

African Graduate Student Fund Committee

Committee Members: V. Apkenas, B. Buttler, T. Demos, A. Ferguson, J. Goheen (Chair), L. Helgen, A. Hodge, A. Linzey, M. McDonough, P. Moehlman, R. Norris, B. Patterson, C. Rodrigues, 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 \$1,500 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 was an *ad hoc* Committee formed in 2013, and was promoted to a Standing Committee in 2016. Currently, 16 members comprise the Committee. We are particularly interested in additional members who are from African institutions. 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 roughly \$44,209 as of March 2017, representing 7.79% growth since 2016. We are roughly \$6,000 short of the amount needed to fund two \$1,500 awards annually on interest income. For the past two years, a single award has been made with the annual interest generated from the endowment, and a second award has been made with *ad hoc* funding of several generous donors, notably Alicia Linzey and Art Hulse. We anticipate a similar situation for 2017. ASM members interested in contributing to this fund should earmark their donations to ASM with the notation "African Graduate Student Research Fund."

(3) The Committee will make two awards in 2017, pending approval of our Committee's action item from the Board. We received 10 applications for an African Graduate Student Research Fund grant; applications were submitted from citizens of eight African countries. This is roughly half of the number of proposals we received in 2015 and in 2016.

(4) The recipients of the 2016 African Graduate Student Research Fund grants will be announced at the Annual Meeting in Moscow.

Both awardees will receive a grant for \$1,500 and an online, 3-year annual sponsored membership to the American Society of Mammalogists.

Action Items:

(1) The Committee seeks board approval to make one of two \$1,500 awards for 2017 from the endowment.

Respectfully submitted,
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