

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Board of Governors Meeting



To Be Held Virtually; *Incertae sedis*

August 12, 2020

12pm Eastern



Prosanta Chakrabarty, Secretary
Louisiana State University
Museum of Natural Science
119 Foster Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
ASIHsec@outlook.com

July 25, 2020

Dear ASIH,

Well, I had not planned to break everything before I left office as Secretary of the ASIH, but here we are. It has certainly been an unusual year, and we are just passing the half-way mark. Returning from fieldwork in Thailand this February I heard talk about a dangerous virus spreading across the globe; then suddenly borders were closed and meetings cancelled - including what would have been the 100th meeting of the ASIH in Norfolk. Alas, it was not to be, the 100th meeting will have to wait. There are more important things including mourning the deaths of almost than 150,000 American and 640K worldwide. It is also a time to reflect, learn and become a modern, inclusive, anti-racist 21st century scientific organization. Our journal is getting a name change: and that is one positive step in the right direction.

It is also a pity that we cannot fully celebrate having the most diverse group of plenary winners in ASIH history (image on the right). And although we would have been congratulating ourselves for improved gender diversity among the winners, we would still have to look at ourselves in the mirror. As the country comes to term with the racial injustice that has existed against Black people, we too need to ask what we have done, and not done, to have a Society that better reflects the diversity of our country. Read more in the report from the ASIH Committee for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging; the time for change is now and we are continuing to work on progress.

The ASIH Board of Governors meeting was scheduled to meet in Norfolk for the 100th annual meeting of the ASIH; local host chair Eric Hilton put a lot of work into planning this year's meeting, and we are sorry that those will be pushed back. The local hosts were: **Eric J. Hilton**, Chair, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William & Mary; **Rocky Parker**, James Madison University; **Kent Carpenter**, Old Dominion University; **Rafael de Sá**, University of Richmond; **Jan McDowell**, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William & Mary; **Tom Munroe**, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration; and **Kate Bemis**, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. The Society thanks them for their efforts.



At a virtual BOFG meeting (**August 12; 12pm eastern**) President Beachy plans to move for blanket acceptance of all reports included in this book that cover society business for 2019 and 2020 (in part). The book includes the candidate information for the 2020 elections that will take place after the meeting via electronic voting. The Board of Governors will vote on candidates for five award committees (Gibbs, Johnson, Fitch, Spiritus, Nelson) and for the Honorary Foreign Member in Ichthyology along with other items via a virtual vote.

Governors can ask to have items exempted from blanket approval. These exempted items will be acted upon individually. We will also act individually on items exempted by the Executive Committee during their meeting. Please remember to have a version of this booklet with you.

Please contact me directly (ASIHsec@outlook.com) with any questions you may have. Please notify me if you will not be able to attend the virtual meeting so I can share your regrets with the Governors.

I look forward to seeing you at a future meeting IRL; we'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when; but I know we'll meet again some sunny day.

It has been a pleasure serving the ASIH as Secretary these last five years. I take no credit for any positives (I was just a facilitator) but I do take all the blame for my mistakes. All the best to Mark Sabaj as he takes over in January 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Prosanta Chakrabarty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Prosanta Chakrabarty
ASIH Secretary

ASIH BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2019*

*2020 BOFG is listed in the Appendix

| Past Presidents | | Executive Committee | Elected Governors (Sectional Editors) |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Allen, L.G. | Inger, R.F. | | |
| Baldwin, C.C. | Lundberg, J.G. | Baldwin, C.C. | Adreani, M. |
| Beaupre, S.J. | Matthews, W.J. | Beachy, C. | Bevier, C. |
| Burr, B.M. | Mayden, R.L. | Chakrabarty, P. | Buth, D.G. |
| Cannatella, D.C. | McDiarmid, R.W. | Cole, K. | Craig, M.T. |
| Cashner, R.C. | Mushinsky, H.R. | Crother, B. | Davis, M.P. |
| Cohen, D.M. | Page, L.M. | Espinoza, R. | Grande, T. |
| Collette, B.B. | Parenti, L.R. | Hillis, D. | Kerby, J. |
| Crother, B. | Pietsch, T.W. | Maslenikov, K. | Klepadlo, C. |
| Donnelly, M.A. | Pough, F.H. | Smith, W.L. | Lannoo, M.J. |
| Douglas, M.E. | Rabb, G.G. | Stouder, D. | Litzgus, J.D. |
| Frost, D.R. | Robins, C.R. | Summers, A. | Martin, K.L. |
| Gilbert, C.R. | Savage, J.M. | | Orr, J.W. |
| Greene, H.W. | Savitzky, A.H. | | Reis, R.E. |
| Greenfield, D.W. | Shaffer, H.B. | | Siegel, D.S. |
| Gregory, P.T. | Smith, G.R. | | Snodgrass, J.M. |
| Hanken, J. | Trueb, L. | | Stuart, B. |
| Highton, R. | Wake, M.H. | | |
| Hutchison, V.H. | | | |

| Class of 2019 | Class of 2020 | Class of 2021 | Class of 2022 | Class of 2023 |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Cole, K.S. | Anthony, C.D. | Catenazzi, A. | Bell, R. | Conway, K.W. |
| Feldman, C.R. | Arnold, R.J. | Earl, J.E. | Berra, T. | Dillman, C. |
| George, A.L. | Davis Rabosky A.R. | Johansen, R. | Cashner, M. | Fernandez, C.C. |
| Harris, P.M. | Ferry, L. | Johnson, G. D. | Johnston, C. | Fitzgerald, L.A. |
| Hickerson, C-A.M. | López-Fernández, H. | McMahan, C. | Munroe, T. | Hews, D.K. |
| Hilton, E.J. | Maslenikov, K.P. | Rivas, J. | O'Donnell, K.M. | Irish, F. |
| Parker, M.R. | Richards-Zawacki, C.L. | Salcedo, N. | Rabosky, D.I. | Malone, C.L. |
| Ruane, S. | Saporito, R.A. | Savage, A. | Spencer, C.L. | Siegel, D.S. |
| Smith, W.L. | Sutton, T.T. | Taylor, E. N | Sweet, S.S. | Sidlauskas, B. |
| Todd, B.D. | Whitfield, S.M | Walker, H.J. | Tornabene, L. | Webb, J. |

Officers – 2019

*2020 Officers listed in the Appendix

President – Kathleen Cole
President-Elect – Christopher Beachy
Past President – Brian Crother
Prior Past President – Carole Baldwin
Secretary – Prosanta Chakrabarty
Treasurer – Katherine Maslenikov
Editor – Wm. Leo Smith

Copeia Staff – 2019

Editor – W. Leo Smith
Production Editor – Kathleen Smith
Figure Editor – Matthew G. Girard
General Ichthyology Editor – Roberto Reis
General Ichthyology Editor – Donald G. Buth
General Ichthyology Editor – Matthew T. Craig
General Herpetology Editor – Michael J. Lannoo
General Herpetology Editor – Bryan Stuart
General Herpetology Editor – Jacob Kerby
Ecology and Ethology Editor – Joel Snodgrass
Ecology and Ethology Editor – Jacqueline Litzgus
Ecology and Ethology Editor – Mia Adreani
Genetics, Development and Morphology Editor – Matthew P. Davis
Genetics, Development and Morphology Editor – Dustin Siegel
Genetics, Development and Morphology Editor – Terry Grande
Physiology and Physiological Ecology Editor – Catherine R. Bevier
Index Co-Editor (Subject) – Cynthia Klepadlo
Index Co-Editor (Taxonomic) – Jay W. Orr
Book Review Editor Ichthyology – Luke Tornabene
Book Review Editor Herpetology – Robert E. Espinoza

Editorial Board - James Albert, Jon Armbruster, Rayna Bell, Katherine Bemis, Amanda Bennett, Gerardo Carfagno, Kevin Conway, Julia Earl, Carl Ferraris, Michael Ghedotti, Sarah Gibson, Patrick Gregory, Susan Herrick, Fernando Jerep, Randy Mooi, Christopher Murray, Lori Neuman-Lee, Hannah Owens, Lynne Parenti, Sara Ruane, Eric Schultz, Kevin Tang, H.J. Walker, Jr., and Mark V.H. Wilson.

ASIH Committees – 2019
***2020 Committees listed in the Appendix**

COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDENT PARTICIPATION -

Officers:

Kim Foster - kimberly.l.foster@wmich.edu (Chair)
Adania Flemming (Chair-elect)
Helen Plylar (Secretary)

Book Raffle Committee:

Co-chairs: Helen Plylar; Florence Wen.
Committee members: Cooper Campbell; Jonathan Brynum; Allison Litmer

Workshop Committee:

Chair: Whitney Walkowski
Committee members: Heather Neldner; Cooper Campbell

Clark Hubbs Travel Awards Organizer:

A. J. Turner

Conservation Committee Representatives:

Brooke Perrera, Cooper Campbell, James Erdman

Social Committee:

Courtney Weyand (Chair);
Committee members: Arianna Rupp; Elyse Parker

Web Content and Management Committee Member:

Anat Belasen

JMIH Liason: Elyse Parker

International Liason: Diego Elias

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE -

Frank McCormick - asihcons@gmail.com (Chair), Brian Todd (Co-Chair) - btodd@ucdavis.edu
Members: Jonathan Baskin, Noel Bulkhead, Cooper Campbell, Todd Campbell, Barry Chernoff, Matt Craig, Marlis Douglas, Anna George, David Green, Pat Gregory, Malorie Hayes, Gene Helfman, Karen Lipps, Bill Loftus, Henry Mushinsky, Jack Musick, Nick Mandrak, Melanie Partin, Phil Pister, George Rabb, Stephen Richter, Erica Rottman, Alan Savitsky, Brad Shaffer, Gerald Smith, Mel Warren, Jim Williams

EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE –

Michael Pauers - michael.pauers@uwc.edu (Chair); Sara Ruane (Co-Chair)
Members: Carol Johnston, Steve Kimble, Liz Marchio, Peter Konstantinidis

ENDOWMENT and FINANCE COMMITTEE –

Adam Summers (Chair) - fishguy@uw.edu; David Hillis (Co-Chair)
Members: Melissa Pilgrim, Catherine Malone

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE –

Kathleen Cole – colek@hawaii.edu (Chair and President)

Members: Chris Beachy (President-elect), Brian Crother (Past President), Carole Baldwin (Prior Past President), Robert Espinoza (Chair of LRPP), Deanna Stouder (LRPP Co-Chair), Wm. Leo Smith (Editor), Adam Summers (Co-Chair of ENFC), David Hillis (ENFC Co-Chair), Katherine Maslenikov (Treasurer), Prosanta Chakrabarty (Secretary)

HENRY S. FITCH AWARD COMMITTEE –

Pat Gregory – viper@uvic.ca (Chair)

Members: Emily Taylor (2019-2021), Maureen Donnelly (2016-2020)

GAIGE FUND AWARD COMMITTEE -

Anna Savage – anna.savage@ucf.edu (Chair)

Members: Nancy Karraker (2017-2019), Sara Ruane (2018-2020)

HERPETOLOGICAL ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE –

Christopher Parkinson – viper@clmson.edu (Chair)

Members: Jennifer Deitloff, Matthew Gifford, Sean Graham, Alan Savitzky, David Steen

ICHTHYOLOGICAL ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE -

Phil Harris – pharris@ua.edu

Members: Nate Frassen, Michael Heithaus, Edie Marsh-Matthews, Alexandra Snyder, Frank McCormick

ICHTHYOLOGICAL AND HERPETOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE –

Gregory Watkins-Colwell - gregory.watkins-colwell@yale.edu (Chair)

Kate Bemis and Jennifer Gardner (Student Representatives)

Members: Adania Flemming, Andrew Williston, Caleb McMahan, Eric Hilton, Greg Watkins-Colwell, H. J. Walker, Jr., Jose Rosado, Kate Bemis, Katherine Maslenikov, Kevin Swagel, Kirsten E. Nicholson, Lauren Scheinberg, Mark Sabaj, Meredith Mahoney, Randy Singer, Sarah Huber, Susan Mochel, Andy Bentley, Ben Frable, Bill Lundt, Calder Atta, Casey Dillman, Cristina Cox Fernandes, Dave Catania, David L. Auth, David Werneke, Diane Pitassy, Emily Dearmon, Emily McFarland, Esther Langan, Jennifer Gardner, Jessa Watters, Jonathan Huie, Justin Mann, Katie Boole, Ken Thompson, Mariangeles Arce H., Marta Gomez-Buckley, Sam Ghods, Sara Cartwright, and Zach Randall

JOINT ASIH-AFS COMMITTEE ON NAMES OF FISHES -

Lawrence M. Page - lpagel@ufl.edu (Chair)

Members: Margaret Neighbors, Lloyd Findley, Carter Gilbert, Karsten Hartel, Juan Jacobo Schmitter-Soto, Robert Lea, Nicholas Mandrak, H.J. Walker, Bruce Collette, Ross Robertson, Hector Espinosa-Perez and Kate Bemis

ROBERT K. JOHNSON AWARD COMMITTEE –

Emily Taylor - etaylor@calpoly.edu (Chair),

Members: Eric Hilton (2017-2020), Michael Douglas (2019-2021)

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND POLICY COMMITTEE –

Robert Espinoza (Chair), Deanna Stouder (Co-Chair)

Members: Larry Allen, Malorie Hayes, Eric Hilton, Carol Johnston, Shab Mohammadi, Margaret Neighbors, Rocky Parker

MEETING MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE -

Henry Mushinsky - mushinsk@usf.edu (Chair); Marlis Douglas (Co-Chair)

Members: Kyle Piller

JOSEPH S. NELSON AWARD COMMITTEE -

Bruce Collette (Chair)

Members: Brian Sidlauskas (2018-2020), John Lundberg (2019-2021)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE -

Michael Douglas (Ichthyology) - (Chair)

Members: Brian Crother (Ex-Officio Herpetology), Luke Tournabene (Ichthyology), Abigail Berkey (Herpetology)

PUBLICATION POLICY COMMITTEE –

Leo Smith – leosmith@ku.edu (Chair)

Members: all Associate Editors and Book Review Editors

RANEY FUND AWARD COMMITTEE –

Caleb McMahan (Chair)

Members: Misty Paig-Tran (2017-2019), Rebecca Johansen (2018-2020)

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE – Kevin Conway et al. (will be officially appointed in Snowbird)

ROBERT H. GIBBS, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD COMMITTEE –

Kevin Conway (Chair)

Members: Melanie Stiassny (2018-2020), Karsten Hartel (2019-2021)

SPIRITUS COMMITTEE –

Gregory J. Watkins-Colwell (chair), Katherine Pearson Maslenikov and Meredith J. Mahoney

STEWART AWARD COMMITTEE –

Maureen Donnelly, Whitney Anthonysamy, Christopher Martinez

STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE –

Chris Beachy – (Co-Chair), Eric Hilton (Co-Chair)

Members: Stoye & Storer Judges: To Be Announced at the Business Meeting

WEB CONTENT AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE –

Melissa Gibbs– mgibbs@stetson.edu (Chair)

Members: Maureen Donnelly, Bill Ludt, Caleb McMahan, James Watling, Jacqueline Webb

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY COMMITTEE -

David G. Smith - smithd@si.edu (Co-Chair)

Joseph C. Mitchell - dr.joe.mitchell@gmail.com (Co-Chair)

Members: Inci Bowman, Vic Hutchison, Susan Walls, Eric Hilton, Gregory Watkins-Colwell

REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER SOCIETIES -

AMERICAN ELASMOBRANCH SOCIETY - Charles "Chip" Cotton - cottoncf@cobleskill.edu

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY – Marlis R. Douglas – mrd1@uark.edu, Michael E.

