

**AAPA Annual Meeting, 2016  
Annual Report**

**Joan T. Richtsmeier**

**Early Career Mentoring Award**

We had four outstanding proposals for the Early Career Mentoring opportunity. Nicole Burt was chosen as our new mentee and will be shadowing Dr. Susan Antón. In her application, Dr. Burt spoke of the challenges faced by early career scientists, especially those in career tracks that are considered non-traditional. In her application, Nikki spoke of the special limitations of those in non-traditional jobs including the limited likelihood of landing in a position of authority and the lack of naturally occurring mentorships. She underscored the need for an early career representative to give voice to these concerns and vision for the AAPA. She will strive to expand the dialogue surrounding early career physical anthropologists to include issues such as adjunct instructor rights and policy on free speech in social media. While we wish Nikki the best during her two-year appointment as the American Association of Physical Anthropologists Early Career Executive Committee Mentee, we thank Ashley Hammond for her service as outgoing Early Career Mentee.

**Professional Development Awards (PDA)**

The AAPA PDA committee reviewed 17 applications in 2015-2016. All but one application were from the US, with one coming from France. Many of the projects however concerned international work, collaborations and/or travel. Each application was reviewed by at least three independent reviewers. In reviewing proposals, the Committee considers 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 also makes every effort to fund broadly across the discipline. The Committee recommended funding four proposals, each in the amount of \$5000. Award and declination letters were emailed to applicants on March 20, 2016.

The award recipients are as follows:

**Michelle Brown**

University of California, Santa Barbara

“Measuring the effects of feeding competition at multiple scales in a frugivorous primate community”

**Stephanie Meredith**

Harvard University

“Do winners take all? Assessing subadult sperm competition in hamadryas baboons”

**Ryan Schmidt**

University of Texas, Austin

“Eneolithic Trypillian genomic variability and the origins of the Cucuteni-Tripolye peoples”

**John Starbuck**

University of Central Florida

“Big brains and small faces: The power of aneuploidy to elucidate mechanisms influencing human evolution and development”

### **Career Development Committee**

The Career Development Panel event for the 2015 AAPA meeting took place on Friday April 15 from noon-2 pm. The Executive Committee acknowledges that career challenges facing PhDs have evolved significantly over the past 10-15 years. Academic tenure-track positions have become more and more competitive, and there is generally little to no training or guidance with respect the opportunities available outside academia, the critical skills required, and how to successfully compete for those jobs. On the basis of these facts, the Executive Committee invited Randall Robaudo of SciPhD (<http://sciphd.com/>) to host a Career Development Workshop. In this two hour interactive workshop Dr. Robaudo led discussions and interactions on the technical, business and social skills that are valued both within and outside academia and how one relates their own scientific experiences and accomplishments to those skills in a way that demonstrates the individual's real value. Participants were shown how to dissect job ads to identify the required skills, and how to develop a targeted resume that reflects their qualifications and experiences in the context of those skills, and how to develop talking points to get you through the behavioral-based interview process.