

SSB Awards Report – Feb 26, 2016

Overview

In previous years the budget for awards was approximately \$40,000. This funded 16 GSRAs, 4 mini-ARTS, and 2 Mayr winners. I am still awaiting to hear about the final budget for 2016 awards, though I anticipate it will be at least \$40,000.

Awards Director Contact

update: added after executive committee meeting on 2/27/2016

A new email address has been created for the awards director (currently Tracy Heath for 2016-2019). This address is ssb.awards.director@gmail.com.

This address is for submission of application materials or queries and will be passed on to future holders of this position. All of the contact information has been changed on the SSB website.

Mayr Award

The Mayr award has been announced on the SSB website and on the website for the Evolution 2016 meeting. Applicants will have to submit their abstract through the meeting's talk-registration portal. The deadline for submission is April 30, which is the end of the early registration period. However, if the available talk slots fill early, then submission will be closed. Thus, the SSB website has been edited to reflect this and urge applicants to submit as soon as possible. An advertisement to EvolDir will be posted on Monday, Feb. 29. After the application period closes, the abstracts and applicant information will be sent to me by Howard Rundle. I will recruit judges to select 10 speakers for the symposium.

According to the current version of the schedule for the 2016 Evolution Meeting, the Mayr Symposium will occur in the morning (8:30-11:30) on Saturday, June 18. The Mayr talks will be judged by a panel of SSB members. I will create a rubric for judging based on the evaluation form used by SSE for the Hamilton award. This will be to standardize the judging and make the evaluation more transparent. <http://www.systbio.org/ernst-mayr-award.html>

Graduate Student Research Awards

In 2014, there were 16 GSRA's awarded (\$30,568) from 54 applications. The GSRA has been announced on the SSB website and will be advertised broadly on EvolDir. Grant application reviewers will be recruited from the council and SSB community. The deadline for applications is April 24, 2016.

<http://www.systbio.org/graduate-student-research-awards.html>

mini-ARTS

Because the joint meeting was held in Brazil in 2015, the mini-ARTS awards were not given that year in lieu of travel awards for students. The mini-ARTS has been opened again for 2016 and announced on the SSB website. In 2014, four mini-ARTS awards were given totaling \$8,432.

These awards have been announced on the SSB website for 2016. The deadline for application materials is March 31, 2016. <http://www.systbio.org/mini-arts-awards.html>

Proposed Award

The presence of evolutionary biology and ecology research at the [Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science \(SACNAS\)](#) annual conference is growing each year. This is in no small part due to the efforts of Jory Weintraub while he was Assistant Director of Education and Outreach at NESCent, as well as the ongoing participation of systematists like Scott Edwards. SSB can help continue this work to help promote the work and careers underrepresented students and researchers in our field.

At the [SACNAS national conference](#), several student awards are given at the conference and announced at the closing banquet in front of approximately 4,000 attendees (this year the meeting is October 13-15, 2016 in Long Beach, CA). Many of the awards are sponsored by scientific societies, universities, government agencies, and/or corporations. As the awards are announced, the sponsors are also shown. This is an excellent opportunity for SSB. We can sponsor student presentation awards in evolution/ecology (graduate student and/or undergraduate) by providing a cash prize plus 1-year membership to SSB, for example. I also know that some societies offer memberships and travel awards to their own national conferences to outstanding presenters at SACNAS. I have received information from a program manager at SACNAS, they are working on a sponsorship website that will provide a list of sponsorship options. She is happy to discuss a multi-year student award at SACNAS. It appears that this could be around \$1,500 per award.

2016 Awards Director: Tracy Heath