Douglas – med1@uark.edu

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES - Alan Savitzky - savitzky@usu.edu

BIOONE – Alan Savitsky - savitzky@usu.edu

HERPETOLOGISTS' LEAGUE - Alan Savitzky - savitzky@usu.edu

NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE - Larry M. Page - lpage1@ufl.edu

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS – Randy

Singer randal.a.singer@ua.edu

SOCIETY FOR STUDY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES - Alan Savitzky -

savitzky@usu.edu

SOCIETIES CONSORTIUM ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN STEMM – Lynne Parenti -

parentil@si.edu

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE -

Mariangeles Arce H. (co-chair), Rayna Bell (co-chair), Michael Franklin, Rocky Parker,

Christopher Martinez, Kim Foster, Beck Wehrle, Norma Salcedo, and Melanie Stiasny

**Reports and Agenda for the 2020 Meeting* of the
Board of Governors of the American Society of
Ichthyologists and Herpetologists**
*virtual

Organization and Announcements

1. Call to order - President Beachy
2. Governors Sign In - Secretary Chakrabarty
3. Messages of regret from absentee governors - Secretary Chakrabarty
4. Call for motion to approve minutes of 2019 meeting of the Board of Governors as published in *Copeia* 2019: 107(4), 814-822 (see Appendix E) - President Beachy
5. Announcement of appointment of Resolutions Committee - President Beachy (not conducted in 2020)
6. Announcement of Stoye and Storer Award Judges (not conducted in 2020)
7. Future annual meetings – Governor Henry Mushinsky
 - o Phoenix, AZ, 21-25 July 2021
 - o Spokane, WA, 27-31 July 2022
 - o Norfolk, VA, 12-16 July 2023

Reports

Reports of Officers

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| 15. ENFC: Endowment & Finance Committee – <i>D. Hillis</i> | 40 |
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| 22. MMPC: Meetings Management Committee - <i>H.R. Mushinsky et al.</i> | 51 |
| 23. NOMC: Nominating Committee – <i>L. Tornabene</i> | 57 |
| 24. RFAC: Raney Fund Award Committee – <i>R. B. Johansen</i> | 57 |
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| 26. RKJC: Robert K. Johnson Award Committee – <i>E. J. Hilton</i> | 58 |
| 27. AES: Representative to the American Elasmobranch Society – <i>C. Cotton</i> | 59 |
| 28. AFSR: Representatives to the American Fisheries Society – <i>M.E. Douglas and</i> <i>M.R. Douglas</i> | 61 |
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| 30. AIBS: Representative to AIBS and BioOne - <i>A.H. Savitzky</i> | 62 |
| 31. CONS: Conservation Committee – <i>F. McCormick</i> | 63 |
| 32. EHRC: Education and Human Resources Committee – <i>M. Pauers</i> | 64 |
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| 34. HSOC: Representative to the Herpetologists’ League and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles - <i>A.H. Savitzky</i> | 65 |
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Table 2. ASIH membership and subscription numbers and income from online sources for *Copeia*.

Table 3. 2019 yearend balance sheet (accrual basis) with comparison to previous year.

Table 4. ASIH accounts and their allocation to ASIH Funds as of 31 December 2019

Table 5. Table 5. Portfolio detail of the Wells Fargo Advisors Managed Account (Fund Source Moderate Growth) on 31 Dec 2019

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** “Free standing” appendices requiring votes, G & H, listed below.

Business Session

- 53. Call for blanket approval of BOFG agenda items and reports of officers, representatives, and committees, exempting those removed by EXEC and BOFG members for discussion
- 54. Discussion of reports exempted from blanket approval
- 55. Apology from ASIH [Appendix G. pg. 167] to be voted on
- 56. Collections Committee Accreditation proposal [Appendix H. 168-173] to be voted on
- 56. Discussion of Old Business
- 57. Discussion of New Business
- 58. Call for BOFG approval of Ballots (BOFG ballot & General Election Ballot)
- 59. Vote on Constitutional Changes
- 60. Board of Governor’s Elections: Fitch, Gibbs, Johnson, Spiritus, Nelson and Nominating Committees
- 61. Adjournment

9. SECR: Secretary – Prosanta Chakrabarty

In this report I will cover my work as Secretary for all of 2019. This will be my second to last report as ASIH Secretary as I am stepping down after completing my five-year term at the end of 2020 and will be replaced by Mark Sabaj who has been shadowing me as Secretary Designate during 2020, including being cc'ed on ASIH emails and attending EXEC meetings. Although I will be stepping away from this role, I will be helping Mark during the transition, just as Mo Donnelly helped me in 2015-2016. I will also write next year's SECR and EXEC reports to cover the activities of this position in 2020.

My tenure has included a tumultuous period for the Society as we have dealt with issues of racism, sexism, and other issues that have been cast to the foreground in recent years. Although difficult to deal with I am thankful I have had the opportunity to aid in this transition. I've served five presidents: Maureen "Mo" Donnelly, Carole Baldwin, Brian Crother, Kathleen Cole, and Christopher Beachy, I've had the pleasure of living in the same area as three of them as two live in Louisiana (Crother, Beachy), and one (Baldwin) lives in D.C. where I was living at the time of her tenure. I recommend this arrangement to future Secretaries when possible.

Like many things COVID-19 has disrupted a great deal of planned activities, most importantly for this report, the JMIH 2020 meetings that had been planned for Norfolk were cancelled. The details of these 2020 issues will appear in next year's report.

I did none of my work alone and I wanted to thank Exec and other members of the Society again for working hard on our behalf. They are all volunteers. I think I have sent Editor Leo Smith and President Chris Beachy more texts than I did to my family these past few months, and they have done an incredible job moving the Society forward. I want to acknowledge the work of AllenPress especially Terry Leatherman, Andrew Jewell, and April Parfitt who have aided me in running surveys, counting votes, checking memberships and other tasks (See the AllenPress report I requested below). I get nine detailed reports from AllenPress about our membership, budget, donations and other items monthly. Our Webmaster, Dennis Murphy, also continues to do a wonderful job posting changes on our website and worked this past year with K-State and BAI in transitioning old conference abstracts and data to ASIH.org. Facebook and Twitter have played an important role in allowing free, sometimes *too* free, conversation between ASIH members along with some fish and herp 'stans', we have also started an @IchsAndHerps presence on Instagram (thanks to the suggestion by Rocky Parker) that is now run by Sarah Gibson.

I am proud of the work ASIH has done to try to build a safer more inclusive environment, including having a "JMIH Safety Director" at the meetings and changing the name of the journal (on July 2, 2020). We still have a lot of work to do, and although I will be on the sidelines next year, I hope to continue being part of bringing positive change to the ASIH.

Please note that I do not include many of the activities I worked on with the Executive Committee in this report; those are listed in the EXEC report below (#16).

The winners of our publication awards in *Copeia* are repeated here from Editor Smith's report from the 2019 BOFG book. The awards were presented during the Business & Award Meeting in Snowbird, Utah:

ICHTHYOLOGY:

Best Paper: Terry C. Grande, W. Calvin Borden, Mark V. H. Wilson, and Lindsay Scarpitta. 2018. Phylogenetic Relationships among Fishes in the Order Zeiformes Based on Molecular and Morphological Data. *Copeia* 106:20–48.

Best Paper Young Scholar: Javier Barrientos-Villalobos, Juan J. Schmitter-Soto, and Alejandro J. Espinosa de los Monteros. 2018. Several Subspecies or Phenotypic Plasticity? A Geometric Morphometric and Molecular Analysis of Variability of the Mayan Cichlid *Mayaheros urophthalmus* in the Yucatan. *Copeia* 106:268–278.

Best Student Paper: David T. Camak and Kyle R. Piller. 2018. Going with the Flow: Testing the Role of Habitat Isolation among Three Ecologically Divergent Darter Species. *Copeia* 106:375–387.

HERPETOLOGY:

Best Paper: Mark Merchant, Dusty Savage, Amos Cooper, Monique Slaughter, Joshua S. Perkin, and Christopher M. Murray. 2018. Nest Attendance Patterns in the American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*). *Copeia* 106:421–426.

Best Paper Young Scholar: Will Selman and Peter V. Lindeman. 2018. Spatial, Seasonal, and Sexual Variation in the Diet of *Graptemys flavimaculata*, a Threatened Turtle of the Pascagoula River System, Mississippi, USA. *Copeia* 106:247–254.

Best Student Paper: Rhett M. Rautsaw, Scott A. Martin, Bridget A. Vincent, Katelyn Lanctot, M. Rebecca Bolt, Richard A. Seigel, and Christopher L. Parkinson. 2018. Stopped Dead in Their Tracks: The Impact of Railways on Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) Movement and Behavior. *Copeia* 106:135–143.

January 2019: I updated the various committee memberships on the ASIH website with the help of the Webmaster. I sent a blast email to all Board of Governors members to agree to the Conflict of Interest Statement and to check that their membership is active (while also checking their membership status independently). I also asked them to vote on accepting the JMIH-Wide Code of Conduct and counted their votes, that motion passed.

I wrote 'A Few Notes from the Secretary' for *Copeia* Vol. 107, No. 1, pp. 181-182 (that announced the establishment of a new mid-career award, the Student Diversity and Inclusion Award winners, a symposium on women herpetologists for JMIH 2019, and the hiring of an ombudsperson for the meetings). I also sent a blast email to all ASIH members (and recent former members) to tell them they can register for the JMIH 2019 meetings in Snowbird and that the abstract submission site was open. There were also blast emails asking for nominations for lifetime achievement awards, call for proposals for student awards, and call for nominations for the Meritorious Teaching awards. I contacted the Nomination Committee chair clarifying responsibilities of that committee. I also reported the outcome of the 2018 Diversity Survey via an email from AllenPress and social media.

February 2019: I worked with Allen Press on a Renewal Campaign and we sent out an email blasts about symposia, awards, the abstract submissions, and details about the meeting website. I also worked with them on trying to identify the members of our society that have been members the longest (a suggestion from David Hillis ENFC co-chair). I worked with members of AAAS (the American Association for the Advancement of Science) to see if ASIH could join the inaugural class of the 'Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM' and brought this measure up with EXEC. I also worked with President Kassi Cole on various positions that needed to be filled for the JMIH meetings. I worked with AllenPress on purging our records and email lists of people that had passed away and that were no longer members (mainly these were 'former' lifetime members who were still receiving emails and issues of the journal).

March: I started putting together the 2019 BOFG book and had discussions with K-State about coordinating lunches and rooms for JMIH committee meetings. I also helped coordinate payment for 'Preferred Sitters' as the childcare option for the meetings. I checked Raney and Gaige student membership for those award committees. I worked with AllenPress on taking our special publications off of Amazon which was not bringing us any funds and were in fact costing us money, AllenPress agreed to be the primary host for selling these via our websites. I helped get word out via email about a newly proposed student workshop ('Assembling Exon Capture Datasets').

April: I reminded lifetime achievement award chairs how to obtain the plaques and prepare awards for the winners. I also emailed the appointed Resolutions Committee chair that they should check on members who recently started jobs to include in their resolutions and I contacted members of the student Judging committee to make them aware of their duties. I sent out a blast email via AllenPress about the JMIH meetings (email explained childcare, lodging, the "Professional Women in Herpetology: Lessons and Insights" symposium, and about a new version of Sabaj's 'Standard Symbolic Codes for Institutional Resource Collections in Herpetology & Ichthyology').

May: I continued putting together the BOFG book as reports came in. With the help of student workers I sent out more than one hundred thank you notes to all of the various volunteer members of ASIH. I worked with the Treasurer and Gaige and Raney committees to coordinate sending checks and certificates to winners.

June: I emailed plenary committee chairs about their awards and speeches, (those speeches are now limited to just three minutes because of the increasing length of the Plenary). I prepared the BOFG election ballots and judging packets (a full day event!). I sent out the completed BOFG book to the Governors and asked those who could not attend to supply their 'regrets'. I also sent out the BOFG book to the entire membership via a link to our website in a blast email with an invitation for members to attend the BOFG and BAAM meetings.

July: I presided as Secretary of the ASIH during the JMIH meetings in Snowbird. Duties included: Getting judging packets and other registration items to the registration desk for K-State, run the EXEC meeting and type up minutes to read at the Board of Governors meeting a few hours later. I ran the Board of Governors meeting and prepared an agenda for the President. After approval by the BOFG those EXEC notes were emailed to all ASIH members; I update the BOFG book with exempted reports and corrections. The BOFG meeting minutes and notes were read at the Business and Award Meeting (BAAM) in the second to last day of JMIH. I counted the ballots of the BOFG

elections (I contacted winners and losers) and announced the winners at the BAAM and on-line. I helped coordinate the Judges Meeting for Stoye and Storer judges and explained the contents of the judging packets. I had the judges text me as the winners names came in and I printed certificates to present to winners at the BAAM. I helped the resolutions committee with some tasks and took orders for 'New Business' items that came up. I printed Stoye and Storer award winners' names to be read by committee chairs at the BAAM and prepared a powerpoint showing winners names from Raney, Gaige and other awards. I also gathered the meeting data (how many students, vendors, etc.) for reporting to the membership.

After the meeting, I mail out remaining Stoye and Storer Awards and other documents (such as judging sheets) that were not distributed at the meetings. I also start putting together the 'Summary of the Meetings' for *Copeia* including the minutes from the BAAM. I asked the Webmaster to post the revised BOFG book that includes corrections from the exempted reports. I worked with AllenPress on a renewal effort and discussed a market service with them 'Treefall' that we ultimately declined.

August: I again helped with a renewal campaign for AllenPress. And on items for *Copeia* 2019 Issue 3 including announcements for awards (by contacting the new chairs for approval). I asked the Webmaster to update the website based on these changes. I requested pictures from award winners, and speeches from the committee chairs (as did Production Editor Katie Smith). I helped Allen Press with the print order number and sent out the on-line ballots for ASIH elections. I contacted the Graduate Student committee about updating a new plenary award proposal that did not pass a vote from EXEC.

September: I closed the ASIH elections and alerted winners and losers and shared these results on Twitter and Facebook. I sent the 990 Tax form to BOFG for approval (these came later this year than usual).

October: I met with Prior Past President Crother and newly elected President-Elect Chris Beachy in Hammond to discuss ASIH business. I also worked with AllenPress to get a mechanism for non-members to donate to the Society; that mechanism is now available on our website

<https://asih.allenpress.com/ebusASIH/DONATIONS/Special.aspx?returnurl=/ebusASIH/DONATIONS/Special.aspx>

November: I worked with the Webmaster on updating and fixing some errors and worked with ASIH committee's on updated membership information and helped the President with her committee appointments. I finalized and submitted the 'Summary of the Meetings' for *Copeia*. I helped the Diversity and Inclusion Committee coordinate the 2019 Diversity Survey with AllenPress who sent it out as an email survey.

December: I aided (mostly by being annoying) several members of Exec about a range of end of year items. I sent out an end-of-year blast email reminder to the membership about renewing and asking for nominations for committees and awards, I also sent a blast email that was a membership survey asking when member first joined ASIH, we also requested the membership tell us about some of the goals they would like to see for ASIH and summarized these to EXEC.

Throughout the year I get various requests to reprint figures, to connect students to a mentor, to resend *Copeias* lost in the mail or damaged, or to identify an ich or herp. By

far, the most ID requests this year were about snakes and I thank Sara Ruane and Frank Burbrink for fielding some of those; one of which was a very fake snake.

