

Report for the 2024 AABA Business Meeting
Student Programs Committee
Chelsey Juarez, 20, March 2024

The Student Programs Committee primarily implements two student competitions. The first occurs at the annual meeting, when students who are presenting research in either a poster or podium format compete for seven named prizes. The second competition is traditionally for travel funds to attend the annual meeting, for which they write an essay on a topic chosen by the Executive Committee. In this report, I first summarize the 2023 student prizes awarded at the meetings in 2023, and finally, I present the 2024 travel award awardees and preliminary information on the 2024 Student Presentation Prize Competition.

I. 2023 Student Presentation Prizes

The deadline for entry to the 2023 AABA Student Presentation was March 24, 2023, and will proceed following the protocol used for the last several years. We received an increase in student presentation prize applications this year compared to last year (n=30) and 21 judges have been organized to evaluate these presentations.

Prize	Student	Presentation Title
AAA-AABA Anatomy	Telena Pounamu Hona	Understanding childhood growth: A pilot study of facial soft tissue thicknesses and body mass relationships in children aged 13 – 17 years
AABA	Briana New	Considering the impact of somatic mutations on cranial structures
AABA	Jordie Hoffman	The ecological and social context of women's hunting in small-scale societies
AABA	Audrey Arner	Sex differences in immune function and disease risk are not easily explained by an evolutionary mismatch
MT	Lily Hou	Reconstructing rodent locomotor behaviors using semicircular canal morphology
Patricia Whitten Prize	Madelynn Dudas	A 3D geometric morphometric study of the central longitudinal axis of the radius across primates
HE	Alexandra Kralick	Queering Primate Osteology: Orangutan Skeletons Challenge Normative Assumptions of Binary Sex and Gendered Behavior
AABA	Magdalena Palisson-Kramer	Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction of the Okote, KBS and Upper Burgi Members of Koobi Fora Formation Via Ecomorphology of Bovid Distal Metapodials
HM	Christopher Goden	Accuracy and Observer Agreement in the Determination of Trauma Timing in Human Ribs
HM	Megan Cole	Individual differences in baseline cortisol and cortisol reactivity among wild chimpanzees (<i>Pan troglodytes</i>) at Kanyawara

Judges for the event were:

Chrisandra Kufeldt
Evan Garofalo
Mark Hubbe
Scott Maddux
Addison Kemp
Cris Hughes
Michael Rivera
Melanie Beasley
Jessie Goliath
Chelsey Juarez
Nicholas Passalacqua
Teresa V Wilson
Zaneta Marie Thayer
Jada Benn Torres
Eric Bartelink
Kelsey Ellis
Melissa Clark
Jonathan Bethard
Katie Wolf
Elizabeth Cho
Lori Trembly

History of the number of entries and judges for the Student Presentation Prizes

Year	Number of entries	Number of judges
2014	39	-
2015	31	-
2016	45	21
2017	69	34
2018	63	39
2019	91	41
2020	53	-
2021	23	16
2022	21	11
2023	30	21
2024	15	27

II. 2023 Pollitzer Travel Awards

The Pollitzer Student Travel Awards are designed to help students defray the costs of attending the AAPA meetings. They are named in honor of William S. Pollitzer, a Human Biologist who taught at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, a Darwin Lifetime Achievement Awardee, and past president of the AAPA. The number of awards is also tied to proceeds from the auction that is held at the annual meeting of the AAPA in the year prior. The award traditionally provides \$500 to each recipient to defray travel costs to attend AAPA's annual meeting.

This award is open to all AABA student members (undergraduate and graduate) who are attending the annual meeting. Students do not need to be giving a presentation at the meeting to qualify but they do need to be a member of the AABA at the time of the meeting and should not have been granted their PhD prior to the submission deadline for 2023 the submission deadline was (January 6, 2023).

The essay question changes each year. Awards are made on the basis of an essay of no more than 750 words (excluding references). The specific prompt for 2022 was:

What does decolonizing biological anthropology mean to you? What steps can be taken to decolonize the research process? The classroom? Field work? What do you think would be the impact of decolonizing these spaces?

The deadline for entry was January 6^h, midnight UTC -11hours. The submission website went live in November 2023 and we received entries starting on the 4th of November through to the last few minutes before the deadline. We received 87 original essays. A committee of 25 judges was convened.

