

**Report for the 2017 AAPA Business Meeting  
Student Affairs Committee**

By Leslea J. Hlusko, 9 April 2017

The Student Affairs 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 for travel funds to attend the annual meeting, for which they write an essay on a topic chosen by the Executive Committee. Both competitions rely on a committee of judges that varies slightly in composition based on the judges' availability. In this report, I first summarize the 2016 Student Presentation Prize competition that occurred during the AAPA Atlanta meeting and then report on the 2017 Pollitzer Essay competition that was run in anticipation of the AAPA New Orleans meeting. Finally, I present preliminary information on the 2017 Student Presentation Prize Competition.

**I. 2016 Student Presentation Prizes**

The deadline for entry to the AAPA Student Presentation was on March 1, 2016, through an online submission form. We received 45 entries (which included a 1,000 word essay). There were 31 in 2015 and 39 in 2014. We had a committee of 21 judges:

Daniel Wescott	Bob Anemone	Anna Waterman
Erin Vogel	Libby Cowgill	Rachel Menegaz
Jackson Njau	Chris Schmitt	Rebecca Ackerman
Phil Reno	Jose Braga	Lee Gettler
Rebecca Jabbour	Michaela Huffman	Julie Lesnik
Tim Weaver	Lucas Delezene	Maureen Devlin
Michelle Bezanson	Daniel Temple	Leslea Hlusko

Each of the 45 entries was evaluated by 3 judges. For judging, we used paper score sheets that were either given to the chair of the committee by hand or sent via email once completed. The chair compiled the scores, and the final tallies were made during the committee meeting at 5pm on Saturday, just prior to the reception when winners were announced. Members of the judging committee also filled out the award certificates and decided which winner would receive which donated book.

In addition to the monetary awards, a collection of donated books had been assembled. The committee also decided on which book(s) would go to which recipient. For the named prizes, we gave each recipient one book to complement the monetary award. As there is no monetary award for those who receive honorable mention, we gave them each 2-3 books related to their research topic. We received donated books from:

- Eric Delson with books from Springer
- Dominic Lewis with books from Cambridge
- A few others that came from the auction.

The winners were as follows:

**Juan Comas**

**Amber Walker-Bolton**

Title of presentation: *Operational sex ratio, dominance rank and mating success of group and non-group male ring-tailed lemurs (Lemur catta).*

Book given: The Woolly Monkey (Defler & Stevenson, editors; Springer)

**Earnest Hooton – best poster**

**Myra Laird**

Title of presentation: *Gape cycle kinematic variance and occlusal topography in modern humans*

Book given: Hunter-Gatherers (Bettinger et al.; Springer)

**Ales Hrdlicka**

**Andrew Halley**

Title of presentation: *The embryonic origins of primate encephalization: allometric and growth analyses*

Book given: An Ape's View of Human Evolution (Andrews; Cambridge)

**Mildred Trotter – superior presentation on teeth or bones**

**Nathan Thompson**

Title of presentation: *Frontal plane trunk mechanics in humans and chimpanzees, and implications for the bipedal gait of the last common ancestor*

Book given: Zooarchaeology and Modern Human Origins (Clark and Speth, editors; Springer)

**Sherwood Washburn**

**Cecilia Mayer**

Title of presentation: *How tough is the grey-cheeked mangabey? Patterns of healed skeletal trauma in Lophocebus albigena*

Book given: Evolving Animals (Arthur)

**Anatomy in Anthropology, AAA – AAPA: podium**

**Eric Castillo**

Title of presentation: *Testing biomechanical models for lumbar lordosis variation in hominins*

Book given: The Postcranial Anatomy of Australopithecus afarensis (Haile-Selassie & Su, editors; Springer)

**Anatomy in Anthropology, AAA-AAPA: poster**

**Jesse Goliath**

Title of presentation: *Patterns in ontogeny of epiphyseal and metaphyseal trabecular bone microstructure in the human proximal tibia*

Book given: Early Evolutionary History of the Synapsida (Kammerer et al, editors; Springer)

**Honorable Mention: (4)**

**Brittany Walter**

Title of presentation: *Urbanization and Mortality Risk in Late Medieval London*

Books given:

Bioarchaeology: Interpreting Behavior from the Human Skeleton (Larsen; Cambridge)

Field Archaeology from Around the World (Carver, Gaydarska, & Montón-Subias, editors; Springer)

**Melanie Beasley**

Title of presentation: *Seasonal variation in rainfall at Allia Bay, Kenya 3.97 Ma*

Books given:

Handbook of Paleoanthropology, Volumes 1-3 (Henke and Tattersall, editors; Springer)

**Amanda Lee**

Title of presentation: *Multivariate asymmetry in the femur as a basis for "pair-matching"*

Books given:

Archaeological Human Remains: Global Perspectives (O'Donnabhain & Lozada, Editors; Springer)

Retrograde Evolution During Major Extinction Crises (Guex; Springer)

**Lu Yao**

Title of presentation: *Using ancient DNA from museum specimens for phylogenetic correction to interpret island dwarfing in *Macaca fascicularis**

Books given:

The Pictorial Guide to the Living Primates (Rowe)

For the Love of Lemurs (Wright)

**II. 2017 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 award provides \$500 to each recipient to defray travel costs to attend AAPA's annual meeting.

This award is open to all AAPA 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 AAPA at the time of the meeting and should not have been granted their PhD prior to the submission deadline (Jan 1, 2017).

