

AABA Student Liaison Report, 2021-22

Submitted by Sharon Toth

Committee Structure

As per the structure created by the Executive Committee of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA), the *ad hoc* Student Committee co-chairs are the current and incoming Student Liaisons for the AABA Executive Committee. The current (and outgoing) liaison is Sharon Toth.

2021-2022 Student Liaison Activities

- The seventh annual Student and Early Career Mixer is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2022. It will be held in Governor's Square 15 of the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel. A similar format is not currently scheduled for the virtual setting of the conference (the 2022 conference is both in-person and virtual).
 - The sixth annual Student and Early Career Mixer was held virtually in 2021 and included a discussion panel titled, "Student Perspectives and Involvement Regarding Diversity in the American Association of Physical Anthropologists," presented by the 2020 student liaison, Donovan Adams. The 2020 conference in Los Angeles was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - A virtual game night was played during the 2021 virtual conference with attendees (exact numbers not reported here).
- The *ad hoc* Student Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2022, followed by the Student and Early Career Mixer.
- The AABA Student Members Facebook groups no longer remains an active forum for students to interact and ask questions, or receive notification of field school and workshop opportunities, research, and career opportunities. Members used to include students and professionals in the field and in 2021 there was a reported 4,363 members. The deactivation of this group is caused by covid and misuse of the group by members, additionally it could be speculated that it is also due to Facebook no longer being the social media preference for the younger demographics in the AABA.
- The change in conference structure to both an in-person week and virtual week aided in realizing student preference for paying membership and conference fees at the time of conference registration as opposed to conference abstract submission. Conference abstract submission time coincides with the beginning of the semester at many universities, which can be financially difficult for students, and delaying it until conference registration helps ease the financial burden. Student feedback was positive on this opportunity and would like to continue it in the future even with in-person only conferences.

Planned 2022 AABA Meeting Student Committee Events

- AABA Student Committee Meeting
- AABA Student & Early Career Mixer