

AABA History & Honors Chair's Annual Report, 2025-2026

Chair, Ashley Hammond

AABA Executive Committee meeting

prepared on February 24, 2026

1. Introduction

The primary business of the History & Honors Committee in 2025-2026 centered on the expansion of our named awards to include two midcareer awards (section 2) and the annual selection of our association's significant awards (section 3). A major procedural update is that the award nominations now use an online nomination disclosure form to streamline the nomination process. Secondary business this year was the continued implementation of the AABA Oral History Project (Section 4).

2. Expansion of AABA awards

An expansion of the AABA awards to recognize midcareer accomplishments was discussed at the March 2025 Executive Committee meeting in Baltimore. Following approval from President Anne Stone to take on this initiative, I drafted language related to two awards recognizing service and research accomplishments. The draft was shared with the Executive Committee and discussed at our June and July meetings. There was significant discussion related to how to define "midcareer" in an equitable way that works in multiple types of institutions, countries, and academic systems and also allows for breaks associated with illness, parental leave, or other significant events. The language related to the new midcareer awards was approved via email on July 22, 2025.

3. AABA Awards

There are three AABA awards that are awarded annually: the Charles R. Darwin Lifetime Achievement Award, Gabriel W. Lasker Service Award, and the AABA and Leakey Foundation Communication & Outreach Award in Honor of Camilla Smith. In addition, the two aforementioned midcareer awards were added this year, for a total of 5 awards. These 5 awards will be recognized at the Business Meeting in March 2026.

a. Nominations

i. Procedures

1. Using social media, email blasts, the AABA conference portal, and the AABA website, we solicited nominations for the Darwin, Lasker, Outreach, and Midcareer Awards.
2. All nominations were due on October 15, 2025. Per the handbook, nominations from the previous year were held over for consideration this year.
3. We required that everyone submitting a nomination also submit a "Nominator's Disclosure Form" asserting that their nominee meets the expectations of the AABA Code of Conduct, the AABA Professional Ethics Policy, and the AABA Statement of Sexual and Other Harassment. **This year we moved to an online disclosure form** to expedite signatures and the award review process itself.
4. As part of our vetting process, candidates are reviewed at multiple levels. In addition to review by the Executive Committee, nominees are reviewed by H-CARE and Membership committees against any reports they may have received.

ii. Categories

1. Darwin Award: 11 nominees for the Darwin award (11 new nomination packages, 5 rollovers).
 - a. There were 16 nomination packages representing 11 candidates. Some nominees received multiple nominations from different colleagues or groups of colleagues, resulting in a mixture of new and rollover materials.
2. Lasker Award: 3 nominations for the Lasker award (3 new)
 - a. We received two different nominations for joint efforts serving the AABA. In both cases, this was for two individuals who worked together on major association initiatives. This is the first time that we have seen pairs nominated; the History and Honors Committee agreed that the intent of these awards allows us to consider paired nominations alongside individual nominations.
3. Outreach Award: 3 nominees for the Outreach Award (2 new, 1 rollover)
4. Midcareer Research: 4 nominees for the Midcareer Research award (4 new)
5. Midcareer Service: 2 nominees for the Midcareer Service award (2 new)

b. Voting Process

- i. Nominations were collated for each award and distributed via Google Drive to all voting members of the Executive Committee
- ii. As in prior years, we used rank order voting via Google Form after discussion of the candidates.

c. Awardees

- i. Charles R. Darwin Lifetime Achievement Award: **Clark Larsen**
- ii. Gabriel W. Lasker Service Award: **Lyle Konigsberg**
- iii. AABA and Leakey Foundation Communication & Outreach Award in Honor of Camilla Smith: **Himani Nautiyal**
- iv. Midcareer Research Award: **Katherine Amato**
- v. Midcareer Service Award: **Douglas Boyer**

4. Oral History Project

- a. Jon Marks and Karen Rosenberg are continuing the Oral History Project, which is a project started in 2022 and aimed at interviewing senior members of our community. There are no new updates to include this year.