Report for the 2020 AAPA Business Meeting  
Student Programs Committee  
Christina Torres-Rouff, 8 March 2020

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 for travel funds to attend the annual meeting, for which they write an essay on a topic proposed by the Early Career Liaison and approved 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 2019 Student Presentation Prize competition that occurred during the 2019 AAPA Cleveland meeting and then report on the 2020 Pollitzer Essay competition that was run in anticipation of the 2020 AAPA Los Angeles meeting. Finally, I present preliminary information on the 2020 Student Presentation Prize Competition for Los Angeles.

I. 2019 Student Presentation Prizes

The deadline for entry to the 2019 AAPA Student Presentation was February 22, 2019. This was the third year that we relied on an online submission form, with some minor adjustments that improved the process. We received 91 entries (which included a 1,000 word essay) to be judged for presentations at the 2019 annual AAPA meeting in Cleveland. Forty-two judges were convened to evaluate these presentations and we thank them for their work.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of entries</th>
<th>Number of judges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>91</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Committee of Judges for the 2019 Student Presentation Prizes

Alicia Rich  
Andrea Baden  
Angela Garcia  
Anna Waterman  
Ashley Edes  
Barbara Piperata  
Ben Trumble  
Cara Wall-Scheffler  
Chrisandra Kufeldt  
Christina Torres-Rouff  
Colleen Cheverko  
Corina Kellner  
Daniel Temple  
Daniel Wescott  
David Green  
Emily Middleton  
Erik Bartelink  
Erin Riley  
Evan Garofalo  
Halszka Glowacka  
Holly Dunsworth  
Jackie Eng  
Jeremy DeSilva  
Jessica Joganic  
Julie Lesnik  
Krista Fish  
Libby Cowgill  
Maja Sejej  
Mark Grabowski  
Mark Hubbe  
Maureen Devlin  
Michele Buzon  
Michelle Bezanson
Each of the 91 entries was evaluated by 3 judges. As has been the case for the last few years, an online judging form was used with a simple scoring system between 1-5. This greatly facilitated the compilation of scores during the judges meeting when winners were determined.

There were nine named prizes awarded in 2019, with 5 honorable mentions. Six of the prizes came with a $500 monetary award that was dispersed after the meeting. The two joint American Association of Anatomists/American Association of Physical Anthropologists prizes are awarded $250 each.

In addition to the monetary award, recipients were given books that, in 2019, were generously donated by Springer (graciously facilitated by Eric Delson, as in years past) as well by Elsevier and Cambridge University Press. Members of the judging committee helped to fill out the award certificates and decide which winner would receive which donated book(s).

This was the first year that the Journal of Human Evolution Prize was implemented to recognize an excellent podium or poster presentation on human or primate evolution.

The winners were as follows:

**Juan Comas Prize**

*Rachel Bell* (University of Massachusetts Amherst). Comparing Evolutionary Models of Primate Hair Color Variation

**Earnest Hooton Prize for best poster**

*Marianne Brasil* (University of California, Berkeley). Morphological integration and modularity in the humerus of modern humans

**Aleš Hrdlička Prize**

*Julia Alyssa White* (University of Oxford). From flesh to mesh: Bodies as maps in 3D GIS

**Mildred Trotter Prize for superior presentation on teeth or bones**

*Katherine Bishop* (University of Alberta). Isotopic perspectives on the sheep-herd relationship at two Hellenistic (ca. 323-31 BCE) settlements in Thessaly, Greece

**Sherwood Washburn Prize**

*William Aguado* (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey). Effective seed dispersal of an economically important plant resource by western chimpanzees at Fongoli, Senegal
Patricia Whitten Prize for excellence in primatology

Matthew Zipple (Duke University). Intergenerational Fitness Effects of Early Life Adversity in Baboons

American Association of Anatomists - American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Anatomy in Anthropology Prize

Anna Ragni - podium presentation, (Richard Gilder Graduate School, American Museum of Natural History). Locomotor ontogeny and trabecular architecture within the hands and feet of great apes

Ingrid Lundeen - poster presentation, (The University of Texas at Austin). Olfactory system anatomy in Homunculus and the ecological importance of olfactory cues among stem platyrrhines

Journal of Human Evolution Prize

Emma Finestone (CUNY Graduate Center). ED-XRF study of Oldowan artifacts documents raw material selection and transport through time on the Homa Peninsula, Kenya

Honorable Mentions:

Alyssa Bader (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). Ancient oral microbiome of a fisher-hunter-gatherer community from the Pacific Northwest Coast

Amanda Ellwanger (University of Texas at San Antonio). Foraging in a landscape of fear: chacma baboons (Papio hamadryas ursinus) in the anthropogenic habitats of Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, South Africa

Jake Funkhouser (Washington University, St. Louis). Re-evaluating the analysis of dominance: Investigations of dominance in captive chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes) and wild Tibetan macaques (Macaca thibetana) from a context-dependent perspective

Kris Sabbi (University of New Mexico). Sex differences in adrenal hormone production throughout development among Kanyawara chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii) at Kibale National Park, Uganda

II. 2019 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 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, 2019).