**The State of ASIH:
Report from April Parfitt of Allen Press sent to the Secretary (As of Summer 2020)**

TO: American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Board of Governors

RE: Association Management Report – Prepared and Submitted by April Parfitt,
Association Manager for ASIH at Allen Press, Inc.

On behalf of the team at Allen Press, thank you for the opportunity to provide association management services for the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

As a Society receiving Business Management services from Allen Press, there is a team of professionals providing services to the society and its membership on a daily basis. The most visible member of the team is April Parfitt, Association Manager for ASIH. April is responsible for maintaining membership database, responding to member inquiries, processing payments, executing membership renewal efforts, and preparing and sending email communications to the society's membership. April works directly with Terry Leatherman, Manager of Association Management Services for Allen Press, to coordinate and brainstorm service options and solutions. The Allen Press Marketing Team works on the appearance of renewal materials and is available to assist with additional marketing needs. Other talented Allen Press professionals with expertise in technology and accounting help provide ASIH the association management services you receive from Allen Press.

We are very proud of the team we have assembled at Allen Press to help ASIH advance its mission.

- American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Membership Retention Services

As of June 17, 2020, ASIH had 1,353 members, a 9.9% decrease on the 1,502 members ASIH had at the end of 2019. When you compare the current ASIH membership total to where it stood a year ago, it is more comparable. On June 6, 2019, ASIH members totaled 1,471, 8.02% more than it has today. While it is never desirous to report a membership reduction, it is important to note the membership challenges ASIH has faced in 2020. The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has economically affected many ASIH members and directly impacted our society by forcing the cancelation of the in-person conference.

The table below compares total current membership to totals at the end of 2019. The biggest drop has been in Regular Members, of 164 members from last year at this time. That is offset somewhat, by the new Retired Member category, where there are 104 members that may have been in the Regular category last year.

| Membership Category | 2019 | 2020 | 6/6/2019 | Change | % |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Regular Members | 811 | 627 | 791 | -164 | -20.73% |
| Retired Members | 0 | 104 | 0 | 104 | N/A |
| Student Members | 386 | 321 | 376 | -55 | -14.63% |
| Postdoc Members | 65 | 72 | 63 | 9 | 14.29% |
| Lifetime Members | 174 | 169 | 175 | -6 | -3.43% |
| Associate Members | 17 | 12 | 17 | -5 | -29.41% |
| Sustaining Members | 15 | 14 | 15 | -1 | -6.67% |
| Honorary/Other Members | 34 | 34 | 34 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Total ASIH Membership | 1502 | 1353 | 1471 | -118 | -8.02% |

Like many scholarly societies, ASIH has experienced a gradual membership decline in recent years. The chart below compares ASIH membership totals over the past decade.

| Year | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| ASIH Member Total | 1353 | 1502 | 1528 | 1519 | 1654 | 1698 | 1644 | 1814 |
| Change in Membership | -149 | -26 | 9 | -135 | -44 | 54 | -170 | -174 |
| % Change | -9.9% | -1.7% | 0.6% | -8.2% | -2.6% | 3.3% | -9.4% | -8.8% |

In a comparison of last year's June 6, 2019 totals to the end of year totals:

- a. 31 people renewed/enrolled after June 6, 2019, or 2.1% of last year's members. With the biggest increase in membership being in the Regular Member category. (Twenty additional members to year's end. Ten were Students.)
- b. If we assume an identical trend this year: ASIH would end the year with 1384 members, which would only be a 7.9% decrease from last year's total.

During the 2020 ASIH membership renewal cycle, Allen Press delivered seven member renewal campaigns. They are summarized below. Most of these renewal efforts involved an email being sent to current members and former members who have had their membership lapse in recent years. Traditional mail delivery would only be used when there an email could not be delivered. The second renewal effort in mid-November, however, was totally a renewal effort using traditional mail.

- #1 email sent around October 7, 2019 current members, donation request email to lifetime members, mail renewal sent to recipients with undeliverable or no email. There were 1901 persons reached for renewal effort and 164 for donations.
- #2 mail renewal sent around November 15, 2019 to current and recently lapsed members. This effort was processed for 1611 pieces.
- #3 email sent around December 12, 2019 to current members, donation request letter to lifetime members, mail renewal sent to recipients with undeliverable or no email. Numbers involved in this effort were 1548 for renewal and 170 for donations.
- #4 email sent around January 31, 2020 to members who had not yet renewed, mail

renewal sent to recipients with undeliverable or no email. Twelve hundred sixty-two individuals were contacted.

- #5 email sent around February 27, 2020 to members who had not yet renewed, mail renewal sent to recipients with undeliverable or no email. This effort consisted of 1188 possible contacts.
- #6 email sent around April 8, 2020 to members who had not yet renewed, mail renewal sent to recipients with no email. This effort had 1103 records involved.
- #7 email sent around May 14, 2020 to members who had not yet renewed, mail renewal sent to recipients with undeliverable or no email. This effort had 1108 records involved. The increase was a result of a large number of undeliverable addresses not included in the prior effort.

There are 42 countries represented in the membership of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. 83.4% of the ASIH membership resides in the United States. The largest delegations in membership are listed below.

| Membership by Country | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Country | # of Members |
| United States | 1128 |
| Japan | 38 |
| Canada | 31 |
| Brazil | 24 |
| Australia | 22 |
| Mexico | 16 |
| Germany | 15 |
| 35 Other Countries | 79 |

Every state of the US has at least one member and Guam, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia are, also, represented. California is has the largest member group with 138, Florida is second with 103. The top ten states account for 566 members with the remaining states and territories accounting for the 787 remainder.

| Top Ten States By Membership | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----|
| 1 | California | 138 |
| 2 | Florida | 103 |
| 3 | Texas | 62 |
| 4 | Virginia | 49 |
| 5 | New York | 48 |
| 6 | Ohio | 38 |
| 7 | Washington | 34 |
| 8 | Pennsylvania | 33 |
| 9 | Louisiana | 31 |
| 10 | Michigan | 30 |

Besides the work involved with managing the ASIH membership and subscription process, the Association Management team at Allen Press:

- Sends email communications to the entire ASIH membership at the direction of its leadership,
 - a. Since January 1, 2020, Allen Press has produced eight email blasts for ASIH, sending 11,686 individual emails to members and lapsed members. Topics have included abstract submissions, conference registration and cancelation, and socially responsive topics, like diversity and the renaming of the society journal.
 - b. All emails are sent via the EMMA email platform with ASIH branding using the “letterhead” and “footer” shown below



American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

The JMIH 2020 has been canceled. All registrations will be refunded

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS AND HERPETOLOGISTS
P.O. BOX 1897
LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044-8897 U.S.A.
PHONE: 1-800-627-0326 EXT. 405 • FAX: 785-843-1274
ASIH@ALLENPRESS.COM

- Conducts elections and surveys on behalf of the society,
 - a. Since last year’s reports, dated June 6, 2019, three surveying efforts have been produced as well. The leadership elections in the fall of 2019 yielded 473 responses. The Diversity Survey, in December 2019, and the Length of Membership Survey, earlier this year, resulted in 453 and 444 replies respectively.
- Maintains the business section of the ASIH website, including the eCommerce portal,
- Processes payments on behalf of the society. In 2019, there were more than 1,650 transactions for dues payments, donations and journal purchases with more than \$133,000 being paid.

On behalf of the Allen Press team, thank you for the opportunity to work with ASIH and its leadership. Please contact us if additional association management services or consultation can help ASIH grow and thrive.

10. TREA: Treasurer – Katherine P. Maslenikov

This report is based on account statements, QuickBooks reports, and supporting materials being audited by Jones and Associates PLLC, Certified Public Accountants for 2019. The 2019 audit report will be posted on the ASIH website when completed.

In profit and loss reports, ASIH income and expenses for a given year are divided into those associated with programs of the society (awards, annual meetings, dues, subscriptions, and publications) and those related to management and general operations. Income for the year exceeded expenses by \$147,315 in 2019 with the inclusion of realized and unrealized investment gains and losses (Table 1), however, this is because we had \$167,819 in unrealized gains, which is simply an increase in market value of stocks and bonds which we already owned. This also includes the complicated distribution of funds relating to the JMIH 2017 and 2018 meetings outlined separately below. Membership numbers decreased by 26 members compared to membership in 2018 while subscription numbers decreased by 10 institutional subscriptions compared to 2018 (Table 2). Sales of our publications fared well (Table 1), with special publications income at \$358 compared to \$143 in 2018, Copeia back issues income at \$325 compared to \$174 in 2018, and author billing and page charges income at \$6750 compared to \$0 for 2018. If we ignore the large unrealized gains from our investments, our expenses exceeded our income by \$-20,504.

The balance sheet (Table 3) lists ASIH assets, liabilities and equities on an accrual basis. ASIH income received by Allen Management is deposited in an account at US Bank. The Wells Fargo Advisors Command Asset Performance (CAP) account is split between two lines, with outstanding income checks at year's end listed under "Accounts Receivable", outstanding debts listed as "Accounts Payable", and the holdings in the brokerage account (Federated Prime Cash Obligations Fund, and bank sweep money market) listed under "Other Current Assets". The value of our total assets increased at the end of the year (\$1,637,911) compared to that of 2018 (1,488,923) (previously inaccurately reported as \$1,936,396 in the 2018 BOG report) on the balance sheet.

The three ASIH accounts in which the individual society funds are comingled held \$1,557,388 on the December 2019 statements (Table 4). Of this total, the holdings in the WFA managed investment accounts had a market value of \$1,325,557 (Table 5). This fund yielded 19.02% gain after fees for 2019. Table 4 shows the accounts and their allocation to the award funds.

This was a good year for ASIH financially. We had significant gains from the financial markets, with \$167,819 in unrealized gains to our investment account and over \$60,000 in dividends and interest. This allowed us to provide \$10,000 towards the new Student Diversity and Inclusion Awards as well as take on the new cost of several insurance policies to protect the society. Our income from dues, subscriptions, and eCopeia revenue (\$208,854) however, did not exceed the costs of journal publication, management, and general operations of the Society (\$225,120). If we assume that, on average, the cost of the annual JMIH breaks even and market dividends and donations cover the costs of our awards, we face the possibility of running at a deficit in years with poor financial market

returns. I believe that we can allow our dues and subscriptions to remain at current levels for another year, however, the trend in loss of membership and subscriptions is troubling. The Society will need to decide in the near future whether to use our investments to subsidize publication, to raise dues and subscription rates, or to find cheaper ways to publish and distribute our research findings.

The financial reports for the JMIH 2017 and 2018 meetings had not been resolved with Kansas State University when I took office in January of 2019. I worked with the other JMIH Treasurers and with Kansas State University staff to resolve these reports and distribute funds. After many iterations of reports, the JMIH Treasurers did not feel that the 2017 financials were accurate, but agreed to accept the funds distributed by Kansas State with the caveat that we would not pay any funds towards 2018 costs until we were confident that the 2018 numbers were accurate. Once satisfied, we settled our accounts such that JMIH 2017 earned a profit of \$9829.31, and JMIH 2018 had a deficit of (\$-9576.35). Funds for each year were apportioned to the JMIH societies based on attendance percentages at the meetings, deposits paid, and individual society costs incurred. All profits and losses for the 2017 and 2018 JMIH meetings were accounted for in 2019, because the records for previous years are already closed and audited. The report from Kansas State for JMIH 2019 shows a small profit of \$2,741.44, but this has not yet received final approval from all JMIH societies.

The audit and tax form 990 prepared by Stephen Cook, CPA of San Antonio, TX for 2018 was not accurately completed and provided to me until November of 2019. I worked with Mr. Cook extensively to resolve issues in our Quickbooks files to accurately reflect the financial position of the ASIH. As a result, some of the tables presented here will show different amounts than were reported in previous BOG Treasurer reports. After working with our new auditor, Jones and Associates in Seattle, WA, I am confident that the tables presented here and in the 2019 audit report are accurate.

11. EDIT: Editor – W. Leo Smith

While this report covers 2019, it is important to note that the 2020 Board of Governors voted to change the name of the Society journal from *Copeia* to *Ichthyology & Herpetology*. This vote closed electronically on 2 July 2020 and stemmed from a motion from the Editor of *Copeia* that was supported unanimously by EXEC and by a 77-vote margin by the Board of Governors (88 in favor and 11 opposed to the name change). This change will begin with the first issue of 2021, and the journal will maintain volume number continuity with *Copeia* such that *Ichthyology & Herpetology* will begin in 2021 with volume 109.

At *Copeia*, I remain grateful to work with a tremendous group of Associate Editors and a phenomenal Editorial Office. The Associate Editors of *Copeia* are all excellent scientists who continue to set high standards for our journal. I am sad to report that Co-Index Editor, Cindy Klepadlo, passed away unexpectedly on 3 June 2020. Her contributions have been immense, and she will be missed. I am happy to take this

opportunity to welcome Dr. Julián Faivovich as a new General Herpetology Associate Editor. I continue to work with long-time production editor Katie Smith, who is in her 16th year with *Copeia*, and Matt Girard, who is in his second year as the illustration editor. With support from the Society, the Editorial Office continues to use Slack, Adobe Creative Suite, and Dropbox to efficiently communicate and share files among the members of the Editorial Office. Katie and Matt are extremely skilled and handle the majority of work on *Copeia* after manuscripts are edited and accepted. It remains a pleasure to work with Katie, Matt, all of the Associate Editors, and the staff at Allen Press (in particular, Alley Ulrich and April Parfitt). Finally, I thank the Society for supporting the publication of the research of its members and the authors who submit their manuscripts to *Copeia*. *Copeia* benefits tremendously from our members' research, and we are making strides to increase the downloads, citations, and scientific and public awareness of our published articles.

***Copeia* Impact Factor, Download Statistics, and Altmetric Scores**

At the end of 2019, *Copeia*'s impact factor was 1.018 (2018, 1.220; 2017, 0.980; 2016, 1.144; 2015, 1.034). This score places the journal slightly to the lower side of the median of the zoology journals that *Copeia* is properly compared to. Of the 170 zoology journals that receive an impact factor, *Copeia* ranked 98th. In last year's report, *Copeia* was ranked 70 out of 167. For comparison, we performed better than the median impact factor of zoology journals which was 1.17. With regard to the impact factor, we performed slightly worse than most other herpetological and ichthyological journals, for example: *Journal of Fish Biology*–2.038; *Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters*–1.786; *Herpetological Monographs*–1.667; *Herpetologica*–1.284; *Journal of Herpetology*–0.971; *Ichthyological Research*–0.657.

Starting last year, I began to collate and provide discussion about the annual downloads/views of our publications across all four websites: the membership website (“Allen Press”), the BioOne website (“BioOne”), the 50-day open-access website (“Squarespace”), and the JSTOR website (“JSTOR”). BioOne changed its service provider, and it seems clear that the download statistics are not comparable between providers. I asked for clarification or a way to make them comparable, and they noted that the results were different and that they now include instances when people access the abstract alone (i.e., they include instances where someone accessed the paper, but did not necessarily have access to the whole paper or chose not to download the paper). I have modified these numbers from the previous two years to make them comparable by switching BioOne and JSTOR numbers to views or accesses rather than downloads. The other two websites (Allen Press and Squarespace) continue to use explicit download data. Please note that these new summative numbers will be referred to as “views” rather than downloads, and this change is why the 2017 and 2018 download numbers in this report do not match this 2019 Editor report.

