

Ontario Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution Colloquium 2016
University of Toronto
25 Wilcocks St
Toronto, ON, CANADA
M5S 3B2
March 25, 2016

Dear Dr. Duckworth,

In May 2016, the University of Toronto (St. George) will be hosting the 46th Ontario Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution Colloquium (OE3C; www.oe3c2016.org). OE3C is an annual, regional conference, which brings together undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and faculty in the fields of ecology, ethology, and evolution. OE3C is one of the largest student-focused colloquiums in Canada, dedicated to providing students in the early stages of their career with the opportunity to present their research and network with students, faculty, and professionals in their fields. For many students, OE3C is the first academic conference they attend. OE3C is organized entirely by graduate student volunteers and registration fees are kept low to encourage student participation. As a result, the success of OE3C depends on the generous support from internal and external sponsors, such as the American Society of Naturalists.

This year's OE3C colloquium will be hosted by students from the University of Toronto's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department from May 5th-7th. The primary venue is the Bahen Centre for Information Technology. We have four confirmed plenary speakers, representative of the focal disciplines of the conference (ecology, ethology, and evolution) and of different career stages: David Queller (Spencer T. Olin Professor, Washington University), Zoe Lindo (Assistant Professor, Western University), Maydianne Andrade (Professor and Canada Research Chair, University of Toronto Scarborough), and Hannah Hoag (Managing Editor for Arctic Deeply). The colloquium will include two days of oral and poster presentations, and social events will be hosted to enrich the experience of all attendees. Registrants will have the ability to give a full-length talk (15 minutes), a lightning talk (5 minutes), or a poster presentation. This year we've broadened the demographic, inviting students from not only Ontario, but also Quebec universities. We anticipate between 150 and 200 student attendees.

We believe that OE3C is of particular interest to the ASN for two major reasons. First, OE3C's focus on three diverse areas of natural history research aligns well with the ASN's objective of conceptually unifying diverse branches of the biological sciences. Second, as one of Canada's largest student-focused colloquiums, OE3C serves to connect students in the early stages of their research and professional careers with existing reputable natural history societies, such as the ASN. An awareness of and involvement with natural history societies is an important component of a research and professional career in the biological sciences. Because OE3C is primarily attended by undergraduate and graduate students, a partnership between OE3C and ASN would help introduce a new demographic of researchers to ASN and the work of natural history societies in general.

By supporting OE3C with a \$3000 award, the ASN would be the lead sponsor of OE3C. We propose to use the funds (total: **\$2,974**) in the following way:

\$1,000 – Five travel grants, valued at \$200 each to current ASN members, to be used to retroactively reimburse costs of registration and travel costs of the conference.

\$1,000 – Reduced registration for ASN student members at OE3C 2017. Because registration for OE3C is ending in mid-April, the ASN award would not be used to reduce registration costs for 2016; therefore, we would re-allocate the money to the seed fund for OE3C 2017, ear-marked for reduced registration for ASN members.

\$352 – Two student awards, valued at \$125 each plus a three year student-membership with ASN, awarded to the best undergraduate and graduate student talks in the field of natural history.

\$272 - Two student awards, valued at \$100 each plus a two-year student membership with ASN, awarded to the best undergraduate and graduate posters in the field of natural history.

\$200 – Information kiosk about ASN run during conference breaks and the poster session. This can be staffed by an ASN representative at your discretion.

\$150 – Awards ceremony supply rental costs, including speakers, microphone, and podium, rented from U of T Hospitality Services.

In addition to the above allocation of funds to increase OE3C participation and ASN membership, the ASN would be recognized orally (opening and closing ceremonies), on printed and marketing materials (2016 and 2017), and on OE3C's website and social media. We hope that a partnership can evolve between OE3C and ASN to better facilitate the involvement of young naturalists in academic conferences and societies.

In closing, OE3C gives young researchers an avenue for early exposure and established researchers an opportunity to share their expertise, all in a positive and constructive environment. This year, the University of Toronto organizing committee has made additional efforts to increase dialogue and engage researchers beyond the host campus and outside the province of Ontario through our inclusion of Quebec universities. We hope that including these universities will encourage the expansion of OE3C to other provinces in future years. The organizing committee is excited that the University of Toronto has been given the opportunity to host OE3C 2016. We have worked hard to develop and implement a successful timeline. Given that we have secured \$4,350 in support from various sponsors, including the Canadian Zoological Society, we believe that our proposal and budget are realistic, and we are confident in our committees' ability to execute this event with a high degree of professionalism.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our proposal. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Cylita Guy, Michael Foisy, Viviana Astudillo, and Ruth Rivkin
OE3C Organizing Committee