

## Honoraria and Travel Awards Committee

**Committee Members:** V. Bennett, M. Crowell, L. Dizney, S. Esmaeili, E. Flaherty, V. Hayssen, C. Hedberg, K. Mabry, M. Martin, M. Pardi (chair), T. Roberts, D. Rowsey, R. Stephens, K. Thorington, B. Wiens, J. Willoughby, M. Westover

### Mission:

The Committee's mission is to select graduate and undergraduate students to be honored for their research in mammalogy, and to select travel grant recipients for undergraduate, graduate, and early-career travel awards based on their abstract submissions for the annual meeting. The committee also selects recipients to receive awards to attend the annual meeting that offset costs for caregiving responsibilities.

### Information Items:

(1) The Committee gained two members (Karen Mabry and Marie Westover). Melissa Pardi agreed to continue as the committee chair.

(2) From 7 applications, the Honoraria and Travel Awards Committee awarded four graduate honoraria (a funding rate of 57%), each for \$2,000: the Anna M. Jackson Award to Lacy Todt (Mississippi State University), the Elmer C. Birney Award to Leo Khasoha (University of Wyoming), the A. Brazier Howell Award to Andrea Paez (Auburn University), and the Annie M. Alexander Award to Margaret Mercer (University of Arizona).

(3) From 6 applications, the Committee awarded 2 undergraduate honoraria (a funding rate of 33%) each for \$1,500. The awardees were Sam Speck (Kansas University) and Alexander Fenlon (Arizona State University).

The table below summarizes the recent history of honoraria applications, revealing the high inter-annual variability in the number of applications:

Year	Undergraduate	Masters	Ph.D.	Total Graduate
2010 <sup>a</sup>	2	0	5	5
2011	9	2	12	14
2012	1	1	9	10
2013 <sup>b</sup>	3	1	3	4
2014	3	0	4	4
2015	4	4	8	12
2016	3	6	12	18
2017	1	4	6	10
2018	3	4	8	12
2019	7	5	13	18

2020	7	6	5	11
2021	4	3	4	7
2022	8	5	7	12
2023	3	2	10	12
2024	5	3	8	11
2025	6	2	5	7

<sup>a</sup>first year of shorter GRAD application

<sup>b</sup>first year of Alexander (MS) Award

(4) We again were pleased with the quality of applications in 2025 but were disappointed to see fewer submissions from last year. We will continue our efforts to advertise and promote the Honoraria program widely using multiple communication platforms, including social media (acknowledging the move away from X) and the listserv. Sean Maher has continued to help improve the committee's webpage and with Honoraria application submission, and we will continue to update it to provide clear instructions to applicants and to streamline the online submission process. We also extend special thanks to John Hanson, Program Committee Chair, Kerrell Dunsmore with The Next Great Event, and Christie Classi for significant help with advertising these opportunities.

(5) Based on feedback from the 2018 Board of Directors Meeting in Manhattan, KS, we continued to use a form external to the meeting website for abstract submission for Travel Awards. The current abstract submission process allows students and early career applicants to apply for a travel award, through a Google Form, without having to pay for registration. The primary reasons behind the changes were to reduce the number of withdrawal reimbursements for the Program Committee and allow students to apply without potentially paying a fee to cancel their registration if they did not receive an award. As in past years, the 2025 slate of Travel Award applicants were judged without providing author information on abstracts to mitigate unconscious/implicit bias in judging. Committee members are not assigned abstracts to review on which they are co-authors. Committee members who recognized submissions with which they had any additional conflicts of interest recused themselves from judging those abstracts.

(6) A total of 95 mammalogists submitted abstracts for evaluation for Travel Awards. This number represented a decrease from the previous year but is around the average number of abstracts we received in pre-COVID years (2024-142, 2023-119, 2022-51, 2021-40, 2020-75, 2019-144, 2018-60, 2017-72, 2016-53, 2015-121, 2014-94, 2013-140).

Of the 95 abstracts, 83 were eligible applicants and were divided into 2 categories for evaluation: 7 early-career abstracts (2024-16, 2023- 21, 2022-49, 2021-14, 2019-24, 2018-10, 2017-10, 2016-7, 2015-20, 2014-11, 2013-29) and 76 student abstracts (2024-100, 2023-94, 2022-42, 2021-26, 2020-61, 2019-120, 2018-50, 2017-61, 2016-43, 2015-84, 2014-80, and 2013-109). Of these applicants, 17 were from students supported by past Grants-in-Aid or other ASM awards. Each abstract was reviewed by 7 committee members.