Across all four websites, *Copeia* had 496,304 article views in 2019. This compares favorably to 203,023 views in 2018 and 192,507 views in 2017. In 2019, for the first time, most of our views were from BioOne (we had 388,554 views in 2019; 98,534 views in 2018; and 90,870 views in 2017). Our next largest source of views was JSTOR (95,655 views in 2019; 94,142 views in 2018; and 97,310 views in 2017). Finally, Squarespace (2,970 downloads in 2019 and 6,280 downloads in 2018 [our

Squarespace site did not exist in 2017]) and Allen Press (9,125 downloads in 2019; 4,067 downloads in 2018; and 4,326 downloads in 2017) provided additional downloads. In addition to total downloads, we can examine in-year downloads. In 2019, we had 21,496 downloads of 2019 *Copeia* articles (14,773 on BioOne; 3,753 on Allen Press; and 2,970 on Squarespace). This compares favorably with 12,449 downloads of 2018 *Copeia* articles (6,280 on Squarespace; 4,844 on BioOne; and 1,325 on Allen Press), and 5,104 downloads of 2017 *Copeia* papers in 2017 (3,824 on BioOne and 1,280 on Allen Press). The mean number of downloads per article in 2019 was 326, which compares favorably to 201 in 2018, and 73 in 2017. The increase in downloads is clearly associated with a few factors, primarily open-access downloads either through paid gold open access or the 50-day free download and secondary efforts by the journal and authors to share articles on social media.

A final comparison that can be made about the impact and reach of our publications is the average Altmetric score for our articles. Altmetric scores are based on the company's algorithm that attempts to summarize and quantify the online activity or reach surrounding scholarly content. With our increased efforts to share our publications through Twitter and with the 50-day open-access links, it is not surprising that our mean and median Altmetric scores would improve in 2019 and 2018 relative to 2017 (all recorded on 10 June of the year following their publication year). In 2019, we had an increase in Altmetric scores. The are are reported as year, median, mean (low–high): 2019, 8, 40.0 (1–1,340); 2018, 7, 17.7 (1–320); 2017, 3, 8.40 (1–162). The improvement in 2019 is tied to continued efforts to increase visibility and the inclusion of more open-access publications, increased social media efforts, and the promotion of articles on Twitter and Facebook. The natural question is how do these Altmetric scores correlate with downloads. With one exception [A New Guitarfish of the Genus *Pseudobatos* (Batoidea: Rhinobatidae) with Key to the Guitarfishes of the Gulf of California] that had a considerably higher Altmetric score relative to downloads, the downloads of *Copeia* articles were highly correlated with Altmetric scores, suggesting that social media visibility is correlated with downloads, corroborating the results of numerous recent studies.

Copeia* 2019 Snowbird Presentation on Improvements in *Copeia

In 2019, the Editorial Office presented a poster on the improvements in *Copeia* at the Snowbird meeting. Some components were included in last year's EDIT report, so I will only include other components of the poster here.

Copeia is trying to continue its trend of reducing the time manuscripts take from submission to publication. In an effort to identify which components had more variability, we calculated the number of days in each component for each research article published in 2018 (Figure 1). The idea is that the more variable components would be the best areas to focus on to continue to reduce publication time. A few things stood out. First, it was surprising that a second (or more) round(s) of review did not add considerably more time to manuscript review. Second, all four components of manuscript review and production take about 25% of manuscript turnaround time. We noted that there is variability in production time, but that this variability was tied mostly to the publication cycle of producing a quarterly journal, so that time cannot meaningfully be reduced or normalized while we continue to publish and print a journal four independent

times a year. We can reduce editorial time by increasing the number of editors, so that the workload can be reduced and balanced. In order to reduce reviewer time, we have begun incentives such as publication figure credits for fast reviews (<20 days). We will continue to explore other ways of reducing the time of these components, and authors can always help themselves by reducing the amount of time that manuscripts are being revised.

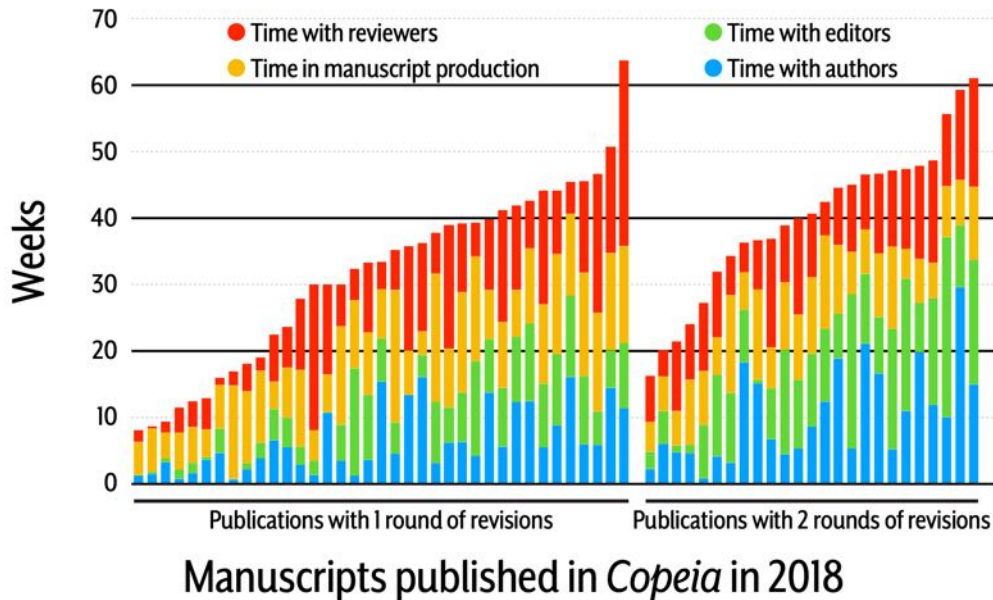


Figure 1. Time (in weeks) that manuscript review and production took for all 2018 *Copeia* papers

In the poster, we also discussed the variation in article views/downloads across the papers we published in 2018 and compared three metrics across the three most downloaded *Copeia* papers and the three most viewed 2018 herpetological and ichthyological papers in four leading open-access journals (*BMC Ecology*, *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, *PLOS One*, and *Zookeys*). We used open-access journals because they provide view data as well as the other metrics. As has been reported elsewhere, the various impact and access measurements for journals are dominated each year by a subset of high performing papers. This phenomenon is true of *Copeia*. As of 10 June 2019, the average 2018 research article ($n = 63$) had 855 hits and been downloaded 237 times. Of the 63 research articles, 11 had more than 855 views and ten had more than 237 downloads (Figure 2). The top three most downloaded articles represented nearly 40% of all 2018 *Copeia* articles during the assessed time period.

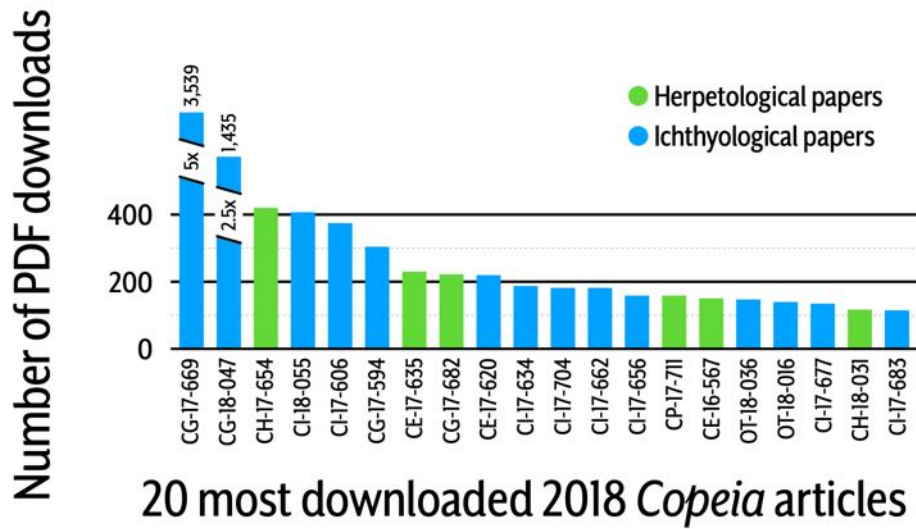


Figure 2. Number of PDF downloads of 20 most downloaded 2018 *Copeia* papers through 10 June 2019

When we compare the three most viewed articles in *Copeia* to the three most viewed articles in four open-access journals, *Copeia* performs well (Figure 3). When we look at article views, the most viewed article was in *Copeia*, and all *Copeia* articles were consistently more viewed than the BMC articles. This is noteworthy since articles in open-access journals should, on average, have higher views because of the lack of restrictions to the article.

When we compare citations, the three high-performing *Copeia* papers are about average (Figure 3). At the same time, we are measuring citations for articles that have only been available for 6–14 months, so it does not even include the entirety of or the majority of the period that the standard impact factor uses.

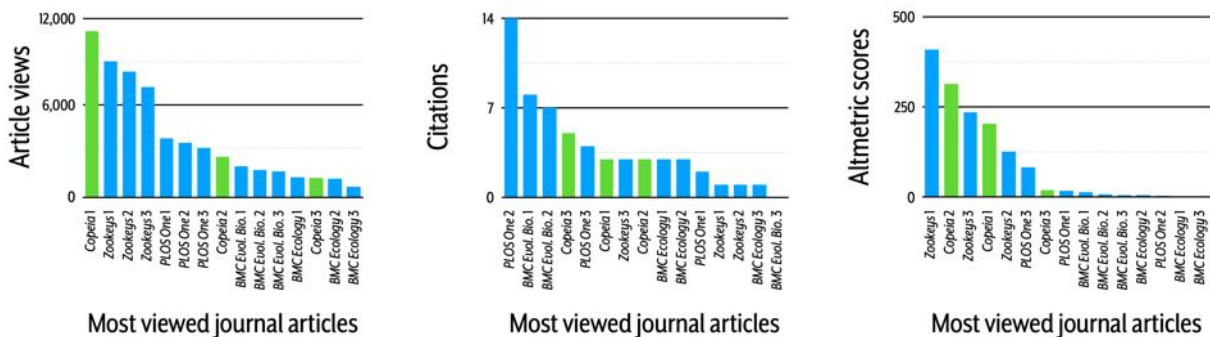


Figure 3. Comparisons of 3 most viewed articles in *Copeia* compared to 3 most viewed herpetology and ichthyology articles in 4 open-access journals for views, citations, and social media impact

Finally, we have comparisons across the four journals for Altmetric scores. In this measure, *Copeia* is performing better than the open-access journals (Figure 3). Since 2018, *Copeia* has been sharing articles on Twitter and providing readers who follow those tweets or tweets by the authors with open-access links for the first 50 days after publication. These data show that across all of these metrics that *Copeia* performs well compared to peers and that our high-performing papers perform as well as or better than herpetological and ichthyological publications in prominent open-access journals. Because of the success of our social-media strategy, we will be expanding this strategy into Facebook and Instagram in the future to continue to promote *Copeia* articles.

***Copeia* Submissions and Articles**

There were 309 new and revised submissions in 2019 (17% increase over 2018). Of these, 170 were new submissions (5% increase over 2018). This is an average of 26 new and revised submissions per month (18% increase over 2018). There were 26 in 2019, 22 in 2018, 20 in 2017, 20 in 2016, and 24 in 2015. In terms of new submissions, October (23 new submissions) was the most active month, while September (8 new submissions) was the slowest month. Of these new submissions, 118 were from the United States and the rest were received as follows from an additional 17 countries: Argentina (3), Australia (5), Brazil (13), Canada (3), China (4), Colombia (5), Germany (1), Greece (1), India (1), Japan (7), Malaysia (1), Mexico (3), Nigeria (1), Poland (1), South Africa (1), Spain (1), and Taiwan (1).

In 2019, 827 pages of *Copeia* were published across four issues: March (207 pages), July (184 pages), October (205 pages), and December (231 pages). These represent an increase of 131 pages (i.e., up 18%) from 2018, which had 696 pages. The 2019 volume included 66 research articles (703 pages or 85% of the volume). The remaining pages (15% of volume) were distributed across three historical perspectives, three obituaries, 11 book reviews, editorial notes and news, instructions to authors, summary of the 2019 annual meeting, award announcements, subject and taxonomic indices of volume 106, and the volume contents of volume 107.

Of the 66 research and review papers published, 27 (41%) were ichthyological and 39 (59%) were herpetological. For comparative purposes, these statistics for the past several years (% ichthyological/% herpetological/both [if present]) are 54/44/2 for 2018, 53/47 for 2017, 34/65 for 2016, and 62/38 in 2015. The proportion of ichthyological vs. herpetological submissions represents which manuscripts make it to acceptance for publication; it is not a goal of the Editorial Office to balance the taxonomic distribution. Of the 66 research and review papers published, we had 286 authors. We do not ask for demographic information from our authors, but our best estimate of our author gender breakdown is 26% female authors and 74% male authors. These results are similar to last year (the first year we attempted to quantify these data), which were 28% female authors and 72% male authors. The gender breakdown of the first (or only author) is 31% female authors and 69% male authors, which was identical to last year. In addition to authors, we went back and estimated the gender breakdown of reviewers (with the same caveats). For 2019, our reviewer gender breakdown was 25% female reviewers and 75% male reviewers. This was similar to our 2018 reviewer gender breakdown, which was 24% female reviewers and 76% male reviewers.

Copeia Best Papers

Every year, *Copeia* recognizes some of the excellent papers published in the journal. All papers are eligible unless they include a member of the Executive Committee of the current or following year as an author. The papers were considered by a panel, selected by the Editor, of Editorial Board members and ASIH members, to be the best papers published in 2019 (volume 107). We thank Katyuscia Araujo-Vieira, Christopher Beachy, Matthew Girard, Hannah Owens, Kyle Piller, and Rhett Rautsaw for reviewing the 2019 papers. Six papers are recognized each year: three in herpetology and three in ichthyology. There are three categories: Best Paper Overall, Best Paper Young Scholar, and Best Student Paper. The Best Paper Overall is chosen without regard to rank. The Best Paper Young Scholar is chosen when the lead author is a postdoc, untenured, or the equivalent at the time of submission. The Best Student Paper is chosen when the lead author is a student at the time of submission.

Herpetology—Best Paper—Cathy Brown, Lucas R. Wilkinson, Kathryn K. Wilkinson, Tate Tunstall, Ryan Foote, Brian D. Todd, and Vance T. Vredenburg.

Demography, Habitat, and Movements of the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana sierrae*) in Streams. *Copeia* 107:661–675.

Herpetology—Best Paper Young Scholar—Marco Suárez-Atilano, Alfredo D. Cuarón, and Ella Vázquez-Domínguez

Deciphering Geographical Affinity and Reconstructing Invasion Scenarios of *Boa imperator* on the Caribbean Island of Cozumel. *Copeia* 107:606–621.

Herpetology—Best Student Paper—Hunter J. Howell, Richard H. Legere Jr., David S. Holland, and Richard A. Seigel

Long-Term Turtle Declines: Protected Is a Verb, Not an Outcome. *Copeia* 107:493–501.

Ichthyology—Best Paper—Rikke Beckmann Dahl, Eva Egelyng Sigsgaard, Gorret Mwangi, Philip Francis Thomsen, René Dalsgaard Jørgensen, Felipe de Oliveira Torquato, Lars Olsen, and Peter Rask Møller

The Sandy Zebra Shark: A New Color Morph of the Zebra Shark *Stegostoma tigrinum*, with a Redescription of the Species and a Revision of Its Nomenclature. *Copeia* 107:524–541.

Ichthyology—Best Paper Young Scholar—Aaron D. Geheber

Contemporary and Historical Species Relationships Reveal Assembly Mechanism Intricacies among Co-occurring Darters (Percidae: Etheostomatinae). *Copeia* 107:464–474.

