

AABA History & Honors Committee Annual Report, 2022-2023

Chair, Julienne Rutherford

AABA Executive Committee meeting

April 19, 2023

1. Introduction

- a. The primary business of the History & Honors Committee centered on three significant association awards: 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 (Section 2). Secondary business this year was the implementation of the AABA Oral History Project (Section 3).

2. AABA Awards

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, and Outreach Awards.
2. All nominations were due on October 15, 2022. 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 they can attest to the ethical behavior of their nominee.

ii. Categories

1. Darwin Award: 6 nominees for the Darwin award (3 new, 3 rollovers)
 - a. 2 removed from consideration, see sections 2.d.ii and 2.d.iii
2. Lasker Award: 3 nominees for the Lasker award (2 new, 1 rollover)
3. Outreach Award: 5 nominees for the Outreach Award: 2 new, 3 rollovers

b. Voting Process

- i. Nominations were collated for each award and distributed via Google Drive to all voting members of the Executive Committee
- ii. This year I implemented rank order voting via Google Form. Voters can rank any number of candidates. For the most part this worked well.

c. Awardees

- i. Charles R. **Darwin** Lifetime Achievement Award: **John Fleagle**
- ii. Gabriel W. **Lasker** Service Award: **Andrea Taylor**
- iii. AABA and Leakey Foundation Communication & **Outreach** Award in Honor of Camilla Smith: **Cara Ocobock**

d. Procedural issues

- i. For next year, the nomination will be all Google docs/forms: **a one-page nomination and disclosure forms for all signatories. No CVs or additional letters of support.**
- ii. We received a nomination for a candidate who died prior to voting. We decided as a committee that if an individual who is nominated for an award should pass away before the award voting takes place, they will be removed from consideration for that and subsequent years.
- iii. We require the nominators sign a disclosure form indicating their nominee meets the expectations of the [AABA Code of Conduct](#), the [AABA Professional Ethics Policy](#), and the [AABA Statements on Sexual and Other Harassment](#).

- iv. As part of our vetting process, which includes review of nominees by all Executive Committee members, we will ask the H-CARE and Membership committees to review the nominees against any reports they have received. If the Executive Committee becomes aware of a breach of the expectations outlined in the required disclosure form, even if the nominators were not aware of such breach, the nominee will be removed from consideration.
- v. For further discussion: Revocation of awards?

3. Oral History Project

- a. Jon Marks and Karen Rosenberg proposed this prior to 2022 AABA meeting. After discussion at and after that meeting, I drafted a project and procedure description and disclosure form which were reviewed by Ex Comm and accepted by Jon and Karen.
- b. The process includes Jon and Karen proposing a list of potential interviewees to the History and Honors Chair and the Membership Chair, and all interviewers and interviewees completing a disclosure form.
- c. First interview is Friderun Ankel-Simons, submitted for review by the History and Honors Chair on 4/10/2023 and posting to AABA media platforms ASAP by the Secretary. Plan is to release week after meetings.
- d. Suggestions for Jon and Karen
 - i. provide a brief but informative description of interviewee and their impact on the field
 - ii. Link to a website and/or publication
- e. Links to Oral History Project documents/media:
 - i. [AABA Oral History Disclosure Form](#)
 - ii. [AABA Oral History Procedures Document](#)
 - iii. [Interview with Friderun Ankel-Simons](#) (running time 1:06:32)
- f. Many thanks to Jon and Karen for their initiative and their patience!

4. Other issues/questions carried over from last year's Ex Comm meeting:

- a. Where are History and Honors materials archived? Are documents and records just handed over from Chair to Chair?
- b. Update [History of AABA meetings and leadership](#) (circles back to About page)
- c. Documents at the Smithsonian?
- d. Proceedings of the meetings (behind paywall)