](#) (link is also in the top right corner of the bioanth.org home page). You will be asked to submit a 2-3 sentence statement of nomination and also complete a Disclosure form. The election is run by the Past President (Leslea Hlusko) as Chair of the Nominations Committee (members are the Executive Committee). Please reach out to pastpresident@bioanth.org with questions.

AABA Workshop proposals (due November 15)

If you'd like to propose a workshop, you can do that with [this form](#) until November 15!

AABA Pollitzer Student Travel Awards (due December 5)

The deadline for Pollitzer Student Travel Awards is earlier this year! Students, please submit your award application by December 5. More information on the [Pollitzer Travel Awards page](#).

Support for IDEAS

The [IDEAS \(Increasing Diversity in Evolutionary Anthropological Sciences\) Program](#) was funded by an NSF grant that was among the grants terminated this year. 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, and we will continue the IDEAS program at the AABA meetings in 2026 in Denver. We ask you to support this effort by giving to the AABA community fund. To do so, please go to <https://bioanth.org/donate/>.

Sincerely,

Anne Stone
President,
American Association of Biological Anthropologists