

African Graduate Student Fund Committee

Committee Members: Risky Agwanda, Jesse Alston, Terrence C. Demos, Adam Ferguson, Jacob Goheen, Anne-Marie Hodge, Prince Kaleme, Monica Lasky, Alicia Linzey, Molly McDonough, Patricia Moehlman, Ryan Norris, Link Olson (Chair), Safian Rabiou, Chloé Warret Rodrigues, Robert Rose, Duane Schlitter, Matthew Snider, and Sydney Stephens

Mission:

The African Research Fellowship Committee grants awards to African nationals pursuing graduate degrees in the form of \$1,500 grants and online membership in the American Society of Mammalogists. Eligible students must be citizens of African countries and currently enrolled in a degree-granting graduate program.

Information Items:

(1) In 2021, the Committee awarded grants to the following five recipients. **Oswaldo Abrão** (MS student, Zambezi University, Mozambique), **Douglas Kamaru** (MS student, University of Nairobi, Kenya), **Cyrus Kavwele** (PhD student, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom), **Makabudi Valery Phakoago** (PhD student, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa), and **Veronarindra Ramananjato** (PhD student, University of California Berkeley, USA). More information about each recipient's research can be found on our web page.

(2) In 2022, we received 51 eligible applications from citizens of 13 African countries enrolled in 30 institutions spanning 17 countries and 4 continents.

(3) Bruce Buttler left the Committee after having served since its formation; the Committee thanks him for his eight years of service. Terrence C. Demos re-joined the Committee.

(4) As of 31 December 2021, the fund balance stood at \$142,929 (up from \$93,666 the previous year) and the rolling three-year average of the 4.5% interest was \$4,615, enough to sustain three \$1,500 awards annually from the fund's interest. Twelve donations totaling \$40,035.95 were received in 2021; one of these—in the amount of \$3,000—was directed by the donor to be used to directly fund two awards in 2022. The Committee thanks these donors, especially Jim and Carol Patton (\$12,500), Alicia Linzey and Art Hulse (\$11,194), and an anonymous donor (\$10,000), for helping us meet our ambitious goal of being able to sustain a minimum of three awards annually hereafter.

(5) With the Board's approval, in 2021 the Committee formally changed its name from the African Graduate Student Research Fund Committee to the African Research Fellowship Committee. Awards will hereafter be referred to as African Research Fellowships.

(6) A co-sponsored symposium entitled "Recent Advances in the Conservation of African Mammals" is proposed to be held in Anchorage, Alaska, for the joint ASM/International Mammalogical Congress (IMC) meeting in 2023. Currently, ~\$22,000 has been raised from private donors, the World Wildlife Fund, and WEST, Inc., to fully defray expenses associated

with four invited speakers, all of whom have confirmed their availability in 2023 and their plans to participate in a special feature in the Journal of Mammalogy. For additional information, refer to the annual report of the International Relations Committee.

Action Items:

(1) The Committee seeks board approval to make **three** \$1,500 awards and **three** \$25 online student memberships in 2023 from the endowment, for a total request of \$4,575. The Committee further seeks approval to make additional 2023 awards should one or more donations in \$1,500 increments be specified for such purposes (as “pass-through” donations) by the donor(s); as in past years, Committee members will pay for the associated online student memberships.

(2) Along with the International Relations, Conservation, and Human Diversity Committees, we are jointly requesting matching funds of \$9,000 from the Board to defray costs associated with the Symposium on the Conservation of African Mammals (Information Item 6 above), as was supported unanimously through a straw poll at the 2019 BOD meeting in Washington, DC. We anticipate that these remaining funds will be used as travel awards, and to defray expenses associated with hosting a fifth invited speaker (to represent bat conservation in West Africa) at the ASM/IMC-13 symposium.

Respectfully submitted,

Link E. Olson, Chair

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