

## **African Graduate Student Research Fund Committee**

**Committee Members:** B. Buttler, A. Ferguson, J. Goheen (Chair), L. Helgen, A. Hodge, A. Linzey, M. McDonough, P. Moehlman, R. Norris, B. Patterson, 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 \$1500 grants and an online 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 is an *ad hoc* committee formed in 2013. Currently, thirteen members comprise the committee. We are particularly interested in additional members who are from African institutions, and additional members who are fluent in French. 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 \$16,681 as of May 2014, still far short of the amount needed to fund an award on interest income as soon as the principal balance reaches \$35,000. ASM members interested in contributing to this fund should earmark their donations to ASM with the notation "African Graduate Student Research Fund."

(3) Through the generosity of Alicia Linzey and her husband, the Committee's spending fund received \$3000 to make two awards in 2014. We received 46 applications for an African Graduate Student grant; applications were submitted from 32 institutions of higher learning from citizens of 12 African countries. The budget for the African Graduate Student Fund was set at \$3000 for 2014; we awarded 2 grants of \$1500 in 2014.

(4) The recipients of the 2014 African Graduate Student Research Fund grants are George Omondi Paul (University of Nairobi) and Tobias Ochieng Otieno (Karatina University). Mr. Omondi's proposal is entitled "Molecular survey of tick-borne hemoparasites in buffalo and cattle in Laikipia, Kenya: understanding the role of mixed grazing in transmission dynamics". Mr. Otieno's proposal is entitled "Foraging preferences of ungulate herbivores under different levels of perceived risk". Both awardees will receive a grant for \$1500 and an annual membership to the American Society of Mammalogists.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacob R. Goheen, Chair  
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