Last year's budget request to the Board was \$12,000 for 12 early-career travel awards of \$1,000 each, and \$21,000 for 35 student travel awards of \$600 each. We were approved for 6 early career at \$1,500 each (\$9,000) and 35 student travel awards of \$800 each (\$28,000).

(7) We offered 1 Care Assistance Award this year, for \$700. We had funds to support 2 awards but received only 1 eligible application this year. This was the third year we were able to grant the award and have the recipients accept it. We have had several emails and comments acknowledging our Society for its efforts in inclusion related to this award (among its many other initiatives) and hope to continue to offer this into the future. We would like to see this award promoted more broadly. Because we had only 1 applicant for the Care Assistance Award, we received permission from President Smith to award an additional student travel award (\$800), thus we awarded 36.

(8) The Committee is requesting the same amounts we were approved for in 2025 for our budget in 2026.

#### Action Items:

(1)	\$ 8,000	4 * \$2,000 for graduate honoraria
	\$ 3,000	2 * \$1,500 for undergraduate honoraria
	\$ 9,000	6 * \$1,500 for early-career travel awards
	\$28,000	35 * \$800 for student travel awards
	<u>\$ 1,400</u>	<u>2* \$700 for the care-takers award</u>
	\$45,400	Total budget

Justification: All funds requested are for the awards.

(2) There are still some places on the website that continue to have the wrong information for applicants. We will work with Informatics to have this corrected.

(3) With changes to social media, specifically pulling away from using X, the committee will explore ways to advertise and promote awards. Application numbers were down from last year, we would like to see them closer to what they were in 2024.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Melissa Pardi, Chair

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#### Appendix 1

Table 1. American Society of Mammalogists travel awards recipients for 2025.

First Name	Last Name	Institution/Organization
<b>Early Career</b>		
Emily Beasley	beasley.em@gmail.com	Université de Montréal
Makani Fisher	makanifisher@gmail.com	Texas Tech University
Katrina Derieg	katrinaderieg@gmail.com	University of Montana
Sean Mahoney	seanmahoney@arizona.edu	The University of Arizona
Allison Nelson	nelsonallisone@gmail.com	Bureau of Land Management (this abstract is not affiliated with the BLM)
Cameron Pittman	CPittman@dmns.org	Denver Museum of Nature & Science

<b>Student</b>		
Binaya	Adhikari	University of Kentucky
Hannah	Ashe	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Danielle	Brosend	Oklahoma State University
Rebecca	Chandross	University of Wisconsin- Madison
Olivia	Chapman	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Kuldeep	Chouhan	University of Georgia
Monica	Cooper	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Yadav	Ghimirey	University of Florida
Sarah	Heissenberger	University of Arkansas
Samantha	Henry	University of Michigan
Alex	Hey	KU Biodiversity Institute
Daniel	Ibanez	University of Kansas
Irem	Igdeli	Wageningen University & Research
Maya	Juman	University of Cambridge
Brier	Klossing	Texas State University
Omar Daniel	Leon Alvarado	Rutgers University
Nicole	Lopez	University of Montana
Megan	McDaniels	University of California - Davis
Brian	McElligott	Texas State University
Natalie	Morris	University of Arizona
Phoebe	Morris	Oregon State University
Josh	Pletcher	Northern Michigan University
Damien	Rivera	Arizona State University
Lydia	Robbins	Kansas State University
Eve	Rowland	University of New Mexico
Aleana	Savage	University of Michigan
Mariah	Schlis-Elias	University of Michigan
Alyssa	Semerdjian	Oregon State University/ Cal Poly Humboldt
Kristin	Stierman	UNC Greensboro
Tatiana	Velásquez Roa	Texas State University
Hana	Walker	University of Oklahoma
Katharine	Walls	Vanderbilt University
Imogene	Welles	Stony Brook University
Carly	Wikston	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Joaquin	Rico	Oregon State University
Karli	Weatherill	Colorado Mesa University