

***ad hoc* Student Science Policy Award Committee**

Committee Members: J. A. Cook, A. V. Linzey, E. S. McCulloch, A. Shenko, S. A. Smiley-Walters (Chair).

Mission:

This Committee administers the Student Science Policy Award, which can be bestowed upon multiple graduate students each year. This Award was created to facilitate ASM student members' involvement in science public policy. The Award would not be possible without the collaboration of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS).

Information Items:

(1) This past fall, our Committee advertised the ASM Student Science Policy Award available to graduate student members; we utilized Mammal-L to advertise the 2017 Award Announcement and application deadline. We received three complete applications, which were reviewed by the Committee members. The number of applications was down from five in 2016.

(2) Our 2017 award recipients were **Giorgia Auteri** of the University of Michigan and **Jessica Gilbert** of Texas A&M University. Both graduate students accepted the award and attended Washington, D.C on 25-26 April 2017 to participate in Congressional Visits Day. Dr. Rob Gropp reported very positively on his interactions with the ASM student awardees following the CVD event.

(3) The website has been updated to reflect current committee composition and the most recent award recipients. Committee composition did not change this year, but the committee member list did briefly disappear from the website and had to be updated.

(4) The SSPA committee members desire to continue to offer this program. We ask ASM members to help promote the award to current graduate students who have interest in science policy. The Committee Chair will seek out additional advertisement avenues for next year to increase the visibility of this Award. Previous award recipients have mentioned that they were not aware of Mammal-L when they applied for the award. We anticipate next year's application deadline to be in January 2018, contingent on funding renewal.

Action Items:

(1) The SSPA Committee requests \$4,500 to sponsor two students to attend Congressional Visits Day in Washington D.C. in spring 2018. The Award cost includes transportation, lodging, food, planning, logistical support, and policy training provided by AIBS. The visit will engage mammalogy students in conversations with policymakers on Capitol Hill. These interactions increase the scientific awareness of policymakers through discussions with awardees concerning the benefits of funding mammalian research, natural history collections, biological field stations, and other programs. The awardees benefit from policy training, experiential learning, and interactions with federal scientists and respected policy decision-makers. The Award is

important for creating a future generation of mammalogists who are engaged in the science-policy interface and can serve as an active voice for our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Smiley-Walters, Chair
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