

**2017-18 Report from the AAPA Committee on Education
Submitted by (Briana Pobiner, Chair, Education Committee)**

Educator Workshop

The Education Committee's annual workshop for K-12 teachers and informal educators took place on Saturday morning, April 22nd, 2017 from 8:00am-12:00pm. The workshop drew 5 local educator attendees (in addition to AAPA member participants): two middle school science teachers, a high school AP biology teacher, an elementary and middle school gifted/enrichment program teacher, and an informal science educator. It again focused on what teachers have told us they are most interested in: classroom ready-resources. First Connie Bertka, Amanda Glaze, Briana Pobiner, Kania Greer, and John Mead conducted a roundtable discussion regarding current practice, comfort level, and confidence in teaching evolution at the middle and high school level. This was followed by Connie Bertka presenting a resource to help encourage and equip teachers in promoting positive dialogue around the topic of evolution in their classrooms. Then, Caitlin Schrein and Kate McGrath provided overviews of three 30-minute activities that can be used in classrooms with the collection of early human and primate skull and limb bone replicas that belong to the AAPA (housed locally after the conference and available for check-out by teachers – the gifted/enrichment program teacher who attended the workshop borrowed them during the school year). After that, Karol Chandler-Ezell discussed how to deal with preconceptions about race through an anthropological approach to the biology, history, and culture with an activity called "Ethnicity vs. Race". Finally, Ben Freed introduced how and why anthropologists collect data on primate ecology and social organization (how primates use resources and interact with each other) with an activity called "Primate Behavior: The Popcorn Lab". The session ended with a Q&A, and Kania Greer of the Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education at Georgia Southern University, who was able to again arrange for teachers to receive professional development credits for attending the workshop, secured some donations from vendors at the conference as giveaways for the teachers.

School Outreach

Education Committee members participated in outreach in six local New Orleans classrooms on the Thursday (April 20) and Friday (April 21) of the 2017 AAPA conference. On Thursday, the outreach sessions were at all girls Catholic school, Academy of the Sacred Heart. The morning Genetics class visited by Caitlin Schrein and Alex Prucha had 4 students, and the afternoon AP Biology class visited by Alex Prucha and Angie Pena had 6 students. On Friday, the outreach sessions were at a public high school, Ben Franklin High School. There were 4 AP Biology classes, each 1.5 hours long, with between 23-26 students in each class; the morning two classes were visited by Caitlin Schrein, Kate McGrath, John Mitani, and John Mead, and the two afternoon classes were visited by Caitlin Schrein, John Mead, Alex Prucha, and Angie Pena. The outreach sessions this year were more casual and informal and discussion-based this year, including what biological anthropology is, what going to graduate school and having a career in biological anthropology is like, how biological anthropologists incorporate the scientific process into their research, etc. The committee members told stories about how they came up with their research questions, how they collect their data, and their own surprising research findings. The students were very engaged with the excitement about the personal stories and videos about the research, and the outreach participants recommended this approach to school visits in the future rather than the prescribed object-based activities, or some balance of the two. School outreach participant Kate McGrath said "I credit the outreach for being able to explain my poster better" - and then went on to win the Earnest Albert Hooton prize for the best student poster at the 2017 AAPA conference!