

## 2020 Student Liaison Report

### Committee Structure

As per the structure created by the Executive Committee of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA), the *ad hoc* Student Committee co-chairs are the current and incoming Student Liaisons for the AAPA Executive Committee. The current (and outgoing) liaison is Donovan Adams.

### 2019-2020 Student Liaison Activities

- The fourth annual Student and Early Career Mixer was held on Wednesday, March 28, 2020.
  - There was a large turnout of over 120 students
  - Panel was great, answering many questions from the student participants and offering their own experiences and advice
  - The fifth annual Student and Early Career Mixer is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 14, 2020, directly proceeding the Student Committee Meeting.
- The *ad hoc* Student Committee meeting was held Wednesday, March 28th at the 2019 AAPA meeting.
  - Attendance was small, with approximately 10 students attending the meeting.
  - Main concerns brought up included:
    - Suggestions that there should be increased awareness and work towards student mental health awareness – possibly a session developed addressing mental health
    - Funding for non-students (e.g., gap-year students, transitioning between student career and professional workforce) to attend meetings
    - Possible moving of the volunteer registration deadline to occur prior to the abstract deadline – when submitting an abstract, you need to pay for the meeting registration fee, so registering as a volunteer prior to the deadline might alleviate said cost
    - Potential for approval of poster/podium presentation schedule earlier so that students can plan travel plans earlier – minimize travel and lodging costs
    - Student section on the website: Better highlight it as an organization and at meetings; provide more information about how a student can contribute as a member of the AAPA
    - Possibly reschedule the Student Committee meeting to a lunch timeframe on the Thursday or Friday of the meeting – when on Wednesday, many students may not have arrived at the meeting yet
- A pilot “buddy” program was held at the 2019 AAPA meeting. This program was designed to facilitate students meeting at the conference, particularly if coming for the first time or alone from their program, and organizing plans to meet throughout the conference, plan meals, social events, and more. A Facebook event was created to advertise this event. Only two students arrived the morning for which the meeting was scheduled. However, despite this, this event will be scheduled to take place again to assess its potential for future years.
- The AAPA Student Members Facebook groups remains an active and used forum for students to interact and ask questions, as well as receive notification of field school and workshop opportunities, research and career opportunities, and be kept abreast of ongoing developments in the field. Members include students and professionals in the field. There are currently 3719 members as of March 8, 2020, an increase of approximately 800 people from the previous business report.
- The AAPA Room Sharing page is going on its second year and remains active. There is ongoing dialogue on this page to seek roommates and affordable lodging for attendance at the meeting. There are currently 179 members as of March 8, 2020.

- The current Student Liaison organized a discussion panel titled “Student Perspectives and Involvement Regarding Diversity in the American Association of Physical Anthropologists,” scheduled to be held from 2:30-4:30pm on April 16, 2020 at the 2019 AAPA annual meeting. This event is designed to provide students an opportunity to discuss concerns regarding representation and inclusivity of the professional organization, highlighting strengths and areas of improvement of the AAPA, outline recommendations for future directions, and encourage student involvement in the AAPA.

**Planned 2020 AAPA Meeting Student Committee Events**

- AAPA Student Committee Meeting
- AAPA Student & Early Career Mixer
- Buddy Program
- Discussion Panel: “Student Perspectives and Involvement Regarding Diversity in the American Association of Physical Anthropologists”