

Education and Graduate Students Committee

Committee Members: B. Blood, A. Butler, C. Day, K. Dudzinski, J. Duggan, E. Finck, L. Flaherty, C.L. Frank, V. Jackson, A. Kilanowski, J. L. Koprowski, E. Lacey, H.C. Lanier, M. Merrick, K.E. Munroe (Chair), V. Naples, B. Pasch, K. Schumacher.

Mission:

The Committee on Education and Graduate Students assists students of mammalogy in making informed career choices, 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) Over 96% of evaluations of the 174 students talks at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN were sent to student presenters within 8 weeks of the meeting. Both poster and oral student presentations will again be an important activity organized by the E&GS Committee at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Moscow, Idaho. This year, we have 116 student presenters (down 33% from last year) and 92 ASM members (almost double from last year!) have volunteered to help evaluate poster and oral presentations. Electronic submissions greatly sped up the process of sorting and returning evaluations to our students. We will be encouraging prompt electronic submission through a Google form again this year.

(2) Last year, the E&GS Committee presented a Student Workshop entitled, “How to be a good peer-reviewer: what editors and authors need from you”, immediately preceding the student social, rather than on the day prior to the meeting. The workshop was a grand success with over 100 students (and several faculty members) attending the workshop!! Thanks to Dr. Melissa Merrick for spearheading and continuing to develop this workshop. Due to this success we have modified our workshop for this year to fit within the two-hour time frame between the Members Meeting and the Student Social. At our meeting, we will be discussing suggestions and possible new options for the student workshop at the Centennial Meeting in Washington, D.C. Next year’s Student Workshop for the 2018 Kansas meeting has been proposed, and is titled, “Professional interview strategies - crafting your message.”

(3) The “Meal with a Mammalogist” program is in its 23rd year and remains a popular program among students. Both students and the mammalogists they share a meal with seem to get a lot out of the interaction. We thank all the scientists who have participated in this program over the years. In particular we would like to thank the Mammalogists who participated in the program in Minneapolis in 2016: Victoria Bennett, Brad Bergstrom, Jenny Dugan, Kris Hundertmark, Leann Kanda, Hayley Lanier, Michelle LaRue, Jessica Light, Christy McCain, Nick McCann, Roger Powell, Becca Rowe, Noé de la Sancha, John Scheibe, Andrew Smith, Mike Steele, Rob Swihart, and Jane Waterman. Thanks to Dr. Liz Flaherty for organizing the program! We look forward to another exciting schedule in Idaho.

(4) We have been in communication with the Human Diversity Committee about supporting their work creating mentor groups for first-time meeting attendees with returning graduate student attendees. We would also like to continue with the Meeting Mentors program at the 2017 Idaho meeting. Identified volunteer mentors are given badges to wear on their name tags, identifying them as Mentors throughout the meeting. Mentors can answer questions and facilitate introductions for students and first-time attendees. In previous iterations of this program, many Mentors related that students came to them with questions, or just to visit, during the remainder of the meeting.

(5) One goal that the Committee will take on this upcoming year is updating the content on our committee page on the ASM website.

Action Items:

(1) The Education and Graduate Students Committee requests \$250 (25X\$10) to pay for meals of scientists participating in the Meal with a Mammalogist Program and 2) \$5,000 to cover the expenses of the Student Social/Mixer at the 2018 Annual Meeting. This requested support has been provided for the past several years.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen E. Munroe, Chair
(kmunroe@bw.edu)