

African Graduate Student Research Fund Committee

Committee Members: B. Buttler, A. Ferguson, J. Goheen (Chair), L. Helgen, A. Hodge, A. Linzey, M. McDonough, P. Moehlman, R. Norris, B. Patterson, R. Rose, D. Schlitter, P. Webala

Mission:

The African Graduate Student Research Fund committee grants awards to African nationals pursuing graduate degrees, in the form of \$1500 grants and an online sponsored membership to the ASM. Eligible students must be citizens of African countries and currently enrolled in a graduate program.

Information Items:

(1) The African Graduate Student Research Fund committee is an *ad hoc* committee formed in 2013. Currently, thirteen members comprise the committee. We are particularly interested in additional members who are from African institutions, and additional members who are fluent in French. Please contact Jake Goheen if you are interested in serving on this committee.

(2) In 2012, the Committee began collecting contributions towards an endowment fund that would support this program in perpetuity. The balance of this fund stood at \$25,000 as of May 2015. This represents a near-quadrupling in size since 2012; however, we are still roughly \$10,000 short of the amount needed to fund a single \$1500 award annually on interest income. ASM members interested in contributing to this fund should earmark their donations to ASM with the notation “African Graduate Student Research Fund.”

(3) Through the generosity of Alicia Linzey and her husband Art Hulse, the committee’s spending fund received \$3000 to make two awards in 2015. We received 22 applications for an African Graduate Student Research Fund grant; applications were submitted from citizens of 15 African countries. We suspect that the dip in applicants (from 46 in 2014) is due partly to the transition to Allen Press, which resulted in reduced publicity in the October and December 2014 issues of *Journal of Mammalogy*. The budget for the African Graduate Student Research Fund was set at \$3000 for 2015; we awarded 2 grants of \$1500 in 2015.

(4) In April 2015, committee member Paul Webala presented a poster to publicize this fund at the African Small Mammal Symposium in Madagascar. The poster detailed the fund, how to apply, and the progress-to-date of the first two award recipients.

(5) The recipients of the 2015 African Graduate Student Research Fund grants are:

Arthur Muneza, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University, USA. “ Mapping the spatial configuration and severity of giraffe skin disease in Ruaha National Park, Tanzania”. Arthur is a Rwandan citizen.

Christian Ranaivoson, Department of Animal Biology at University of Antananarivo, Madagascar.
“Distribution and transmission of intraerythrocytic protozoans in Madagascar’s fruit bats”. Christian is a Malagasy citizen.

Both awardees will receive a grant for \$1500 and a 3-year annual sponsored membership to the American Society of Mammalogists.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacob R. Goheen, Chair
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