The essay question changes each year. Awards are made on the basis of an essay of no more than 750 words (excluding references). The essay topic this year mirrored the originally-proposed topic for the AAPA Presidential Panel, the possibility of renaming the organization. The specific prompt was:

*In 2011, the United States' National Science Foundation changed the name of the program that "supports basic research in areas related to human evolution and contemporary human biological variation" from Physical Anthropology to Biological Anthropology. If you attended the business meeting at AAPA's 2016 annual meeting, you know that there are voices within our membership arguing for a change in our organization's name as well. In ~750 words or less, make a case either for or against changing the name of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. If you argue for a name change, what should the new one be? References are encouraged, as is a consideration of the history of our discipline. Note that full citations should be included at the end of your essay and do NOT count towards the 750 word limit.*

The deadline for entry was January 1st, midnight UTC -11hours. The submission website went live in early December and we started receiving entries on the 5th of December. Two entries were submitted after the deadline. One of these was from a student who had been having browser issues with the website for several days prior. As they had been in contact with me trying to resolve the problem well before the deadline, I accepted this one late. The other was submitted on January 3rd. The student complained that the notification of abstract acceptance was too close to the Pollitzer Essay deadline. I did not accept this entry.

In total, there were 118 submissions this year, up from 68 in 2016 and 40 in 2015.

A committee of 16 AAPA members scored the essays. The committee composition was:

Anna Waterman	Lee Gettler	Rachel Menegaz
Bob Anemone	Leslea Hlusko	Rebecca Jabbour
Daniel Temple	Lucas Delezene	Terrency Ritzman
Daniel Wescott	Maureen Devlin	Zaneta Thayer
Jackson Njau	Michael Wasserman	
Julie Lesnik	Michelle Bezanson	

Evaluation was done on a 100 point scale based on three criteria (40 points for originality and creativity, 40 points for clarity of writing and logical reasoning, and 20 points for grammar and spelling). Each entry was given a number, and essays were identified only by number during the evaluation process. Each judge was asked to score 22 essay (except for the chair, who scored 24), which translated into each essay being scored by three judges. The final score for each

essay was determined as the average of the three independent scores. Judges accessed the numbered essays, their scoring sheet/assignment, and rubric through a shared Google Drive folder. Neither the named essays nor the number/name key were accessible at any time to the judges.

No judge evaluated a proposal from a student at their same institution or who had another type of conflict of interest that the judge had notified the chair of. A graduate student of the chair's (Marianne Brasil) entered the competition this year. The chair was very careful to anonymize Brasil's essay quickly and not refer to the number/name key in order to avoid a conflict of interest. Hlusko did not evaluate Brasil's essay.

In order to implement the policy that priority would be given to novel entrants, students who had received a Pollitzer award previously had 5 points deducted from their final score. There were 19 entries from previous winners. Six of these ranked high enough to win a Pollitzer award again this year even with the 5 point penalty. Four others would have scored high enough to receive an award had I not utilized the prior award -5 point deduction.

AAPA had funds to award 50 \$500 awards. The top 50 essays (after the prior award penalty was implemented) were chosen for the awards. These students are listed below. Only 49 awards were ultimately paid, as Aliya Hoff declined the award as she is a recipient of an IDEAS program fellowship and all of the costs associated with attending the meeting are covered through those funds. She will be considered a first-time entrant in next year's competition, should she choose to participate again.

#### **2017 Pollitzer Travel Award Recipients:**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>
Albee	Malorie	Coutinho Nogueira	Dany
Bowland	Lucyna	David	Randy Edward
Bransford	Timothy	de Vries	Matthew
Brasil	Marianne	Dudas	Madelynne
Broehl	Kristen	Easley	Crystal
Bryer	Margaret	Farber	Eleanor
Calle	Sergio	Formanack	Allison
Campbell	Jessica	Fox	Maria
Canington	Stephanie	Galea	Jessica
Cheverko	Colleen	Gilmour	Rebecca
Clark	Melissa	Glaze	Evelyn
Clark	Bonnie	Go	Matthew
Clausing	Elizabeth	Green	Madelyn
Clemente	Mark	Hardie	Amanda
Cook	Amanda	*Hoff	Aliya
Cooper	Catherine	Ioannou	Stella

Jung	Hyunwoo	Rand	Asta
Kihlstrom	Laura	Shearer	Brian
King-Bailey	Gillian	Stead	Samantha
Lagan	Emma	Tinsley Johnson	Elizabeth
Lee	Amanda	Uy	Jeanelle
Lundeen	Ingrid	Warren	Kerryn Ashleigh
Marklein	Kathryn	Weiss	Nicole
Quade	Leslie	Wissler	Amanda
Ramsay	Malcolm	Wood	Emma

\* Aliya Hoff declined the award as she is a recipient of an IDEAS program participant and all of the costs associated with attending the meeting are covered through those funds.

### **III. 2017 Student Presentation Prizes**

The deadline for entry to the 2017 AAPA Student Presentation was on March 1, 2017, following the protocol used in 2016. This was the second year that we relied on an online submission form, with some minor adjustments that improved the process.

We received 69 entries (which included a 1,000 word essay). There were 45 in 2016, 31 in 2015, and 39 in 2014. In light of the large number of entries, 35 judges have been organized to evaluate these presentation. We will be using an online judging form for the first time, but have also provided for paper forms for judges who prefer to use that format. The online form should streamline tallying the scores, making the Saturday evening judges' meeting less hectic.