Ichthyology—Best Student Paper—Rebecca Branconi, James G. Garner, Peter M. Buston, and Marian Y. L. Wong

A New Non-Invasive Technique for Temporarily Tagging Coral Reef Fishes. *Copeia* 107:85–91.

Additionally, it is my pleasure to note that *Copeia* nominated Christopher Murray and collaborators' award-winning paper for the BioOne Ambassador Award this year. BioOne's independent panel of judges selected this paper as one of this year's Ambassador Award winners (<http://www.bioonepublishing.org/BioOneAmbassadorAward/2020/CM.html>).

***Copeia* Editing and Acceptance Statistics**

Generally, performance statistics for editorial staff for 2019 were similar to 2018. For comparison, performance statistics for 2019 are followed by values for 2018 in brackets. The median time from submission to Associate Editor assignment was 3 [2] days, securing of first reviewer by the Associate Editor was 7 [8] days, securing of final reviewer by the Associate Editor was 21 [16] days, days in review was 30 [28] days, days from last review to Associate Editor recommendation was 5 [4] days, and days from Associate Editor recommendation to Editor decision was 3 [1] days. In total, all new submissions required a mean of 51 [52] days to initial decision (i.e., accept, reject, or further revision).

Associate Editor workload and mean duration (from receipt of submission to decision by Associate Editor for manuscripts that reached initial decision by December 31, 2019 under each Associate Editor were as follows: C. Bevier (19 new, 34 days), D. Buth (19 new, 34 days), M. Craig (20 new, 44 days), M. Davis (18 new, 60 days), T. Grande (6 new, 94 days), E. Hilton (1 new, 50 days), J. Kerby (14 new, 89 days), M. Lannoo (28 new, 38 days), J. Litzgus (19 new, 43 days), K. Martin (1 new, 56 days), R. Reis (16 new, 25 days), D. Siegel (23 new, 33 days), L. Smith (30 new, 34 days), J. Snodgrass (12 new, 82 days), B. Stuart (22 new, 48 days), G. Watkins-Colwell (1 new, 33 days). Most of these data are similar to those from 2018.

For the last several years, we have attempted to get a more “accurate” rejection rate for each Associate Editor by taking a three-year average. Because of the transitioning from one manuscript system (AllenTrack) to a second manuscript system (PeerTrack), we will not be able to calculate a 3-year-average for the next three years. Rather than not give any rejection rates, we will present the rejection rates on an annual basis until 2023 because they cannot be tracked across systems. As these are not comparable to previous years, they are presented to give the Board of Governors a sense of the relative rejection rates of each of the Associate Editors, but there are reasons that we have shied away from single-year statistics in the past. These rejection rates will be skewed to appear higher than they actually are for most Associate Editors because they only include a single year and many papers go through revisions that stretch across multiple years, which are “unknown” in this annual report (why a three-year report is preferable when possible). The annual rejection rates for the individual Associate Editors are as follows: C. Bevier 33%, D. Buth 0%, M. Craig 25% , M. Davis 56%, T. Grande 0%, J. Kerby 50%, M.

Lannoo 61%, J. Litzgus 50%, R. Reis 0%, D. Siegel 38%, L. Smith 31%, J. Snodgrass 100%, and B. Stuart 25%.

For manuscripts that were submitted in 2019 and reached a decision date in 2019 (143 manuscripts), the rejection rate was 21.0% (down from 22.3% in 2018). Additionally, we can look at the acceptance and rejection numbers for all papers in 2019. In 2019, 77 manuscripts were accepted and 39 manuscripts were rejected (33.6% rejection rate); this compares to 54 accepts and 45 rejects in 2018 (45.5% rejection rate) and 75 accepts and 47 rejects in 2017 (38.5% rejection rate). The service of the *Copeia* reviewers is noted annually in the second issue of *Copeia*. There were 296 reviews (up from 274 in 2018) in total from 232 reviewers (up from 228 in 2018), and the average length of review duration was 29.5 days (up from 26.2 days in 2018).

***Copeia* Production Costs**

As the costs associated with publishing and printing *Copeia* have been a point of discussion over the last several years, I have included the relevant costs paid to Allen Press below. For comparison, costs for 2019 are followed by 2018 in brackets. We paid Allen Press \$107,616.02 [\$94,986.20] for the production and distribution of *Copeia* as well as access to their AllenTrack manuscript submission and tracking system. The breakdown of these costs are as follows: printing *Copeia*—\$39,513.60 [\$33,782.25]; type setting and figure processing (for both online PDFs and printing)—\$31,713.50 [\$25,185.97]; *Copeia* online—\$16,432.86 [\$15,279.87]; mailing *Copeia*—\$7,153.33 [\$8,252.60]; proof corrections—\$6,367.75 [\$4,240.61]; AllenTrack—\$5,069.81 [\$4,828.41]; and other publication costs: \$1,365.17 [\$3,416.49]. The costs for the membership management, production staff, editorial reimbursements, and the physical storage of ASIH and *Copeia* materials at Allen Press are not reflected in these costs. Our revenues for *Copeia* from BioOne (\$73,670), JSTOR (\$10,794), and page charges/open access fees/etc. (\$6,750) for articles in 2019 were: \$91,214. Revenue from paper or electronic subscriptions and paper copies of the journal associated with memberships and subscriptions are not included in these revenues.

12. PRES: President’s Report – Christopher Beachy

I begin my Report with a quote from Secretary Chakrabarty’s 2018 report to the BOFG:

“I want to also personally thank Editor Beachy for all of his hard work over the past seven years! I hope he is enjoying some much deserved time away...”

Well, after this year’s events, so much for enjoying time away. This has been a busy year to be the ASIH President. In some ways, I am very old-school. I keep paper folders with relevant documents. My “ASIH President” folder is really really fat. That is a disappointment because I was hoping that this could be a ceremonial year. My goal on January 1 was to work to ensure that we have a quiet ASIH and JMIH year. But, alot has happened this year. At the very least, now the JMIH will be trouble-free this year.

This year began easily in part because Secretary Chakrabarty is just a 40 minute drive west from my home. This meant that we could meet face-to-face to do some week-to-week work. I very much enjoy visiting Secretary Chakrabarty (he's got the best office) and the LSU Museum. Of course, these visits ended nearly as quickly as they began.

Code of Conduct JMIH 2019 Report Summary

The Snowbird meeting was our first with BAI providing a reporting system for monitoring violations of the JMIH Code of Conduct. Complaints could be filed anonymously, though none were. Four incidents of harassment or unprofessional behavior were reported. One was determined to have no basis. In the other three cases the person(s) involved were notified about how their actions were perceived. In none of these cases did the complainant wish to take further action.

The Snowbird JMIH matter

My first order of business was to obtain a final report from Burk & Associates (herein referred to as "Burk") regarding the poster incident that occurred at the 2019 JMIH meeting in Snowbird. I inherited this task from Past-President Cole who had not been provided a final report. After several prods from me, Burk and MMPC Chair Mushinsky completed their report which I shared with EXEC. Based on the conclusions of that report (summarized above), the position of EXEC that has been shared with the MMPC Chair is that there was a failure by Ombud Lori Strong and that Burk must provide a different Ombud for future JMIH meetings.

Report from the Diversity Committee

Co-chairs Rayna Bell and Mariangeles Arce H. submitted the results of the 2019 Diversity Survey to Secretary Chakrabarty and me on 22 February. We shared the survey with EXEC and then posted the results on the ASIH website. The Diversity Chairs will present a summary and a set of recommendations to EXEC at our annual meeting.

The report prepared by this Committee is substantial and I encourage the ASIH members to read it. This report is a serious and well-considered document and it clearly took a long time to put together. I want to thank Bell, Arce H., and the Diversity Committee for the work they have done. I also want to thank them in advance because they are going to push the ASIH as we become better.

COVID 19 and the Cancellation of the JMIH

Being the President during the process leading up to the cancellation of the 2020 Norfolk JMIH was a fulltime job. EXEC began discussing the COVID pandemic and the JMIH very early in the year. Specifically Leo Smith pointed out the cancellation of several scientific conferences (and the expense associated with cancellation) in late February and David Hillis drew our attention to the phylogenies that suggested in early March that SARS COV2 was very likely to be a significant public health concern. Daily discussions and emails among EXEC about the public health emergency began in the first week of March. By March 12, EXEC began considering cancellation. On March 16, a motion was made, seconded and followed by a unanimous vote to cancel the 2020 JMIH.

Concurrently with the EXEC discussions, I exchanged in emails, phone calls, and virtual meetings with the other JMIH Presidents (Marty Crump, SSAR; Susan Walls, HL; and Dave Ebert, AES). We interacted with MMPC during this time, and had an important

virtual meeting with Brett Burk, the President of Burk & Associates to discuss the options for cancellation and costs associated with it. By March 26, the other three JMIH societies had also voted in favor of cancellation of the meeting. The cancellation was made and announced on March 27.

The delays (i.e., our decision on March 12 to the official cancellation on March 27) were due to the complex nature and costs of the cancellation. At its simplest explanation, hotels were concerned with their lost revenue. Initial cancellation costs were significant (estimated at nearly \$300,000 for lost room and location revenue, deposits, and penalties) and we Presidents worked with Burk towards a reduction in these costs. The final acceptable cost was much smaller and included agreement to return to Norfolk in 2023, make down payments towards that meeting at this time, and pay a smaller cancellation penalty. The end result is that by the end of the 2023 JMIH, the four JMIH societies will have paid a penalty of approximately \$50,000.

In retrospect, a decision to cancel was clearly the right choice. In March, this decision was for some a hard one. For me and the ASIH EXEC, this choice was always clear. But taking the time to gain consensus from four different societies, each of which has its own idiosyncrasies and perspectives, was an important process to engage in. The ASIH is fortunate for the EXEC that it has. The members of EXEC were a great resource for me to get input from. If anything has been done right this year, it has been in large part due to their help. I am not afraid to make a decision, and it helps when I get informed input. Just look at that list of EXEC members and you will know that I was the benefactor of a bunch of really smart, considerate, thoughtful scientists and humans.

Personally, I have been saddened by not getting to preside over the Norfolk meetings. I enjoy the challenge and honor of playing shepherd to this cast of cool cats in the context of a large meeting like the BOFG and the BAAM(!).

In the time since cancellation, I have also worked with several officers and others as the inevitable small details of a meeting cancellation have emerged (e.g., Editor Smith and I are currently producing a brief movie for our Award Announcements that would usually occur at the Plenary Session).

Stipends for several officers

I began a discussion with EXEC of possible stipends for the Secretary, Treasurer and Editor. Past presidents have noted the challenge in filling these three positions. The responsibilities take a significant amount of time and a stipend may make these positions more desirable. EXEC will continue these initial discussions at our annual meeting.

Social media posts

With assistance and input from the Diversity Committee co-chairs, and also from Secretary Chakrabarty and Editor Smith, I prepared several announcements that were posted via our ASIH social media (twitter and FaceBook) in support of the BLM movement during late May and early June.

Appointing a Presidential Ad Hoc Committee on Childcare

A request from the MMPC was made to the four JMIH Presidents to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee on Childcare for the JMIH. I was very surprised and disappointed to receive this request because I had thought several solutions had already worked and

several new no-cost proposals existed to be employed (provided by both this MMPC and a previous Ad Hoc Committee). However, MMPC appears to require committee consensus and none could be found. To me, this means that MMPC does not have a full contingent of members that are capable of collaboration and compromise.

In any case, the four JMIH Presidents have agreed. Each of us will appoint a member from each of our respective groups to serve on this Ad Hoc Committee. I am not certain that this Ad Hoc will be able to provide a proposal that will be agreeable to all, but I will remain hopeful.

Appointments

Prior to the cancellation of the JMIH, I had appointed Rocky Parker as co-chair of the 2020 Student Awards Committee (along with co-chair and President-Elect, Frank McCormick). In early June, I accepted the resignation of Marlis Douglas from MMPC and will appoint her replacement on MMPC within the next several weeks.

Conclusion

I began this report with a quote from outgoing Secretary Chakrabarty. I will terminate this report with a quote from me (and paraphrased from the great Walter Matthau) to the EXEC that occurred sometime in March:

“If I’da knowd that there be this much involved with being President, I woulda asked for another million.”

13. PPRE: Past President’s Report – Kathleen S. Cole

I served as ASIH President through December 31, 2019, and have been serving as the ASIH Past-President since January 1, 2020. This report covers the time between the meetings in Rochester, NY and the present (May 26.20). Snowbird, Utah was the site of the 2019 annual ASIH meeting that was held as part of the 2019 JMIH meetings. The location was impressive, and the accommodation excellent, especially as the original planned site of the 2019 meeting was cancelled at a late stage and the Snowbird effort was brought onboard only very shortly before the 2019 meetings themselves.

These meetings also introduced a new approach to dealing with interpersonal situations, including harassment, bullying and other forms of inappropriate behavior, with the approval of a new JMIH-wide Code of Conduct. This was coupled with the hiring of Burk and Associates, Inc to oversee and help to resolve any possible events involving inappropriate behavior during the meetings, through a BAI Safety Officer. This process is still a work in progress but important advances have been made and both JMIH and the ASIH remain committed to creating a safe meeting environment for all participants.

After Rochester, I completed my term as President by completing committee assignments by the deadline of 31 December 2019 when my term ended. I want to thank all the active

committee members for their continued service and to new committee members for your willingness to help us carry out society business.

The bulk of my service so far as Past President has been limited following the declaration of a Covid-19 pandemic and the cancelling of the 2020 meetings in Norfolk, VA. But I wish to thank all the members who have placed their names on ballots or have volunteered to serve for various offices and committees. These are the people who keep our Society functioning and relevant.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

14. PUBC: Publications Policy Committee – W. Leo Smith

Publications Policy Committee (PUBC) Meeting (24 July 2019, 2:00 pm)

Present: Mia Adreani (MA), Catherine Bevier (CB), Don Buth (DB), Matthew Craig (MC), Matthew Davis (MD), Robert Espinoza (RE), Matthew Girard (MG), Terry Grande (TG), Jacob Kerby (JK), Roberto Reis (RR), Dustin Siegel (DS), Katie Smith (KS), and Leo Smith (LS).

Guests: President-elect Christopher Beachy (Beachy) and President Kathleen Cole (KC)

LS called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and maintained recent meeting formats. LS projected an agenda, and the PUBC worked through this list in an order that seemed appropriate. The meeting covered the items on this list and continued until all items were checked off. Several of the topics included discussion on related topics and, at times, topics were raised by the committee members and guests.

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Thanks.

The meeting began with LS welcoming everyone to the meeting and noting that working with the Associate Editors (AEs) was the best part of the job. This was followed by all individuals in attendance introducing themselves. LS thanked the Associate Editors (AEs) and editorial office for coming the PUBC meeting and for another year of service to *Copeia* and ASIH.

2. Topics Covered in Poster on *Copeia* Being Presented at Poster Session by the Editorial Office.

OPEN ACCESS.—LS described the work he and several AEs completed while serving on an informal open-access committee. LS noted that *Copeia* now offers an open-access option for \$500 per manuscript for members. In the first year, this effort resulted in

additional downloads of articles published in *Copeia* and served as a revenue source that should net \geq \$7,000 per year. In addition to these “gold” open-access papers, LS pointed out that *Copeia* continues to offer 50 days of free access for all new publications through a private link to authors. At the time of the meeting, the 2019 50-day-free manuscripts had already been downloaded 6,280 times. Next LS described how older papers (>3 years from current year) can now be made open access at a discounted rate (\$200 per paper), but he stressed that ***Copeia* must have 50% or fewer of its papers open access or the revenue from BioOne will be cut dramatically.** LS mentioned that open access demand has been higher than expected, so the Editorial Office will need to monitor new and past usage and consider raising the price if we approach the 50% open-access level.

