

Honoraria and Travel Awards Committee

Committee Members: V. Bennett, M. Crowell, C. Day, L. Dizney, S. Esmaeili, E. Flaherty (Chair), V. Hayssen, C. Hedberg, A. Hope, K. Lucia-Simmons, M. Martin, M. Pardi, T. Roberts, D. Rowsey, K. Stanchak, R. Stephens, K. Thorington, B. Wiens, J. Willoughby

Mission:

The Committee's mission is to select graduate and undergraduate students to be honored for their research in mammalogy, and to select travel grant recipients for undergraduate, graduate, and early-career travel awards.

Information Items:

(1) The Committee welcomed 4 new members this year and lost 1 member.

(2) From 12 applications, the Honoraria and Travel Awards Committee awarded four graduate honoraria, each for \$2,000: the Anna M. Jackson Award to **Flavio da Silva Coelho** (University at Buffalo); the Elmer C. Birney Award to **Douglas Njeri** (University of Wyoming); the A. Brazier Howell Award to **Allison Brehm** (University of Maine), and the Annie M. Alexander Award to **Olivia Chapman** (University of North Carolina Greensboro).

(3) From 8 applications, the Committee awarded 2 undergraduate honoraria of \$1,200. The awardees were **Holly Nelson** (Colorado Mesa University) and **Alexis Proudman** (Purdue University).

The table below summarizes the recent history of honoraria applications, revealing the high inter-annual variability in the number of applications:

Year	Undergraduate	Masters	Ph.D.	Total Graduate
2010 ^a	2	0	5	5
2011	9	2	12	14
2012	1	1	9	10
2013 ^b	3	1	3	4
2014	3	0	4	4
2015	4	4	8	12
2016	3	6	12	18
2017	1	4	6	10
2018	3	4	8	12
2019	7	5	13	18
2020	7	6	5	11
2021	4	3	4	7
2022	8	5	7	12

^afirst year of shorter GRAD application

^bfirst year of Alexander (MS) Award

(4) We again were very pleased with the number and quality of applications in 2022 and will continue our efforts to advertise and promote the Honoraria program widely using multiple communication platforms, including social media. Sean Maher, the Informatics Committee Chair, has continued to help improve the committee's webpage and with Honoraria application submission, and we will continue to update it to provide clear instructions to applicants and to streamline the online submission process. We also extend special thanks to Cody Thompson, Program Committee Chair, and Kerrell Dunsmore with The Next Great Event, for significant help with advertising these opportunities.

(5) Based on feedback from the 2018 Board of Directors Meeting in Manhattan, KS, we continued to use a Qualtrics form for abstract submission. The current abstract submission process allowed students and early career applicants to apply for a travel award without having to pay for registration. The primary reasons behind the changes were to reduce the number of withdrawal reimbursements for the Program Committee and allow students to apply without potentially paying a fee to cancel their registration if they did not receive an award. Because of concerns raised in 2018 regarding unconscious/implicit bias with the review process, applicants were asked to remove names and institutions on the abstracts written in Word before committee review.

(6) A total of 51 mammalogists submitted abstracts for evaluation for Travel Awards. This number represented an increase from the previous year but a continued decrease when compared to pre-COVID years (2021-40, 2020-75, 2019-144, 2018-60, 2017-72, 2016-53, 2015-121, 2014-94, 2013-140).

Of the 51 abstracts, 49 were current members and were divided into 2 categories for evaluation: 7 early-career abstracts (2020-14, 2019-24, 2018-10, 2017-10, 2016-7, 2015-20, 2014-11, 2013-29) and 42 student abstracts (2021-26, 2020-61, 2019-120, 2018-50, 2017-61, 2016-43, 2015-84, 2014-80, and 2013-109). Of these applicants, 4 were from students supported by past Grants-in-Aid. Each abstract was reviewed by 6 committee members (Appendix 2). Because we only received 7 Early Career Awards, all 7 applicants received an award after review by the committee. We offered 5 additional Student Travel Awards with the remaining funds.

Last year's budget request to the Board was \$7,000 for 10 early-career travel awards of \$700 each, and \$12,000 for 30 student travel awards of \$400 each.

(7) We offered 1 Care Assistance Award this year of \$700. We received 1 application and offered the award to that member. Unfortunately, the recipients' home institution cancelled conference travel through 2022 and the recipient had to decline. We have had several emails and comments acknowledging our Society for its efforts in inclusion related to this award (among its many other initiatives) and hope to continue to offer this into the future.

(8) The Committee is requesting an increase in our requested amount for the 2023 travel awards to allow students and early career mammalogists to travel to attend the Joint meeting of ASM and the 13th International Mammalogical Congress in Anchorage, AK.

Action Items:

(1)	\$ 8,000	4 * \$2000 for graduate honoraria
	\$ 3,000	2 * \$1500 for undergraduate honoraria
	\$10,000	10 * \$1000 for early-career travel awards
	\$18,000	30 * \$600 for student travel awards
	<u>\$ 700</u>	<u>1* \$700 for the care-takers award</u>
	\$39,700	Total budget

Justification: All funds requested are for the awards.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Flaherty, Chair

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