Committee of Judges for the 2023 Pollitzer Travel Award (25 judges)

Chrisandra Kufeldt	Nicholas Passalacqua
Cheverko, Colleen	Teresa V Wilson
Evan Garofalo	Zaneta Marie Thayer
Krista Fish	Jada Benn Torres
Maja Seselj	Eric Bartelink
Mark Hubbe	AnDi Yim
Scott.Maddux	Kelsey Ellis
Addison Kemp	Melissa Clark
Cris Hughes	Jonathan Bethard
Michael Rivera	Heather Edgar
Melanie Beasley	Elizabeth Cho
Jessie Goliath	Lori Trembly

Evaluation was done on a 60-point scale based on a five-part scale (50 points total for originality and creativity, reasoning based on evolutionary biology and theory, and the current literature of our discipline, including references as needed; and 10 points for grammar and spelling). In an effort to standardize the scoring system, a rubric was utilized.

Each entry was given a number, and essays were identified only by number during the evaluation process. Each essay was scored by three judges. Each judge was asked to score ~8 essays and one back up judge was used for conflicts of interest. The final score for each essay was determined as the average of the three independent scores. Neither the named essays nor the number/name key was accessible at any time to the judges. No judge evaluated a proposal from a student at their same institution and the chair was not notified of any other conflicts of interest.

In order to implement the policy that priority would be given to novel entrants, students who had received a Pollitzer award previously had 3.5 points deducted from their final score. There were three entries from previous winners. Two of these ranked high enough to win a Pollitzer award again this year even with the penalty.

AAPA had funds to award 30 awards (but two of the individuals attending virtually so we actually had 31 winners!). The winners are listed below.

2023 Pollitzer Travel Award Recipients:

Jordie Hoffman	University of Calgary
Laura Hunter	University of Chicago
Daniela Orozco	The National Laboratory of Genomics for Biodiversity
Magdalena Palisson	Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
Dayanira Lopez	University of Nevada Las Vegas
Kyle Smith	The Pennsylvania State University
Lydia Bailey	University of Pittsburg
Staphanie Fannin.	The Ohio State University
Sharmi Sen	University of Michigan
Te Wai Pounamu	University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
Carlotta Zeppilli.	Sapienza University of Rome
Krista Bennett	Louisiana State University
Robin Singleton	University of Oregon
Celia Cleary	George Mason University
Siobhan Summers.	University of Florida
Madeleine Kelly.	University of Chicago
Maria Sellers	George Mason University
Laura Pott	University of New Mexico
Isis Dwyer	University of Florida
Lindsey Warshawski.	University of Victoria
Rosa Taylor	University of Oregon
Megan Malherbe.	University of Zurich
Jana Valesca Meyer	University of New Mexico
Lucia Freedberg	UC Santa Barbara
Andrea Zurek-Ost	University of North Carolina
Liam Johnson	University of Nevada Las Vegas
Jaime Zolik	University of New Mexico
Kaita Gurian	The Ohio State University
Taylor Flaherty	University of Nevada Las Vegas
Alexandra Kralick.	University of Pennsylvania
Sterling Wright	Penn State University

History of the number of entries and winners for the Pollitzer Travel Essay Competition.

Pollitzer Travel Essay Competition		
Year	Number of entries	Number of winners
2012	-	43
2013	-	43
2014	-	50
2015	40	24
2016	68	42
2017	118	50
2018	75	57
2019	104	46
2020*	154	50
2021	31	28
2022	40	30
2023	87	30
2024	65	30

III. 2024 Pollitzer award winners

Chelsea Rose	University of Central Florida
Madison Grant	CUNY
elizabeth Poplavaska	Boston University
Rancis Short	Boston University
Megan Langlois	McMaster University
Lydia Bailey	Mississippi State University
Madeline Kelly	University of Chicago
Jessica Martin	Boston University
Julie Strain	CUNY
Abigail Houkes	University of Illinois Champagne Urbana
Keegan Krause	Northwestern
Rebecca Reid	University of Dundee
Ayken Askapuli	University Of Wisconsin Madison
Rebecca Cook	Duke
Madison Bradley-Cronkwright	Duke
Amanda Cooke	McMaster University
Margaret Furtner	Louisiana State University
Matthias Hackl	University of Calgary
Allyson Simon	The Ohio State University
Anna Samsonov	Baylor
Luke Quarles	The University of Buffalo
Madison Butler	University of New Mexico

Rebecca Seegraber	University of Utah
Laura Pott	University of New Mexico
Clara Brandon	University of Michigan
James Tetreau	University of Calgary
Alexandra McDougale	Columbia
Livia Santos	George Mason University
Mary DeWitt	Purdue
Nadine Hussein	University of Calgary
Isabel Roji	San Diego State University