

## Honoraria and Travel Awards Committee

**Committee Members:** V. Bennett, M. Crowell, L. Dizney, S. Esmaeili, E. Flaherty, V. Hayssen, C. Hedberg, M. Martin, M. Pardi (chair), T. Roberts, D. Rowsey, R. Stephens, K. Thorington, B. Wiens, J. Willoughby

### Mission:

The Committee's mission is to select graduate and undergraduate students to be honored for their research in mammalogy, and to select travel grant recipients for undergraduate, graduate, and early-career travel awards based on their abstract submissions for the annual meeting. The committee also selects two recipients to receive awards to attend the annual meeting that offset costs for caregiving responsibilities.

### Information Items:

(1) The Committee lost 3 members. Melissa Pardi agreed to continue as the committee chair.

(2) From 11 applications, the Honoraria and Travel Awards Committee awarded four graduate honoraria (a funding rate of 36%), each for \$2,000: the Anna M. Jackson Award to Ellen Dymit (Oregon State University), the Elmer C. Birney Award to Julia Owen-Ramos (University of California, Davis), the A. Brazier Howell Award to Jesse Laney (Oregon State University), and the Annie M. Alexander Award to Hailey Jacobson (New Mexico State University).

(3) From 5 applications, the Committee awarded 2 undergraduate honoraria (a funding rate of 40%) each for \$1,500. The awardees were Karli Weatherill (Colorado Mesa University) and Erika Seguin (Weber State University).

The table below summarizes the recent history of honoraria applications, revealing the high inter-annual variability in the number of applications:

Year	Undergraduate	Masters	Ph.D.	Total Graduate
2010 <sup>a</sup>	2	0	5	5
2011	9	2	12	14
2012	1	1	9	10
2013 <sup>b</sup>	3	1	3	4
2014	3	0	4	4
2015	4	4	8	12
2016	3	6	12	18
2017	1	4	6	10
2018	3	4	8	12
2019	7	5	13	18
2020	7	6	5	11
2021	4	3	4	7
2022	8	5	7	12
2023	3	2	10	12

(4) We again were very pleased with the number and quality of applications in 2024 and will continue our efforts to advertise and promote the Honoraria program widely using multiple communication platforms, including social media and the MAMMAL-L listserve. Sean Maher, the Communications Committee Chair, has continued to help improve the committee's webpage and with Honoraria application submission, and we will continue to update it to provide clear instructions to applicants and to streamline the online submission process. We also extend special thanks to John Hanson, Program Committee Chair, Kerrell Dunsmore with The Next Great Event, and Christie Classi for significant help with advertising these opportunities.

(5) Based on feedback from the 2018 Board of Directors Meeting in Manhattan, KS, we continued to use a form external to the meeting website for abstract submission for Travel Awards. The current abstract submission process allows students and early career applicants to apply for a travel award, through a Google Form, without having to pay for registration. The primary reasons behind the changes were to reduce the number of withdrawal reimbursements for the Program Committee and allow students to apply without potentially paying a fee to cancel their registration if they did not receive an award. As in past years, the 2024 slate of Travel Award applicants were judged without providing author information on abstracts to mitigate unconscious/implicit bias in judging. Committee members are not assigned abstracts to review on which they are co-authors. Committee members who recognized submissions with which they had any additional conflicts of interest recused themselves from judging those abstracts.

(6) A total of 142 mammalogists submitted abstracts for evaluation for Travel Awards. This number represented an increase from the previous year and exceeds the average number of abstracts from pre-COVID years (2023-119, 2022-51, 2021-40, 2020-75, 2019-144, 2018-60, 2017-72, 2016-53, 2015-121, 2014-94, 2013-140).

Of the 142 abstracts, 116 were current members and were divided into 2 categories for evaluation: 16 early-career abstracts (2023- 21, 2022-49, 2021-14, 2019-24, 2018-10, 2017-10, 2016-7, 2015-20, 2014-11, 2013-29) and 100 student abstracts (2023-94, 2022-42, 2021-26, 2020-61, 2019-120, 2018-50, 2017-61, 2016-43, 2015-84, 2014-80, and 2013-109). Of these applicants, 16 were from students supported by past Grants-in-Aid or other ASM awards. Each abstract was reviewed by 5 committee members.

Last year's budget request to the Board was \$12,000 for 12 early-career travel awards of \$1,000 each, and \$21,000 for 35 student travel awards of \$600 each.

(7) We offered 2 Care Assistance Award this year, for \$700 each. We received 3 applications this year, and this was the second year we were able to grant the award and have the recipients accept it. We have had several emails and comments acknowledging our Society for its efforts in inclusion related to this award (among its many other initiatives) and hope to continue to offer this into the future. We would like to see this award promoted more broadly.

(8) The Committee is requesting no changes to our budget for 2025. Early Career travel awards had a 75% funding rate and student awards had a 35% funding rate, out of eligible applicants.

**Action Items:**

(1)	\$ 8,000	4 * \$2000 for graduate honoraria
	\$ 3,000	2 * \$1500 for undergraduate honoraria
	\$12,000	12 * \$1000 for early-career travel awards
	\$21,000	35 * \$600 for student travel awards
	<u>\$ 1,400</u>	<u>2* \$700 for the care-takers award</u>
	\$45,400	Total budget

Justification: All funds requested are for the awards.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Melissa Pardi, Chair

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