

Briana Pobiner
Chair, Education Committee

Educator Workshop

Despite having three teachers pre-registered, no teachers actually came to the annual workshop for K-12 educators. Despite this, the group that was there to facilitate/observe and present classroom-ready activities (Briana Pobiner, John Mead, Connie Bertka, Caitlin Schrein, Kate McGrath, Amy Peterson, K. Lindsay Hunter, Ben Freed, and Margarita Hernandez) had a great meeting and discussion.

Briana was already strongly considering a change from doing an educator workshop on Saturday morning to doing some kind of family program in collaboration with a local informal learning venue, and the lack of teachers at the 2018 workshop supported this decision. Briana spoke to Denise Su, one of the two local hosts for next year in Cleveland about holding some kind of event there on Saturday, likely a family program. Denise is a biological anthropologist who recently became head of Director of Partnerships & Programs in addition to Curator and Head of Paleobotany & Paleoecology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Amy Peterson volunteered to help with coordinating this. There was a suggestion to provide some kind of take-home for families, like a scavenger hunt of local biological anthropology-related things or places to visit (like the zoo).

School Outreach

Education Committee members participated in outreach in five local Austin, TX classrooms in two schools on the Thursday (April 12) and Friday (April 13) of the 2018 AAPA conference. On Thursday, three teams went to visit Anderson High School (a public school) for three pre-AP biology high school classes with ~30 students in each class. Participants included Caitlin Schrein, Kate McGrath, Jerry DeSilva, Lindsay Hunter, John Mitani, Alex Norwood, Amy Peterson, Diana Sherry, and John Mead. On Friday, one team went to visit St. Gabriel's Catholic school for group visits for 3-5 grade and 6-8 grade, for >100 students in each of the two visits. Participants included Caitlin Schrein, David Strait, John Mead, Becca Pexiotto, and Mpume Hlophe. The outreach participants talk about their actual research and tell personal stories. There were smaller breakout groups in the high school that worked with skull or postcrania casts (thanks to John Mead), but also some more talking "at" the students who had less strong backgrounds. Participants notes that there was more time for Q&A in the Friday sessions.

In the future, the Committee plans include Wednesday along with Thursday and Friday for school outreach. We plan to request photo releases for the students again as was done in 2018, and we could ask about students that need special accommodations, which we did not do this year. We also decided to try to target underserved schools in 2019, and include more biological anthropologists of color if we are able to do this. Briana will be working with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History school programs coordinator to identify schools for school visits. There was an unresolved discussion about whether we want to formalize learning outcomes for the school outreach in the future, possibly developing a survey to measure this.

Education Committee Annual Meeting

The Education Committee's annual in-person meeting took place from 5-6pm on April 13, 2018. In attendance were Briana Pobiner (Committee Chair), Kate McGrath, Caitlin Schrein, Anna Ragni, Dawn Mulhern, Margarita Hernandez, Amy Peterson, Ben Freed, John Mead, Molly Selba, Diana Sherry, Connie Bertka, and K. Lindsay Hunter. We reviewed the 2018 conference events (the discussion in lieu of the educator workshop and the school outreach. Given that we will not be interfacing directly with K-12 teachers in the future during a workshop, we discussed asking AAPA to post already-made lessons on the website (with contact

information to their creators), as well as links to other resources/websites. Other possible items to include on an Education page on the AAPA website included a list of members who are willing to Skype into classrooms and short, classroom-friendly interviews of AAPA members.