SUBMISSION TO PUBLICATION TIME.—LS began by thanking Beachy and the AEs for their help with reducing publication time. LS showed data on how publication time includes time in production (time with KS and Allen Press in the production of an accepted manuscript), time with authors (time authors spend revising a manuscript), time with reviewers, and time with editors (AEs and LS). LS noted that if everything goes quickly and perfectly that a manuscript could take as little as nine weeks, but that the average manuscript will take approximately 30 weeks. The data show that this publication turnaround time is heavily influenced by the time of year and when manuscripts are accepted relative to journal publication cycles. Despite being online early, there is still a cadence to the publication cycle because it is a quarterly journal in print. As an example, LS noted that papers accepted at the end of a cycle may take as little as a 7 week average to be published online following acceptance, but papers accepted at the beginning of a cycle may take as long as a 13 week average to be published online following acceptance. LS was surprised to report that additional rounds of review did not cause substantial increases in turnaround time (generally less than 14 days); presumably, this is because reviewers and editors are focusing on the main issues raised in the original submission.

MANUSCRIPT IMPACT.—LS noted that the ISI impact factor dropped modestly year over year (1.08 vs 1.02), but that it remained over 1. LS showed data that highlighted that the impact factor for *Copeia* was primarily driven by a few higher performing papers. LS noted that manuscript downloads and Altmetric scores are often correlated with manuscript citations. Compared to other BioOne journals, *Copeia* has an average number of pages published in its history, but *Copeia* has considerably higher download numbers than the average BioOne journal. LS showed that the vast majority of the most downloaded papers in the preceding year were ichthyological and that fewer herpetological papers registered among the most downloaded papers. LS highlighted that impact factor, downloads, and visibility all lead toward more revenue for the Society. LS stressed to the AEs that we need to ensure a few high-performing papers every year and reach out to individuals to submit additional high-performing research or review papers. Finally, LS noted that increasing the virality of manuscripts (measured by Altmetric scores) can result in additional downloads. Further, LS showed that the Altmetric scores of high-performing *Copeia* manuscripts can be incredibly high compared to our peer journals and that one of our journal goals for the year is raising Altmetric scores.

3. PeerTrack—the New Manuscript Handling System from Allen Press—and Double-blind Peer Review.

PEERTRACK.—LS noted that we are changing our manuscript handling system at the beginning of 2020, and that we will use both systems (new PeerTrack and old AllenTrack) for all of 2020. LS showed screenshots of the new system and highlighted some major changes in the system relative to AllenTrack. JK, LS, and RE discussed familiarity with the Editorial Manager system that serves as the basis for PeerTrack and highlighted that the new system is still operated in conjunction with Allen Press. DB, Beachy, and LS discussed changes in the manuscript tracking systems through the years, and DB highlighted the shift that AEs went through when AllenTrack started (relative to mailing manuscripts in print form) as he is the longest serving member of the PUBC. LS also highlighted that PeerTrack emails were supposedly less likely to be recognized as spam than AllenTrack emails, which should help AEs with some of the reviewer contact problems that have been plaguing manuscript review for several years.

DOUBLE-BLIND REVIEW.—LS highlighted that the new system would allow *Copeia* to use a double-blind system (where reviewers do not know the authors' names), which has been shown to reduce bias in manuscript reviews. A friendly discussion about double-blind review ensued with most attendees discussing how to best implement the system and whether we should use double-blind peer review in *Copeia*. DS asked whether AEs would be blinded too; LS confirmed that AEs can see all authors and reviewers. There was overwhelming support for *Copeia* using double-blind reviews, but DS, MC, RR, and others noted that they felt like the use of double-blind would cause a modest increase in rejections because *Copeia* reviewers, in their experience, take great care to help students and authors who are less experienced, and this distinction would be lost in this system. They did not reject the use of double-blind review (they were in favor), but they simply wanted to focus on the likely impacts. LS sought an informal vote on using double-blind review, and it passed. *Copeia* will be double-blind beginning in 2020.

4. BioOne Transition Problems.

LS described the change in our revenue-generating journal homepage on BioOne. On 1 January 2020, BioOne transitioned their XML processing system from Atypon Systems to SPIE. This is the process that converts the PDFs produced by Allen Press into an inline readable XML or HTML format. The transition on BioOne was done without allowing the journals to beta-test the websites, and there were lots of problems. RE asked about the scope and type of problems and LS provided examples including, but not limited to, all page numbers being incorrect, authors being added or removed from papers, incomplete and or no data being sent to publication databases such as Crossref. LS described that more than 40 types of problems were identified. The troubleshooting of problems took approximately 120 hours between KS and LS to identify, communicate, and verify that corrections were made. LS noted that BioOne was largely professional and reactive during the corrections, but it was a major distraction that could have been avoided if journals would have been allowed to beta-test their websites. LS pointed out that BioOne was unaware of the problems that the *Copeia* Editorial Office highlighted,

and, through the work of KS and LS, *Copeia* made it clear that these problems were not *Copeia* specific. LS described how he reached out to other editors and the University of Kansas Library to help resolve the problems when BioOne was unresponsive. LS summarized the problems by saying that the libraries are BioOne's customers, not the journals/societies, **and that this prioritization showed**. LS and KS then discussed that there are four separate versions of *Copeia* at this time: the print journal, the pdfs, the XML version on BioOne, and the XML version on the *Copeia* membership site. RE asked whether articles were compared word for word, and LS described the process of looking for the "right" kind of problems because the text was always going to be interpreted correctly, it was more about stylistic breaks and particular components (e.g., authors). Beachy asked whether it will be better in two years, and LS confirmed that through everyone's hard work that it was already much improved.

5. Open Tree of Life.

LS opened a discussion about how *Copeia* demands that authors provide GenBank accession numbers, and he asked about additional supplemental materials we should require. This was raised because MG had suggested during the year that *Copeia* could ask for Newick trees for all phylogenies published in *Copeia*. These could be posted on the journal supplemental website, but that they could also be submitted through the Open Tree of Life initiative. MG then described how it is an aggregator of phylogenetic trees. LS confirmed that *Copeia* would submit its trees to this initiative, and then he opened the conversation to add ecological, physiological, or other databases. The AEs did not provide additional aggregators, and LS encouraged all AEs to think about other file types that *Copeia* should require as part of the supplemental information or for including in subsequent databases because we want to move toward all data files, R scripts, and the equivalent datasets being made available and populating discipline-specific databases.

6. Differential Expectations of Herpetological and Ichthyological Manuscripts.

LS raised a question brought up before the meeting by DS. Specifically, are there different expectations for ichthyological and herpetological manuscripts? As an example, DS noted that a frequent concern raised for herpetological methods manuscripts is that they should be published in *Herpetological Review*, whereas ichthyology doesn't have this constraint. DS stressed that this is not a personal concern, but it was a frequent reviewer concern. DS described that these papers traditionally go to *Herpetological Review*, so people expect them there. DS and RE emphasized that people flip through *Herpetological Review* to see if there are new methods. They suggested that the editing style and letters are different and then DS noted that this expectation creates a weird dynamic. JK and DS suggested that *Copeia* had a better reputation, so maybe methods papers could be a step up if published in our journal. DS, LS, and TG then discussed the issue and TG emphasized that if authors want their method papers in *Copeia*, who are we to turn down what could be an excellent contribution? LS then transitioned to monographs and noted that *Copeia* has had a number of 100-page submissions, including a review co-authored by DS. He essentially repeated the method question for monographs

given that herpetologists have access to *Herpetological Monographs*. Beachy, DS, LS, and RE then discussed whether there has been or should have been a page limit, noting that longer papers are often cited more. LS emphasized that *Copeia* has not been reaching its goal of 800 pages per year. Then, DS, LS, and MC suggested that 100-page manuscripts should probably be around the limit, and there is no reason to turn them away unless we start having too many long manuscripts.

7. Open Format for Manuscript Submission.

The next topic was whether *Copeia* should relax the required formatting for original submission. LS noted that he will assign any manuscript that appears scientifically sufficient, but that some AEs get frustrated when authors do not follow formatting standards for *Copeia*. LS continued that it is unclear whether he should allow these paper to go to AEs, but he also doesn't want authors to waste time formatting a paper for *Copeia* unless we are likely to accept it. DS, JK, LS, and MC discussed cases where major omissions with manuscripts did not preclude most aspects of review. DS emphasized that he proposed this topic because if we are allowing manuscripts with open formatting, then we should advertise that. JK and RE highlighted that other journals do this as long as the science is solid. MC suggested a full style guide as well as a focused or basic style guide for initial submission. CB, DB, DS, LS, MC, and RE discussed what did and did not matter, most emphasizing that grammar mattered more than formatting. They noted that it can be frustrating when a paper is clearly formatted for another journal. The AEs in attendance ended by agreeing that they were comfortable with an open format, but LS highlighted that a few AEs who could not make the meeting had noted that they have problems with this. Many AEs (present or not) emphasized that proper formatting for *Copeia* did impact their assessment of the papers. Based on the conversation, LS will continue to send out papers that do not match *Copeia* formatting for review, but we will, at this time, not advertise that we are amenable to open formats for *Copeia* submissions.

8. Does *Copeia* Accept Embargoed Data?

At the request of DB, LS raised the question of whether *Copeia* is willing to publish studies that have embargoed data. Examples of this kind of data could be photos/videos from commercial entities (e.g., oil platforms) that have not been released or collection data for desirable animals that *Copeia* should not publish to help conserve a species in the wild. LS, MC, and RE discussed additional problems (e.g., coordinates of spawning aggregations). DS asked whether the Editorial Office, for example, could "confidentially" store collection localities. DB suggested *Copeia* could be sued for these data, and DS noted that embargoed data make reviewing and editing a paper more difficult. LS noted that some papers have redacted the Literature Cited to help reduce collecting threatened species. DS, LS, MC, and RE then discussed that this was weird and that *Copeia* should not do that because databases like Google Scholar make that concern moot. In the end, most AEs agreed that if the collection data were in a museum database or equivalent stable repository, it could be obscured a bit in the the published article. However, in the absence of a well-supported museum collection, critical data must be presented in the article for the article to be published

9. Author Contributions.

The final major topic covered during the PUBC meeting was whether *Copeia* should mandate the inclusion of author contributions. This was partially raised because a small paper was reviewed in *Copeia* with a remarkable number of authors relative to the data. DS, MC, RE, and RR discussed whether author contributions will solve this concern or whether it will just lead to some dishonesty in the contributions. Essentially all AEs suggested that the authors will come up with “something” to ensure that a desired author was on a paper. RE then asked whether we have a statement concerning what warrants authorship. Beachy and LS simultaneously confirmed that we have written statements about what is deserving of authorship. LS specifically asked whether we want author contributions. DS, MC, and RR responded in the negative. RE reminded everyone that it makes it more transparent, which could help with tenure decisions, etc. LS suggested that we allow it, but that we don’t mandate it. There was general agreement about this. On a related front, DS asked about co-first authorship. CB and LS noted realistic frustrations with the reality of this scenario. RE highlighted that it might be frustrating with papers with 2 to 12 authors, but the world is heading toward papers with 200–400 authors, and in those cases, it may make sense. As with author contributions, it was decided that we would allow co-first authorship, but that we would not facilitate or encourage it.

10. Notes from the Executive Committee Meeting.

LS asked if there were any additional points of discussion. Since none were given, LS wanted to provide the AEs with some notes from the Executive Committee meeting. First, EXEC voted to charge the meeting cost for emeritus members of the society to be the same case as students. Next, LS noted that EXEC had voted to raise the membership cost of receiving the print journal from \$40 to \$50. If membership and interest in the print journal remain steady, this should increase revenue by around \$6,000.

At this time, we concluded with all the planned and new topics. It was a good meeting. LS reminded everyone to request reimbursements for their annual costs and handed out various ASIH and *Copeia* swag to those in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 pm.

15. ENFC: Endowment and Finance Committee – David Hillis

The Endowment and Finance Committee (ENFC) met in Snowbird on 25 July 2019 at the annual JMIH meeting. David Hillis (co-chair of ENFC) Chaired the meeting, which was also attended by ENFC members Catherine Malone, Fran Irish, and Margaret Neighbors, as well as by ASIH President Kathleen S. Cole and Treasurer Katherine Maslenikov. Members of the ENFC who were not able to be in Snowbird were Adam Summers (co-chair) and Melissa Pilgrim.

Treasurer Katherine Maslenikov updated the committee on the efforts to get the ASIH financial records in order. The committee agreed that the society’s financial position,

income, and mandatory expenses need to be clarified. Currently, a large amount of money is held in a Money Market account that is making very little interest. The ENFC recommended that the Money Market account be used for the current income from the endowment (money available to be spent) and for making payments, but not to hold large sums of cash. The ENFC recommended that once the ASIH finances are clear (see below), and money from the endowment is transferred to the Brokerage Account, that the ENFC recommend a payout from the Endowment that can be spent by Executive Committee. This payout would be based on a running average of the income from the Endowment for the past five years, and would be set to allow a continued growth of the Endowment, as well as a steady income stream for use by the Executive Committee on new proposals. The restricted funds (e.g., Gibbs and Raney funds) should be maintained as subaccounts within the larger Endowment, so that the society's Endowment can be managed as a single fund. This may require approval from the BOFG, as currently the Life Membership Endowment, the General Endowment, and several funds are managed separately.

Currently, the ENFC believes that the society is not using its Endowment to the best possible effect. The ENFC cannot make a recommendation on an appropriate yearly payout to be spent until the finances can be clarified. The current plan of the Treasurer to have a professional forensic audit of the ASIH finances should allow the ENFC to make appropriate recommendations for expenditures from the Endowment in the future. Once the forensic audit is complete, the ENFC should be in a position to make a recommendation to the BOFG and the Executive Committee about better management of the society's endowed funds, and practices for their best use. Once the average income from the Endowment is clear, the ENFC can make a recommendation for an appropriate percentage to be paid out for current projects (made available to the Executive Committee for spending) while ensuring that the society's Endowment continues to grow.

The ENFC also discussed fund-raising efforts. At this year's (2019) meeting, Lifetime Members were recognized with special name badges, with a hope of recruiting new Lifetime Members to help fund the Endowment. The ENFC also recommends that the society create and award specially designed pins to recognize longtime membership (50+ years of membership in the society), to be awarded at a special ceremony at the annual meeting.

16. EXEC: Executive Committee – Prosanta Chakrabarty

The Executive Committee (EXEC) was led by President Kathleen 'Kassi' Cole in 2019. We voted and discussed some important issues as follows:

In January, the EXEC was asked if we would pay for a retired member of the society to attend the meetings; that member was to receive an award and the head of the committee requested these funds. The EXEC declined as not to set a precedent for providing funds for award winners to attend the meetings.

In February, the EXEC was asked to provide \$10K in funds to allow the Diversity Committee to bring 10 Cashner Student Award winners to JMIH. We voted to provide

these funds. We declined in April when a \$2K supplement was requested to bring in additional winners.

In March, the EXEC voted to join the ‘Societies Consortium on Sexual Harrasment in STEMM’ and President Cole appointed Lynn Parenti as the ASIH Representative. The EXEC also voted to approve \$5K to provide supplemental childcare at the joint meetings. President Cole and I signed a contract for ‘SilverChair’ via AllenPress for continued on-line publishing following EXEC approval.

In April, the ASIH EXEC voted to provide \$1K for a student led workshop for the 2019 joint meetings. We also voted to switch to the new PeerTrack (versus AllenTrack) service for editorial management.

