American Association of Biological Anthropologists
Professional Development Committee
2021-2022 Annual Report

Submitted by Shara E. Bailey

<u>**Early Career Liaison program**</u>

We received five applications for the Early Career Liaison program. The applications covered important topics including alt-academic career support, professional development, post-COVID challenges, support for disabled scientists and support for student AABA members. Katherine Kinkopf (Assistant Professor, California State Polytechnic University) was chosen as our new Early Career Liaison. In her application, Professor Kinkopf focused on the struggle of disabled scientists, who often face isolation and lack of sense of belonging due to societal stereotypes. She will be focusing her efforts on (1) developing a set of best practices of accessibility and accommodations for the AABA meetings; (2) developing programming and resources for disabled biological anthropologists; and (3) creating a COD-Disability Initiative group. Professor Kinkopf will work closely with the Chair of the Committee on Diversity, Susan Antón, as well as the Ethics committee to reach her goals of helping the AABA become more diverse, inclusive and welcoming of people who have been historically excluded. We wish her the best during her appointment as the AAPA Early Career Liaison, and we thank Jeanelle Uy for her service as outgoing Early Career Liaison.

<u>**Cobb Professional Development Grants (CPDG)**</u>

The AAPA CPDG committee reviewed 11 eligible applications in 2021-2022. As in the past, we received several applications from outside of the USA and many projects involved international work and collaborations. Overall, the pool of applications was strong, representing the scholarly breadth of AABA. Each application was reviewed by three committee members and the Chair. In reviewing proposals, the committee considered the significance of the work, the quality of the proposal, the potential impact of the award on the applicant's career (including career stage and access to other funding sources) and the strength of the recommendation letter and CV. The committee recommended funding six proposals, up to $7500 each. Award and declination letters were emailed to applicants on March 4, 2022. The award recipients are as follows:

Julieta Gómez García-Donas
Lecturer, University of Dundee
Project Title: *Cortical and trabecular bone histomorphometry: exploring the challenges of estimating age on the elderly*

Gina McFarlane
Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Kent
Project Title: *Unlocking Stress: Exploring links between essential trace elements and markers of stress in dental enamel using laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS)*

María Nieves-Colón
Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota
Project Title: *La Quebrada Archaeology Project Pilot Ancient DNA Study*

Stephanie Poindexter
Assistant Professor, University of Buffalo
Project Title: *Identifying patterns of fat deposition within slow lorises a heterothermic genus*

Cody Prang
Assistant Professor, Texas A&M
Project Title: *Revisiting the knuckle-walking hypothesis: Integrative evolutionary analysis of three-dimensional carpal shape*

A committee of 18 AABA members reviewed of the pool of eligible proposals. I appreciate the feedback each reviewer provided for assessing the projects and the qualifications of the applicants. In addition to the Chair, the committee included:

Michelle Bezanson	Adam Gordon	Biren Patel
Christina Bergy	Lesley Gregoricka	Marin Pilloud
Aaron Blackwell	John Krigbaum	Herman Pontzer
Jerry DeSilva	Rich Lawler	Stacey Tecot
Celeste Gagnon	Elizabeth Miller	Jaime Ullinger
Christopher Gilbert	Connie Mulligan	Rick Smith

Career Development Panel

The Career Development Panel for the 2021 AAPA annual meeting will take place Friday March 25. The title of the panel is Writing Winning Grant Proposals. The panel includes Rebecca Ferrell from The National Science Foundation, John Mitani from The Leakey Foundation, Daniyln Rutherford from the Wenner Grenn Foundation for Anthropological Research.