

***ad hoc* Student Science Policy Award Committee**

Committee Members: J. A. Cook, A. V. Linzey, E. S. McCulloch, A. Shenko, S. A. Smiley-Walters (Chair); Ex officio: R. Gropp.

Mission:

This Committee administers the Student Science Policy Award, which can be bestowed upon multiple graduate students each year. This Award was created to facilitate ASM student members' involvement in science public policy. The Award would not be possible without the collaboration of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS).

Information Items:

(1) This past fall, our Committee advertised the ASM Student Science Policy Award available to graduate student members; we utilized ASM's social media accounts and Mammal-L to advertise the 2016 award announcement and application deadline. We received five complete applications, which were reviewed by the Committee Members. We had some very high quality applicants for this year's award.

(2) Our 2016 award recipients were Alexis Mychajliw of Stanford University and Elizabeth Flesch of Montana State University. Both graduate students accepted the award and attended Washington, DC on 27 & 28 April 2016 to participate in Congressional Visits Day.

(3) Elizabeth Flesch and Committee Chair, Sarah Smiley-Walters, will be presenting a poster on the Congressional Visits Day experience at the 2016 ASM Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. Please stop by to see our poster at the Annual Meeting.

(4) In 2015, N. Dawson left the Committee and A. Shenko joined the Committee. The website has been updated to reflect both current Committee composition and the most recent award recipients.

(5) The members of this Committee desire to continue to offer this program. We ask for the help of ASM members in advertising the award to current graduate students who have interest in science policy. We anticipate next year's application deadline to be in January 2017.

Action Items:

(1) The SSPA Committee requests \$4,500 to sponsor two students to attend Congressional Visits Day in Washington DC in spring 2017. The Award cost includes transportation, lodging, food, planning, logistical support, and policy training provided by AIBS. The visit will engage mammalogy students in conversations with policymakers on Capitol Hill. These interactions make policymakers aware of the benefits of funding mammalian research, natural history collections, biological field stations, and other programs. The award is important for creating a future generation of mammalogists who are engaged in the science-policy interface and can serve as an active voice for our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Smiley-Walters, Chair
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