

Education and Graduate Students Committee

Committee Members: C. P. Bloch, M. Burchard, C. Day, K. M. Dudzinski, J. Duggan, W. S. Fairbanks (chair), E. J. Finck, V. Jackson, H. C. Lanier, R. J. Larsen, K. E. Munroe, M. Merrick, B. Pasch.

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. At the 2012 Annual Meeting in Reno, 81 student presenters were evaluated. At the 2013 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, student poster presentations will be evaluated for the first time. Thanks to the efforts of E&GS Committee members Roxanne Larsen, Madeline Burchard, Victoria Jackson, and Elmer Finck, we will also initiate the use of an electronic format on Google for evaluations of student presentations. This will enable evaluators to use their laptop or tablet computers or smart phones to evaluate and submit evaluations, which the committee can sort, collate, and produce reports electronically. Paper evaluations will remain an option for evaluators who prefer this format. With the large number of presentations to evaluate and with the addition of poster evaluations, we hope this electronic format will make the process less laborious for the Committee and result in faster return of evaluations to the students.

(2) The “Meal with a Mammalogist” program was organized by W. Sue Fairbanks in 2012, and by W.S. Fairbanks and Casey Day for 2013. The program is in its 19th year and continues to be popular with students and scientists. We thank all the scientists who have participated in this program over the years. At last year’s meeting our scientists included: Brad Bergstrom, George Feldhamer, Elmer Finck, Stan Gehrt, Dawn M. Kaufman, Susan Loeb, Marjorie Matocq, Erik Rickart, Brett Riddle, Steve Sheffield, Robert Sikes, Tom Tomasi, and Neal Woodman. For the 2013 meeting we hope to get the list of scientists available for the Meal with a Mammalogist program up on the website ahead of time for students to review and sign up. 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) The Committee hosts an Annual Social for student attendees at the beginning of the Annual Meeting. The purpose of the mixer is to allow student attendees at the meeting to meet other students (future colleagues) and establish networks of collaboration and support. At the 2013 meeting we will launch new student support programs at the social, including FAQs by student and first-time attendees at ASM meetings, organized dining options, and Meeting Mentors.

(4) Bret Pasch has updated the Resources for students and early career mammalogists under Employment on the ASM website under the Education tab, and continues to update the funding sources list.

(5) For the 2013 Annual Meeting, the E&GS Committee has organized a workshop on How to Write a Successful DDIG NSF Proposal. This is a two-part workshop led by Dr. Michael Willig (University of Connecticut), the first part constituting a presentation with a maximum of 24 attendees and the second part a hands-on session with 10 participants in which they will look at specific examples from their own writing and discuss ways to improve their proposals. Another workshop is planned for the 2014 Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City entitled Professional Interview Strategies – Crafting Your Message. Organization of this workshop has been spearheaded by Melissa Merrick, and John Koprowski (University of Arizona), Susan Loeb (USDA Forest Service), and Karen Munroe (Baldwin Wallace University) are confirmed presenters for the workshop.

Action Items:

(1) The Education and Graduate Students Committee requests \$750 to 1) pay for meals of scientists participating in the Meal with a Mammalogist Program and 2) to cover the expenses of the Student Social/Mixer at the 2014 Annual Meeting. The amount needed for both programs has increased due to the change in meeting venues and lack of meal plans.

Respectfully submitted,
W. Sue Fairbanks, Chair
(suef@iastate.edu)