

Education and Graduate Students Committee

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Mission:

The Committee on Education and Graduate Students assists students of mammalogy in making informed choices of career, 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:

(1) Evaluation of both poster and oral student presentations will again be an important activity organized by the E&GS Committee at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City. This year, we have 92 presenters that have requested evaluations, and 40 ASM members volunteered on their registration form to help with this important endeavor. In 2013 at the Philadelphia Meeting, we initiated a program to allow evaluators to write and submit their evaluations on wireless devices or laptops. This year in Oklahoma City, the opportunity to complete and submit electronic evaluations will be greatly facilitated by complimentary Wifi access for attendees in the meeting areas. Electronic submission speeds the process of sorting and returning evaluations to our students. However, paper submissions are still an option for evaluators.

(2) This year, the E&GS Committee has put together a Student Workshop to be presented Friday, 6 June. The topic this year is “Professional Interview Strategies: Crafting Your Message” and includes a panel of professionals from a variety of different career paths. Spearheaded by Melissa Merrick, we have also planned next year’s Student Workshop for the Jacksonville, Florida, meeting. Next year’s workshop is titled, Publishing a Peer-Reviewed Paper from Start to Finish – Advice from the Experts. This workshop will be presented by a panel of current and former journal editors and associate editors, and will involve a hands-on component for students with polished manuscripts nearing submission. So plan ahead!

(3) The “Meal with a Mammalogist” program remains a popular program among the students. Both students and the Mammalogists they share a meal with seem to get a lot out of the interaction. We would like to thank the Mammalogists who participated in the program in Philadelphia 2013: John Yunger, John Koprowski, James Estes, Michael Willig, Felicia Keesing, Dean Biggins, Tereza Jezkova, Bruce Patterson, Jason Munshi-South, Frank Fish, and Colin Groves. We look forward to another exciting schedule in Oklahoma City.

(4) A Meeting Mentors program was re-established at the Philadelphia meeting in 2013. During the Student Social at the beginning of the meeting, regular members and students that have attended previous ASM meetings formally met and visited with small groups of students. The mentors were given badges to wear on their name tags, identifying themselves as Mentors

throughout the remainder of the meeting who can answer questions or facilitate introductions to others that the student would like to meet. The program seemed to work well for both students and mentors, and we will continue this program at the Oklahoma City meeting in 2014. In addition, we offered to meet at the student table in the registration area to make sure that students that did not know anyone at the meeting or were unsure of dining options could head out to find meals as a group, often with regular members. This year, we may make this more formal by having one or more E&GS Committee member take responsibility for groups of students heading out to find a meal.

Action Items:

(1) The Education and Graduate Students Committee requests \$2000 to 1) pay for meals of scientists participating in the Meal with a Mammalogist Program and 2) to cover the expenses of the Student Social/Mixer at the 2014 Annual Meeting. The amount needed for both programs has increased due to the change in meeting venues and lack of meal plans.

Respectfully submitted,
W. Sue Fairbanks, Chair
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