

**2017-18 Report from the AAPA Committee on Career Development
Submitted by Nathaniel J. Dominy (Chair)**

Early Career Mentoring Award

We received six strong applications for the Early Career Liaison program. Kimberly Congdon (Assistant Professor, Touro University Nevada) was chosen as our new Early Career Liaison. In her application, Professor Congdon described her commitment to inclusivity in AAPA at two levels: the demographics of membership and areas of scholarship supported. She expressed a strong commitment to serving under-represented members of AAPA. She will shadow the VP and work closely with the Education, Diversity, Career Development and Student Programs committees. We wish Professor Congdon the best during her appointment as the AAPA Early Career Liaison, and we thank Felicia Gomez for her service as outgoing Early Career Liaison.

Cobb Professional Development Grants (CPDG)

The AAPA CPDG committee reviewed 27 eligible applications in 2017-2018. 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 breadth of AAPA membership. Each application was reviewed by three independent reviewers and the Committee 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, and the strength of the recommendation letter and CV. The Committee endeavored to fund broadly across the discipline and career stages. The Committee recommended funding six proposals, each in the amount of \$7500. Award and declination letters were emailed to applicants on March 16, 2018. The award recipients are as follows:

Sarah Schrader

Assistant Professor, University of Leiden

"Unearthing hidden stress and frailty: an assessment of hair cortisol and non-specific disease indicators"

Myra Laird

Postdoc, University of Chicago

"The influence of dietary grit on feeding behavior"

Andrew Barr

Visiting Assistant Professor, George Washington University

"Tumbili (Late Miocene, Kenya): a new window into eastern African mammalian evolution at the dawn of the hominin lineage"

Brandon Wheeler

Lecturer, University of Kent

"The evolutionary origins of primate sociality: finding a missing piece of the puzzle"

Wendy Erb

Research Associate (post-doc), Rutgers University

"Calls for conservation: bioacoustic monitoring of endangered apes to support protection of a threatened Bornean landscape"

Keolu Fox

Postdoc, University of California San Diego

Mining paleogenomic datasets for thrifty variants involved in catecholamine resistance

A committee of 15 reviewed of the pool of eligible proposals. Each reviewer brought insights to the projects and the qualifications of the applicants. The committee included:

Bob Anemone
Karen Baab
Aaron Blackwell
Brenda Bradley
Sharon DeWitte
Kara Hoover
Chris Kirk
Patrick Mahoney
Sarah McClure
Connie Mulligan
Herman Pontzer
EA Quinn
Campbell Rolian
Gary Schwartz
Qian Wang

Career Development Committee

The Career Development Panel event for the 2018 AAPA will occur on Friday, April 13 from 12:15-2:15 pm. The Executive Committee acknowledges that career challenges facing PhDs have evolved significantly over the past 10-15 years and that many of our members are increasingly dependent upon funding from granting agencies to accomplish the goals of their research. This year, the Executive Committee invited leaders from three agencies that provide significant financial support to pre-professionals and established investigators in Anthropology. Representatives from the National Science Foundation (Rebecca Ferrell), the Leakey Foundation (Paddy Moore), and the Wenner-Gren Foundation (Leslie Aiello) provided data and introductory remarks about their respective foundations and then opened the floor to questions. In this two-hour interactive workshop, attendees were free to ask questions pertaining to funding in general and about their specific research endeavors. Participants were shown how to look for suitable funding opportunities, how to approach funding agencies to get important questions answered, and how to develop targeted research questions that can turn into funded projects.