

## **Education and Graduate Students Committee**

**Committee Members:** B. Blood, C. Day, K. Dudzinski, J. Duggan, E. Finck, L. Flaherty, C. Frank, V. Jackson, R. Jakopak, J. Koprowski, E. Lacey, H.C. Lanier, M. Merrick, K. Munroe (chair), V. Naples, , 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:**

The need to support our student members and in particular first time student member attendees is still a critical component of this Committee. There were a large number of first time attendees, 132, of which 96 were student members in Moscow, ID.

(1) This year, we had 118 student presenters and 92 ASM members have volunteered to help evaluate poster and oral presentations. Over 97% of evaluations of the 118 students presentations at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Moscow, ID were sent to student presenters within 8 weeks of the Annual Meeting. Both poster and oral student presentations will again be an important activity organized by the E&GS Committee at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Manhattan, Kansas. 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 as well as using a more direct google form for evaluators to sign-up for presentations. We encourage all members with terminal degrees to help evaluation presentations!

(2) The student social was a success with BOTH beer and pizza (!! ) and had over 130 attendees. Most students then joined up with the Mammal Crawl in progress. Again the workshop leading into the social worked very well. Last year, the E&GS Committee planned on presenting a Student Workshop entitled, “How to write a DDIG”, but the workshop was modified to a general grant writing workshop when NSF withdrew the DDIG program less than two weeks until the Annual Meeting. We had 20 student attendees. Special thanks to Kaycee Bell and Bret Pasch for going with the flow and providing our attendees with great advice. Thanks to Dr. Melissa Merrick for spearheading and continuing to develop this workshop.

(3) The “Meal with a Mammalogist” program is in its 24<sup>th</sup> 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 Moscow in 2017: Victoria Bennett, Joel Brown, Joe Cook, Jenny Duggan, Jacob Goheen, Kay Holekamp, John Koprowski, Hayley Lanier, Jessica Light, Sean Maher, Christy McCain,

Melissa Merrick, Bret Pasch, Jon Pigage, Roger Powell, Noé de la Sancha, John Scheibe, Rob Swihart. Special thanks to Dr. Elmer Fink for organizing the program! We look forward to another exciting schedule in Kansas.

(4) We would also like to continue with the Meeting Mentors program at the 2019 Kansas Annual 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 Annual Meeting.

(5) We have identified a committee member who has taken the initiative to update the content on our committee page on the ASM website. As always we are looking for motivated committee members.

**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 2019 Annual Meeting. This requested support has been provided for the past several years.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Karen E. Munroe, Chair  
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