

American Association of Biological Anthropologists

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- **Follow and amplify AABA on social media!**
 - Facebook: BiologicalAnth, AmJBioAnth, YearbookBioAnth
 - Bluesky: @bioanth.org, @YearbookBioanth

Dear Members of the AABA,

Happy New Year! The best way to launch the new year is with the **announcement of the 2026 winners of the Association's highest recognition awards including two new mid-career awards**. Please join me in congratulating:

Clark Spencer Larsen, the 2026 recipient of the [The Charles R. Darwin Lifetime Achievement Award](#) has been a preeminent scholar in the field of bioarchaeology over the past 45 years. Nominators noted his use of biomechanical analysis as an essential method for behavioral reconstruction and his research of human adaptive transitions (such as the transition to agriculture and the European colonization of the Western Hemisphere) as well as his mentorship, teaching, and service to the field.

Lyle Konigsberg, the 2026 recipient of the [Gabriel W. Lasker Service Award](#). Over the course of his decades of service to the AABA, he has served in many roles including Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Yearbook*. His nominators remarked on his service to the AABA as well as to section H of the AAAS and the FBI Scientific Working Group for Disaster Victim Identification (from 2010-2014) and his dedicated scholarship and generous mentorship.

Himani Nautiyal, the 2026 recipient of the [AABA and Leakey Foundation Communication & Outreach Award in Honor of Camilla Smith](#) has been involved in research (as founder and director of the Himalayan Langur Project) and community engagement in the Garhwal Himalayas. Her nominator notes her use of YouTube, Instagram, and documentary film to educate and unite science, traditional ecological knowledge, and visual storytelling to convey the realities of human–wildlife coexistence, conservation, and climate change.

Katherine Amato, the 2026 recipient of the [AABA Mid-Career Research Award](#) combines primatological, physiological, and microbiome data to address questions about how the microbiome functions and interacts with different hosts and environments to affect fitness and health. Her nominator observed that she has also developed and assessed methods for obtaining data from non-invasive samples from wild primates.

Doug Boyer, the 2026 recipient of the [AABA Mid-Career Service Award](#) is being recognized for his efforts to create and maintain the MorphoSource repository for digital 3D data. His nominator remarked that this community resource has revolutionized the study of primate morphology and fostered open science.

On behalf of the entire Association, I thank all these recipients for being such inspirational biological anthropologists and role models. We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments at the [95th Annual Meeting in Denver!](#)

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

It's time to get excited for the [95th Annual Meeting in Denver!](#) We 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.

Register for meetings by the early bird deadline in February!

Use [this link](#) to enter your AABA profile and access the registration link! Registration rates go up on February 12!

Reserve your room today!

AABA's 95th annual meeting will be held at the **Sheraton Denver Downtown** located at 1550 Court Place, Denver, Colorado 80202.

AABA has secured discounted room rates for conference attendees. The only way to book a room at the hotel at the AABA rate is to use the links below. The rates listed below will expire on February 8, 2026, so book early!

- **REGULAR RATE** (\$259/night + taxes & fees). [Click here to book a room at the conference rate.](#)
- **STUDENT ROOM RATE** (\$209/night + taxes & fees). [Click here to book a room at the student rate.](#) **This block is for students only as there are a limited number of rooms available.**

The room rates listed above are valid until the room block has sold out or until February 8, 2025, whichever comes first.

Call for Applications for the Student Liaison to the Executive Committee (due January 15)

Graduate students, would you like to learn how AABA works and gain leadership experience? Consider applying to be the Student Liaison to the Executive Committee to serve a year alongside the Officers and members of ExCom, sharing the student perspective and facilitating Association communication with students. The deadline for applications is January 15, 2026. Learn more and apply here:

<https://bioanth.org/student-programs/student-liaison-to-the-executive-committee/>

Call for Submissions to COD-Undergraduate Research Symposium (due January 30)

Are you an undergraduate who is interested in presenting your research at our dedicated Undergraduate Research Symposium? The submission portal is open now! Find all the information about this program [on our website](#), and be sure to submit your abstract by January 20, 2026, using this [link](#).

AABA Officer Elections (deadline January 30)

In January, all Regular Members will be invited to vote in the 2026 election for President Elect, Vice President, and Secretary. Make sure your membership is up-to-date and that you have access to the Member page (<https://www.xcdsystem.com/aaba/member/index.cfm>). Many thanks to everyone who put forward nominations!

Late Breaking Science (deadline February 2)

We are accepting Late Breaking Science submissions until Monday, February 2, 11:59 pm Pacific Time. The Late Breaking Science poster session will include only 40 posters and is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, in the afternoon. You can only submit a Late Breaking Science abstract if you are not already first author on a presentation at the 2026 meeting. Log in

to your [AABA member profile](#), register for meetings, and submit your Late Breaking Science abstract today!

In Memoriam

On the Saturday afternoon of our annual meeting in Denver, we will hold a celebration of life for the members of the biological anthropology community who passed away over the last year. Please help us gather names of colleagues to honor by filling out [this form](#).

Please give to the AABA Community Fund and support the IDEAS Program:

The AABA executive committee feels strongly that continuing support of the [Increasing Diversity in Evolutionary Anthropological Sciences \(IDEAS\) Program](#), previously supported by NSF, is important. Central to its activities at the AABA annual meetings is the IDEAS Workshop, which allows undergraduate and graduate students from systematically marginalized groups to connect with faculty and postdoctoral mentors to build community, receive career guidance, and foster professional development. This program will continue 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/>. Even a small gift helps!!!

Sincerely,

Anne Stone
President,
American Association of Biological Anthropologists