

Education and Graduate Students Committee

Committee Members: C. Bloch, A. Edelman, E. Finck, J. Goheen, Y. Ten Hwang, H. Lanier, C. McCain (Chair), B. McMillan, J. Murie, T. Nupp, M. Pinto, J. Pitt, Q. Shurtliff, V. Swier, K. Thorington, and G. Wilson.

Mission:

The Committee on Education and Graduate Students assists students of mammalogy in making informed choices of career, improving their scientific expertise, and helping them find funding for research and employment in the discipline. To those ends, the committee prepares and distributes brochures, holds periodic workshops, provides evaluations of student presentations at the Annual Meeting, and conducts various mentoring/networking activities.

Information Items:

- (1) Evaluation of student presentations continues to be an extremely popular program among students. Due to an error in programming at the 2008 meeting in South Dakota, not as many students were able to sign up for evaluations as in previous years. There were 41 student presenters evaluated. We expect many more student evaluations at the 2009 meeting in Fairbanks; as of 20 April we have received 109 requests for this year. Elmer Finck will continue with the arduous task of assigning evaluators to each presentation, and Brock McMillan will compile and send the evaluations back to students. To eliminate future errors in programming, our committee has prepared an email reminder of important programming points for student evaluations and events at meetings. This is sent in the early fall and again at the start of the year.
- (2) The “Meal with a Mammalogist” program is currently being organized by Christopher Bloch. The program is in its 15th year and continues to be popular among both students and scientists. We thank all the scientists who have participated in this program over the years. We encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity to spend time with these scientists. Each year, members of the E&GS Committee nominate scientists to be part of the program and we welcome and encourage nominations from all ASM members, particularly students.
- (3) This is the 15th year the Committee will sponsor a luncheon hosted by the President of the Society for Plenary Session speakers.
- (4) The committee also hosts an annual social for student attendees at the meeting. This year the social is being organized by Quinn Shurtliff, and will take place at the Wood Center Pub from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, 25 June. The purpose of the mixer is to allow student attendees of the meeting to meet other students (future colleagues) and establish networks of collaboration and support.
- (5) Elmer Finck continues to coordinate the distribution of the “Careers in Mammalogy” brochure, “The Science of Mammalogy” brochure, and the general information brochure.

(6) In collaboration with the Membership Committee, we are hosting one of their members, John Hanson, on our committee in an attempt to find fresh ideas for increasing ASM membership. This effort is particularly focusing on student ideas and their potential role in increasing membership.

(7) Our committee is looking into the possibility of offering a writing seminar and other professional development workshops targeting our student members and coordinated with annual meetings.

Action Items:

(1) The Education and Graduate Students Committee requests \$300 to 1) pay for the meal of scientists participating in the *Meal with a Mammalogist Program* that do not have the meal plan and 2) to cover the expenses of the Student Social/Mixer at the 2010 meeting. This requested support has been provided for the past several years.

Respectfully submitted,
Christy M. McCain, Chair
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