In May, we voted to approve a Joint MMPC Letter of Agreement to establish a Joint Meeting Management Planning Committee with AES, ASIH, HL and SSAR representatives (and Presidents as *ex officio* members). We also voted to provide \$1K in funds for a grad social.

In July, we approved a 3-year renewal for AllenPress. [See also the various motions passed at the 2019 Exec meeting in the ‘Summary of the Meetings’ **Appendix E**].

In December we approved funding a Joint Society Diversity Symposium that had been planned for JMIH 2020.

This year we sadly report the passing of: Phil Heemstra (August 28, 2019), Rudolf G Arndt (September 29, 2019), Joshua Copus (November 13, 2019), Dick Zweifel (Nov 25, 2019), Peter Pritchard (February 26, 2020), Jack Randall (April 26, 2020), Barbara Brown (March 9, 2020) and Cindy Klepadlo (June 3, 2020).

Our condolences to the colleagues, families, and loved ones of those who have passed.

17. GFAC: Gaige Fund Award Committee – Sara Ruane

ASIH Gaige Award Committee:

Chair: Sara Ruane, Rutgers University-Newark

Nancy Karraker, University of Road Island

Chris Murray, Southeastern Louisiana University

The Gaige Fund Award committee for 2020 received 30 complete and eligible applications. The committee was impressed by the diversity of research topics represented in the proposals, the strength of the proposed projects for advancing herpetological research, and the qualifications of the applicants. The committee chair determined that in order to maximize the number of equally scored and competitive awards granted, nine awards would be given, with the top two applicants given \$1000, \$900 granted to six applicants and one applicant receiving \$600 (based on the amount they requested) for a total of \$8000 awarded by the fund.

Of these, the following were chosen for funding:

Joseph Redinger: *Effect of a top predator (Crotaphytus collaris) on prey populations, community structures, and ecosystem function in Ozark glades*

Kyle Jaynes: *Population genomics of decline, persistence, and recovery in a rediscovered amphibian in Ecuador*

Maggie Grundler: *How special are specialists? Building a framework for dietary genomics*

Thomas Radomski: *Geographic ranges – models, reality, and shrinking the gap between the two.*

Brian Tornabene: *Mechanistically Linking Stress Physiology with Survival and Demography of Amphibians Exposed to Mercury and Disease*

Kaitlyn Campbell: *Effects of Selenium Bioaccumulation on Brain Size and Acetylcholinesterase Activity in Rana pipiens*

Connor French: *Inferring the polyploid origins and demographic history of a tree frog species pair (genus Phyllomedusa)*

Joshua Hallas: *The population genetic context of phenotypic variation in *Thamnophis atratus* across a geographic mosaic of coevolution*

Jill Sanderson: *The evolution of signal complexity in a diverse tropical lizard radiation*

18. GSPC: Committee on Graduate Student Participation – Adania Flemming

ASIH Graduate Student Business Meeting
Meeting Minutes, 27 July 2019
Snowbird, UT

The meeting began with a statement from the President of ASIH (Cathleen Cole) who was in attendance along with the President-elect (Christopher Beachy). Cole asked if there were any questions, comments, or concerns that the graduate students present may have. She stated that ASIH is, “deeply dedicated” to the promotion, safety and advancement of students. She also acknowledged the issues that have occurred (presumably both past and present) and explained the role of the president as an “advocate”. Concerns from attendees are paraphrased/summarized as follows:

Overlap in events

- Ariana Rupp mentioned the overlap in SSAR Business meeting and ASIH Business meeting, and so members of both have to make a choice on which to attend. She suggested potentially staggering the meetings to accommodate for this.
- Helen Plylar mentioned the overlap in student association events (e.g., events such as the ASIH graduate student business meeting's overlap with herp-society graduate student events, which potentially biases attendance).
 - **President stated that this is handled by the Meeting Management & Planning Committee, but did acknowledge that the time constraints likely play a role in this. She agreed to bring this up with those committees.**

Lack of Descriptions/Clarity in Program Book

- Elizabeth: There needs to be more descriptions in the program on what events are actually about, because it is not always clear (e.g., collections committee events). She suggested an addition that indicates whether or not a meeting is closed or open. This thought was reiterated by another student in attendance.
- Ariana: We need clarity surrounding the mentorship program (i.e., who can serve as a mentor), and this should be included during registration as well as in the program book.
- Whitney Walkowski: There was no description for the student workshops in program, which is a problem (e.g., ASIH student workshop). This information is given to organizers each year, but was left out this year.

Registration improvements

- Helen: While the option to include pronouns on name badges was a great step forward, there should be clarity (potentially in the form of an explanatory paragraph) on why we are now including the option for pronouns. A lot of people chose not to include them (which is fine), but some indicated that if they had understood why it matters they may have chosen otherwise.
 - Student: Maybe an option would be to provide pronoun stickers instead?
- Adania brings up the new meeting organizers and whether it will make things difficult to coordinate/change for next year.
 - **President responds that she doesn't think this will be an issue because the person representing the organization attended this meeting and has been actively meeting with people to ensure a smooth transition**
- Student asked who the organizer is, and President says it's been K-State for a number of years, and then provided an explanation of their role.

Safety & Safety Officers

- Kim Foster asked about safety officers.

- President said they had planned to attend the Grad Business but were unable to due to a scheduling conflict. She then went on to discuss the various safety initiatives and how to address concerns (and with whom). She encouraged students to first discuss concerns with a trusted member of the society who is already an established professional who is working as a safety officer (indicated by orange badge on nametag) and have them help make contact with Lori Strong (senior safety officer) on your behalf so that your identity and involvement in any issue remains anonymous.
 - -President-elect mentions that Lori Strong’s contact information is on the screens that are displayed during each session. Another option is to go to the front desk and ask to report an issue to Lori.
 - -President asks if we feel safe—because if we don’t, that’s a serious problem.
 - -President-elect jokes: “Cathleen for real President!”, to laughter and light applause. Kim says, “No, we don’t need anyone else obstructing Warren.”
- Whitney Walkowski thanks the president and president elect for all that they have done in just a year to improve the atmosphere of the conference.
 - Adania Fleming adds that the diversity awards were an amazing addition as well.
- President encourages the students to attend the BAM and emphasizes both the importance of attending and how fun it is.
- -President Elect brings up Prosanta Chakrabarty and Bobby Espinoza and their continuous push (8 years!) to address diversity issues. Beachy states that we were ready to move fast and implement the changes made this year largely because of all of their past and current DEI work.
- Adania asks who the meeting contact point will be moving forward, and is told that Lori Strong (current safety officer) is the new Cara Richardson.
- Kim thanks the president and president-elect for attending and answering everyone’s questions.
- Adania reminds everyone to pick up a lunch and asks to make a cookie trade (1 oatmeal raisin cookie for a chocolate chip). Kim accepts the trade. Turns out Kim hates chocolate chip cookies, and everyone is concerned for her.
- The chair, Kim Foster, officially calls the meeting to order, brings up the following items for discussion:
 - Kim emphasizes the need to CC all relevant persons on committee emails, including Chair, Chair-elect, and Secretary

- Ariana says a list of persons to include should be generated and dispersed to all committee members, and Kim agrees that this would be a good move.
 - Adania re-emphasizes Kim's point, and states that each committee has a chair, then multiple people acting under said chair. It's important to not eliminate anyone from the email chain to ensure that everyone gets credit.
- The early career award proposal and updates are discussed. Kim states that it is not off the table, but **verbiage** needs to be fixed (she makes sure to direct this vocabulary at Helen, who has previously expressed that she finds this word revolting). She concludes that once wording is adjusted, Prosanta thinks we could get it on the table for 2020.
 - -Helen mentions that a committee for this has been formed, but it was formed after the Rochester meeting.
 - Kim says that it will be voted on.

New Business

- All ASIH/*Copeia* book sales are being moved from Amazon to the JMIH website to increase profit.
- There is an extra \$2000 added to the budget for ASIH graduate student events.
- New organizer for 2020 onwards, and additionally all future meetings will be held at Marriott event centers.
- Kim introduces information on the meeting in Norfolk, and begins by asking how to properly pronounce Norfolk (a question on everyone's mind).
 - Adania states that the pronunciation sounds like cursing, which is met with much laughter.
 - Lodging for 2020 will be at waterside Marriott, which is \$149/night (before tax). It's close to Virginia Beach, Eastern Shore, and Dismal Swamp
 - The aforementioned spots are evidently good for herping, so if there are plans to herp while at the meeting, we need to get permit to herp in VA (permits should be obtained sooner rather than later).
 - Adania mentions permits held by VIMS may apply
 - Student states that they believe the aforementioned permit only covers fish.
 - Adania says that there will potentially be a BioBlitz, which would occur a couple of days early. That would involve free or reduced housing for participants, so Adania surveys student interests (11 students indicate interest through a show of hands).
 - When asked when field activities would take place, Jenny Gardner says that all of this would take place at VIMs, which is why it would be on days negative 1 & 2 of the meeting (there would be no overlap).
 - Kim asks for any further comments on the bioblitz stuff before moving to discussion of future meetings (which will be Norfolk, Phoenix, and Spokane).

- Ariana asks when the awards will be announced, and there is additional discussion on the issues surrounding event overlap
- Elizabeth brings up perceived issues with vendors (i.e., there weren't enough in attendance)
 - Ariana and Helen clarified the reason for perceived vendor issues, as well as the rationale for moving the book raffle and silent auction materials to the tent.
- Kim brings up the diversity committee and diversity award and provides an anecdote for who qualifies. She notes that Rocky Parker discussed changing award decision to lottery process since it is really difficult to make decisions on who deserves the award.
- Kim mentions that in the future students can serve on executive committees but won't have voting rights. Students currently serve on the diversity, conservation, long range policy, and web content/management committee. She asked for a show of hands to indicate interests in serving on other committees (Audit Committee, Education & Human Resources, Endowment & Finance, Executive, Gaige Fund Award, Henry S. Fitch, Herpetological Animal Care, History Of The Society, Ichthyological And Herpetological Collection, Ichthyological Animal Care, Joint Asih/Afs Committee On Names Of Fishes, Joseph F. Nelson Award, Meeting Management & Planning, Nominating, Public Policy, Rainey Fund, Resolutions, Robert H Gibbs Jr. Memorial Award, Robert K Johnson Award, Student Awards, Web Content & Management)
 - Elizabeth asks why it matters if we can't vote
 - Adania, Kim, Ariana, Helen: student voices, keeping the ASIH grad committee informed, meeting and working with professionals, etc.
 - Emily asks if undergrads can serve
 - Kim and Adania agree that they can
 - Kim takes a count and 20 raise their hands to indicate willingness to serve on executive committees in the future.
- Kim asks for committee updates:

Book Raffle Updates

- Helen: Over \$2,000 raised as of that morning
- Kim asks for a round of applause for Adania & Helen who have done a lot (in her estimation) to prepare for the meeting
- Helen says that everything has gone well with the book raffle, acknowledges Florence Wen's help, and then asks what Flo has to add.
- Florence adds that Helen and her were co-chairs and reiterates that this should have been more clear. She discusses the need for

additional raffle tickets because we ran out due to increased interest. She then states that the raffle will continue through the day with winners announced prior to the business meeting.

- Helen states that she was inexplicably the only point of contact for book raffle communications, despite Florence’s name also being on the website
 - Adania asked who else was on the book raffle committee, and Helen begins to state their names. Adania asks for those who participated in the book raffle committee to stand. Kim announces that it was Helen and Florence as co-chairs, Cooper Campbell, Jonathan Bynum, and Allie Litmer.
 - Adania mentions that it was a lot of work when she was chair, and that when she emailed Helen, she was told that the committee had it covered, which indicates everyone was pulling their weight. She discussed the lack of involvement from the full committee during her tenure as co-chair, and requested a round of applause for the team effort this year.
 - Ariana brings up a question for the book raffle committee: “usually student only items for herp fundraisers (e.g., multiple copies of the same book); set aside student only at book raffle in future?”
- Before Kim moves on to the next round of updates, she reiterates the importance of showing up to meetings for the year you are elected to serve.

Social Committee Updates

- Ariana provides the social committee updates. She was the only elected representative to show up, and recognized Florence’s help with the social committee event the previous evening. She also recognized that the questions were more difficult than is typical.
 - Florence mentions that people have approached to comment on how fun the event was, and thanked people for attending.

Workshop Committee Updates

- Kim acknowledges the great job that Whitney did organizing the workshop for Snowbird.
- Whitney gives some general workshop committee updates, including announcing the title (Diversity & Professionalism in the Sciences); She encourages people to come even if they didn’t pre-register. She says it will be an excellent panel with open Q&A
 - Kim asks who will be on the panel
 - Whitney lists participants: Kirsten Hecht, Maureen Donnelly, Priya, Luiz Rocha, Alan Savitzky, and Michael Franklin
 - Adania asks who else is on the workshop committee.
 - Kim says Heather & Cooper.

- Whitney says she was only given 2 names at the beginning and additional people were randomly added later on.
- Kim asks if three people total (chair included) are enough for the committee, and Whitney says she believes so.
- Whitney has one more workshop update: funding for early career panelists; not 100% that we'll have it, but it will be voted on again

Conservation Committee Updates:

- Cooper and James not in attendance, but Brooke is.
- Brooke says there are no updates.

International Student Liaison Updates:

- Diego absent, no update

Jmih Liaison Update:

- Elyse absent, no update

ASIH/IHCC Collections Update:

- Jenny gives update: Helped plan symposium and luncheon; says pre-register but come anyways to learn about collections.

Early Career Award Update:

- Kim lists those who volunteered to be on this committee (Helen, Allie, Jonathan, Flo). She reiterates that the verbiage needs to be fixed.
 - Helen says no updates.
 - Adania reiterates that the committee was formed ad hoc during the year, and only from people already participating on a committee. She mentions the value of having a list of willing participants and their emails.
 - Helen says this is a standard information collected at every meeting, but mentions the poor record keeping and lack of continuity from year to year.

Web Content Update:

- Anat is absent, but Whitney states that Anat had no updates because Web Content had not yet met.

ELECTIONS

- The roles up for election are briefly described by those who served in 2019.
- Each position was read off and nominations were put forth.
- There were no oppositions put forth, and all were elected unanimously.
- The results of the elections are as follows:
 - Co-chair: Helen Plylar
 - Secretary: Whitney Walkowski
 - Workshop committee chair: Allie Litmer
 - Workshop committee: Jaime Smith, Whitney Walkowski

- Book Raffle co-chairs: Florence Wen, Lindy Muse
- Book Raffle committee: Brooke Perrera, Kearstin Findley, Laurel Nave-Powers
- Student travel award: Adania Flemming
- Web content: Katie Boole
- Conservation committee: Alejandro Grajal, Cody Godwin, Kelly
- Social: Kirsten Hecht, Erin, Sara, Ariana, Megan
- JMIH Liaison: Jaime Smith
- International student liaison: Cody Godwin
- Long-range planning and policy: Jenny, Alejandro Grajal

19. HSFC: Henry S. Fitch Award Committee – M. Donnelly

Established in 1998, the Henry S. Fitch Award for Excellence in Herpetology is awarded annually in recognition of “an individual for long term excellence in the study of amphibian and/or reptile biology, based principally on the quality of the awardee’s research; consideration is also given to educational and service impacts of the individual’s career.”

The award is named in honor of Henry S. Fitch, in recognition of his exceptionally long, productive, and ongoing career. The Fitch Award Committee for 2020 consisted of Maureen Donnelly (chair), Emily Taylor (chair for 2021), and Sara Ruane (chair for 2022). One individual was nominated this year and four other files were carried over to 2021.