The Pollitzer competition falls under the purview of the Early Career Liaison, currently Dr. Kevin Hatala.

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 this year was:

In 2019, the AAPA formally adopted a new position statement on race and racism (https://physanth.org/about/position-statements/aapa-statement-race-and-racism-2019/). The Association is uniquely positioned to offer such a statement, given the historical roles that biological anthropologists have played in the creation and perpetuation of racialized systems of oppression and discrimination. In our professional contexts, biological anthropologists have opportunities to address “race,” educate students, and inform publics about the science of human biological variation. In an essay of 750 words or less, describe how you may approach such opportunities in the classroom or in other professional arenas, and how they can best be used to communicate an honest and accurate message concerning the science of race and racism.

The deadline for entry was January 1st, midnight UTC -11hours. The submission website went live in mid-November and we received entries starting on the 13th of November through to the last few minutes before the deadline. We received 154 original essays. A committee of 34 judges was convened.

Committee of Judges for the 2020 Pollitzer Travel Awards

Andrew Barr  Kevin Hatala  Sarah Schrader
Michael Berthaume  Sarah Hlubik  Jeremiah Scott
Michelle Bezanson  Mark Hubbe  Darcy Shapiro
Zachary Cofran  Chrisandra Kufeldt  Eric Shattuck
Libby Cowgill  Sarah Lacy  Nathan Thompson
Lucas Delezene  Scott Maddux  Zach Throckmorton
Maureen Devlin  Rachel Menegaz  Lori Tremblay
Jessica Dimka  Justyna Miszkiewicz  Chris Walker
Andrew Du  Biren Patel  Anna Waterman
David Green  William Pestle  Todd Yokley
Elaine Guevara  Terry Ritzman
Adam Hartstone-Rose  Neil Roach

In an effort to standardize the scoring system, a rubric was used. Evaluation was done on a 100-point scale based on four criteria:

1. Specificity of the approach to the types of audiences and resources typically available to biological anthropologists. 20 points possible.
2. Originality of the approach. 10 points possible.
3. Soundness and completeness of the plan and its justification. 50 points possible.
4. Clarity of writing, grammar, and spelling. 20 points possible.
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 ~14 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. The judges were sent the rubric, scoring sheet, and assigned essays by Kevin Hatala. 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 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 7 points deducted from their final score. There were 27 entries from previous winners. Eleven of these ranked high enough to win a Pollitzer award again this year even with the 7-point penalty.

We followed the protocol implemented in 2018 for increasing the number of Pollitzer prizes awarded and for ranking essays in order to increase representation at the AAPA meeting by traditionally underrepresented groups. Information to this effect was provided by Heide Rohland and only accessed by Kevin Hatala in determining rank.

AAPA had funds to award 50 $500 awards. The winners are listed below.

### 2020 Pollitzer Travel Award Recipients

| Donovan Adams | Obed Garcia | Lauren Michelman |
| William Aguado | Matthew Go | Brian Padgett |
| Sydney Baker | Amanda Hardie | Gina Palefsky |
| Christina Balentine | Victoria Harries | Erin Pinkston |
| Rebecca Biermann Gurbuz | Caitlin Hawley | Edward Quinn |
| Marianne Brasil | Marleigh Jenkins-Morse | Valerie Sgheiza |
| Grace Calhoun | M Shruti Kamath | Sofia Shreyer |
| Caitlin Craig | Monica Keith | Cassie Skipper |
| Katherine Daiy | Brittny Kenyon-Flatt | Emma Thurau |
| Elizabeth Dinkele | Emma Lagan | Sharon Toth |
| Luke Fannin | Rose Leach | Xiaojia Wang |
| Aileen Fernandez | Naomi Levin | Devin Ward |
| Raquel Fleskes | Tisa Loewen | Evalawunmi winful |
| Alyssa Funk | Risa Luther | Jessica Wollmann |
| Jacqueline Galimany | Rebecca Mayus | Caitlin Yoakum |
| Skupham | Stephanie Medrano | Aaron Young |
| Abigail Gancz | Raphaela Meloro | Kendra Weinrich |

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pollitzer Travel Essay Competition</th>
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<th>Number of entries</th>
<th>Number of winners</th>
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III. **2019 Student Presentation Prizes**

The deadline for entry to the 2019 AAPA Student Presentation was March 1, 2020, and will proceed following the protocol used in 2019 with minor modifications to streamline judging. This will be the fourth year that we relied on an online submission form.

We received a significantly reduced number of entries for this year's contest, more in line with previous years, instead of last year's exceptional participation rate. Thirty-eight judges have been organized to evaluate these presentations. We will continue to use an online judging system following the protocol first developed in 2017.

We are pleased to note the addition of a new prize this year. The *Journal of Human Evolution (JHE)* Prize was created by Elsevier Publishers and the JHE editors in 2019. The purpose for the prize is to support and encourage research excellence in human or primate evolution. The JHE Prize is awarded once a year to the most outstanding poster or podium presentation by a student at the AAPA annual meeting in any area of human or primate evolution supported by the journal. The prize is $500 plus an annual digital subscription to the *Journal of Human Evolution*.

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<thead>
<tr>
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