Once nominated, an individual can be considered for the award for three years. The credentials and nomination letters for five nominees were examined and discussed openly by the Committee. All nominated individuals are outstanding leaders in the discipline of Herpetology and all are worthy of receiving the Fitch Award. Each nominee has had a productive career and remains active in research.

Nonetheless, after discussion the committee settled unanimously on the 2020 winner: Martha L. Crump. Congratulations Marty!

20. JSNC: Joseph S. Nelson Award Committee – Brian Sidlauskas

The committee for 2020 was comprised of Brian Sidlauskas (chair), John Lundberg and Adam Summers. Nominations and supporting materials were distributed to the committee in advance of a discussion in late March during which the committee successfully concluded its deliberations and chose Dr. Paula Mabee as the awardee. The list of nominees was notably broad this year, and included ten outstanding candidates in total, representing a substantial diversity of identities and ichthyological subfields. We thank

all of the nominators, nominees and letter writers for the time and effort that it took to assemble these materials. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic and the postponement of the 2020 JMIH meetings in Norfolk, VA, the official award announcement will occur over the summer via email and social media. A full-page feature in *Copeia* will include a photo of the winner and the transcript of the award announcement. The committee urges ASIH members to identify future worthy recipients of the Nelson Award and send nominations to John Lundberg, chair of the committee for 2021.

21. LRPP: Long-Range Planning and Policy Committee – Robert E. Espinoza and Deanna J. Stouder

No Report.

22. MMPC: Meetings Management and Planning Committee –Henry R. Mushinsky, Marlis Douglas, Kyle Piller

This document is a modification of an original written by David Green, MMPC rep for the Herpetologists' League

MMPC is a joint committee of all four JMIH societies. The membership this past year consisted of Marlis Douglas (ASIH, Co-Chair), Henry Mushinsky (ASIH, Co-Chair and Chair of the MMPC), Kyle Piller (ASIH), David M. Green (HL), Dustin Siegel (SSAR), and Charles Cotton (AES). Marty Crump serves as JMIH Program Director (Ex officio). Marlis Douglas has resigned from the committee (May 2020) and Dustin Siegel's term as SSAR representative will expire at the end of 2020. Replacements will be appointed by their respective societies.

2019 JMIH - Overall – The 2019 JMIH at Snowbird was, by all accounts, a success. The meeting ran smoothly, without any major physical or mechanical controversies or problems. Complaints were largely about the hefty prices charged for meals and the venue's isolated location. The venue had excellent room options with fully equipped kitchens to allow inexpensive meal preparations. Transportation to food markets was available upon request as well. The isolation of the ski resort had benefits and disadvantages.

Taxonomic separation – Owing to the distribution of appropriately sized meeting rooms at Snowbird, all of the herpetology-themed talks were in meeting rooms at the Cliff Lodge whereas all of the ichthyology-themed talks were in meeting rooms at the Snowbird Center. We heard a few negative comments about the taxonomic separation early in the meeting, but after a day or two most understood the partitioning was to facilitate movement among taxonomically similar paper sessions and the partitioning was accepted as a good thing.

CoC- The Code of Conduct was in place for the 2019 Snowbird meeting, with a designated Safety Officer assigned to investigate any issues arising [Lori Strong of Burke & Associates Inc. (BAI)]. The Safety Officer directly dealt with a few minor issues as the meeting progressed. One more concerning issue arose over interactions amongst senior scientist involving a junior society member (postdoc). An individual presenting a poster was unaware of the history behind an existing professional disagreement among herpetologists over the use of *Rana* versus *Lithobates* as the proper genus for some species of Ranid frogs. Two senior scientists involved in opposite sides of the dispute made comments to the poster presenter and/or wrote comments directly on the poster, thereby reigniting the dispute. The issue was resolved after the meeting ended by (a) reconstructing actual events, (b) documenting them in a detailed description of the incident that, and (c) having it agreed on and approved by all the parties directly involved in the incident. This report was then distributed among the four JMIH societies. Eventually the two senior scientists spoke to one another and were able to reconcile some of their differences. Because the controversy was centered on a scientific issue, The Chair of the MMPC was asked by the Safety Officer to get involved. This report was drafted by MMPC Chair Henry Mushinsky, with the guidance of the Safety Officer and Brett Burke, President of BAI. This incident showed, that while policies (CoC) and personnel (Safety Officer) can be put in place, situations may arise that (a) take more time to resolve (post-meeting) and (b) will require input of professional expertise from scientists. Let us hope that future invocations of the Code of Conduct are no more serious than this one.

Childcare – All of the JMIH societies participating in the Snowbird meeting contributed funds to make child care available at a very low cost for parents participating in the meeting. Childcare service was provided on site by Preferred Sitters, a national company many years' experience, who set up a 'camp' with age-appropriate toys, games, and reading materials. The cost to parents was \$5 per child per hour.

For the past several years the MMPC has tried to find a universally acceptable mechanism to fund Childcare for all future meetings, but has been unable to get consensus from all JMIH societies. The ASIH is a very strong supporter of fully funding Childcare at JMIH meetings, but some JMIH partner societies are unwilling to accept the small increase in registration costs (about \$10.00/attendee) that a fully-funded Childcare service (free of cost to parents) would require. The MMPC has asked the four Presidents of the JMIH societies to address the situation to find a consistent, agreed on solution that will be endorsed by all JMIH societies.

Childcare involves a considerable fixed cost for personnel, insurance, food, and amusements, no matter how many children are involved, which makes certain options more feasible for a large meeting rather than a small one. Among the options that could be considered are the following.

1. The JMIH societies underwrite the costs of the service and parents are charged an hourly fee. (This was the model for 2019, with the fee set at \$5/hour/child.)

2. The JMIH societies underwrite the costs of the service entirely, and it is offered to parents for free.
3. The JMIH societies underwrite the costs of the service and parents are charged an hourly fee, with discounts available depending upon the career stage of the parent(s) and their economic situation, thus making it considerably cheaper for lower-income (e.g., graduate students) than higher-income (e.g., tenured professors) meeting attendees. Other pro-rating criteria could be considered as well.
4. Parents are responsible for making their own child care arrangement, and the JMIH societies offer grants to those parents to subsidize their expenses. Eligibility rules would apply and the JMIH societies would have to negotiate how much each society would contribute to the grant pool, with membership of meeting attendees an option.
5. The JMIH societies identify and recommend a particular child care provider and offer grants to the parents who use that service to subsidize their expenses. As above, eligibility rules would apply and the JMIH societies would have to determine how much each society would contribute to the grant pool.

Currently, the responsibility for a long-term solution for providing Childcare at JMIH meetings is discussed and negotiated by the Presidents.

Kansas State University Conference Center - The JMIH contract with K-State as our Professional Congress Organizer (PCO) ended with the Snowbird meeting in 2019. This change is welcome and timely. Although our earlier association with K-State was highly satisfactory, K-State has been undergoing some turmoil in recent years and has lost many of its experienced staff, leading to a deterioration in the quality of their service despite demanding an increase in their remuneration. This instability has affected the 2016-2019 JMIH meetings (New Orleans, Austin, Rochester and Snowbird) – much to the chagrin of meeting attendees voicing their dissatisfaction with the annual conference.

Emblematic of recent difficulties with K-State are the accounting problems related to the balance sheets for recent JMIHs. Put simply, the financial statements received from K-State for the 2017 meeting in Austin and the 2018 meeting in Rochester proved to be impossible to reconcile. Granted, doing the accounting for four societies meeting jointly is a challenge but, for years, the books were clear and concise. The books for the 2017 and 2018 meetings simply did not make sense. MMPC wrote to numerous administrators involved in overseeing the conference organizing branch at K-State to express its concerns regarding the handling of meeting finances for the past few years. We received no responses. Because K-State considered the financial statements accurate and refused to discuss them further, the treasurers of the JMIH societies agreed to accept the payment previously sent to ASI, in its capacity as the “bank” for the JMIH, to settle the account.

BAI - Burke & Associates Incorporated (BAI) is now our Professional Congress Organizer going forward. BAI was heavily involved in the planning of the 2020 JMIH in Norfolk, VA, when the coronavirus pandemic hit. We shall have to wait another year to

see BAI in action, but MMPC is so far very impressed with BAI's experience, knowledge and diligence. BAI specializes in helping scientific societies run professional meetings and conferences. BAI was actively involved with the JMIH Presidents as they negotiated a plan to cancel 2020 JMIH in Norfolk and instead move it to 2023 JMIH at that location.

Cost cutting- The MMPC agreed on implementing some cost-cutting and eco-friendly changes to help reduce meeting expenses in future. These include:

1. Elimination of disposable plastic products to every extent possible.
2. Use of recyclable clip-on nametags clipped to recyclable lanyards.
3. Elimination of the meeting bag as the vast majority of attendees don't use the bag save for a few days at the meeting, if that much.
4. Stipulation of a 4' x 4' limit to the size of a poster, which will allow two posters on each poster board and thereby eliminate one-half the expense of renting the rather expensive poster boards.
5. Elimination of the "internet café", which is obsolete and generally unused

The above actions will save about \$10,000 to \$12,000 in recurring expenses.

6. Use only of organic shirts for meeting T-shirts.
7. Creation of a voluntary carbon-offset option as a check-off on the registration form. Individuals can contribute \$10 or \$20 to a local conservation organization to be selected by the local committee.

MMPC also considered the possible introduction of new software to replace the program booklet. If adopted, printed programs will be provided as an option on registration for about \$10.00-15.00 each.

A proposal to make videos of presentations at the JMIH was considered by the MMPC. As the expenditure to do the full meeting would add significantly to meeting costs, plus housing the 4 technicians who would do it, MMPC considered it as cost-prohibitive at this point, particularly in the context of continuing efforts to keep meeting costs at affordable levels. Nevertheless, video-conferencing on a more limited scale for plenary talks may be worth considering.

"VertCon."- In late October, 2019, ASIH Secretary, Prosanta Chakrabarty, informed the Presidents of HL, SSAR and AES that he was in preliminary discussions to develop a joint vertebrate conference, dubbed "VertCon" and consisting of the four JMIH societies plus AOS (American Ornithology Society) and ASM (American Society of Mammalogists). Initial ideas for 'VertCon' targeted the summer of 2026, possibly in late June or early July, with New Orleans as potential venue. Prosanta subsequently involved Henry Mushinsky (as Chair of MMPC) in discussions, who solicited BAI for advice. Lori Strong (BAI) and representatives from the AOU and ASM visited New Orleans in December 2019 to determine what venue options would be available for a large

conference. The target date was switched from 2026 to 2023 when all realized it was still possible to hold it that near in the future. Currently, everything is on hold with regard to VertCon, mostly because of the corona virus and the uncertainty of future large gatherings. As noted above, JMIH committed to meeting in Norfolk in 2023 as part of the reduced penalty fees for cancelling the 2020 meeting. The general consensus seems to favor planning a VertCon in the near future.

The general idea for VertCon is to organize JMIH as usual, but at the same time as the AOU and ASM meet so that interactions and exchange of ideas might occur amongst the different vertebrate societies. For example, all three societies might jointly participate in a single integrative plenary session. Alternatively, a large social event for all VertCon attendees could be organized. Additional ideas include co-sponsored symposia that cross taxonomic boundaries. A potential benefit to all parties is a reduced cost for the hotels and meeting space; the larger the meeting the lower the cost for hotel rooms under most circumstances.

Covid virus - MMPC business during most of March, 2020, was consumed by gut-wrenching discussions about whether or not to cancel the 2020 JMIH in Norfolk VA in light of the pandemic. As of March 8th, the committee was still optimistic the meeting would not be interrupted, although it continued to track the status of Covid -19 and its health impacts based on information from the CDC. Abstract submission was to remain open until March 16th and, as per policy, attendees could cancel their meeting registration for a refund until May 9th. MMPC and BAI was prepared to inform members of the four societies about any forthcoming CDC guidelines or safety restrictions that might be imposed. The committee was also aware that our meeting insurance company would not underwrite a communicable disease rider and that if the meeting were to be cancelled, the four JMIH societies would be responsible for paying for the entire block of rooms at the conference hotels, the return of all registrations paid, the cost of any reserved venues such as the Norfolk Zoo, and some of the reserved rental equipment. In addition, looming government travel restrictions could likely imperil the meeting beyond redemption. Considering the state of uncertainty at the time as to the probable extent and severity of the coronavirus pandemic in North America, the committee had no choice but to continue to plan for the meeting to take place unless and until the four JMIH societies took a decision to cancel the meeting and accept the financial penalties.

By March 11th, 79 paid registrations and 59 completed abstracts had been received. The four societies had agreed to extend the abstract deadline by three days. Early registration was extended to June 14th and late registration was extended to July 4th. The MMPC still planned to meet in Norfolk in April and continued to monitor CDC guidelines regarding to Covid-19. On March 17th, the committee learned that cancellation of the meeting would cost the societies ca. \$240,000. Motivated by a sense of fiscal responsibility to safeguard the meeting and the societies, it seemed to some on MMPC members premature to recommend cancellation. Others, motivated by a sense of societal responsibility to safeguard people's well-being and the public at large, though, felt that cancellation was the only responsible option considering the circumstances. The issue was finally resolved after a week of discussions among the four JMIH society presidents

(Chris Beachy, Dave Ebert, Susan Walls, and Marty Crump) in consultation with their respective Boards and Executive Committees. All four societies unanimously decided to cancel the 2020 meeting in Norfolk, attempt to renegotiate for another time and seek to reduce the financial penalties as much as possible. By April 2nd, Lori and Brett at BAI had successfully negotiated with the Norfolk Marriott conference center to hold the 2023 JMIH in Norfolk, managed to greatly reduce cancellation fees at the hotels, and convinced the Norfolk Zoo to apply the deposit paid to 2023.

In retrospect, cancellation of the 2020 JMIH became the only option once the extent and severity of the Covid-19 pandemic became clear and government actions to control the spread of the virus were imposed. On the other hand, not cancelling too early may have helped in renegotiating with services providers to hold the meeting in 2023 and greatly reducing cancellation penalties.

Phoenix 2021- The cancellation of the 2020 JIMH in Norfolk created several complications, among them the fate of the symposia planned for 2020 and presentation of the annual awards. MMPC has recommended that all symposia planned for 2020 should be scheduled for 2021, as well as any new symposia approved by the societies. The SSAR is NOT meeting with the JMIH in 2021, thereby providing the opportunity for the other societies fill the plenary session. MMPC has not worked out the details, but there may be two plenary session to accommodate the standard plenary presentations, including Presidential Addresses, the Distinguished Herpetologists Awards and other life time awards.

Contract with BAI – JMIH has a 3-year contract with BAI to organize JIMH meetings. Assuming BAI performs up to our standards in 2021, the MMPC will recommend to the four societies that we extend the contract for an additional four or five years to facilitate proper planning of those future meetings. An important aspect to consider is that the more in advance a contract can be negotiated with a potential venue, the better the bargaining power. In other words, the earlier, the better. However, it is also important to note that the JMIH MOU stipulates that partner societies can opt-out of the joint meeting 3 years in advance. If one society elects not to meet jointly, the contract with a venue would have to be negotiated for a lower number of presentation rooms, catering services and hotel room blocks – all of which ultimately affect registration costs.

Future meeting information

2021: Phoenix, AZ, July 21-25 (HL, ASIH and AES, only)

2022: Spokane, WA, July 27-31.*

2023: Norfolk VA, 12-16.*

*Updated by Secretary from original submission

23. NOMC: Nominating Committee – Luke Tornabene

The Nominating Committee for 2019-2020 was composed of: Mollie Cashner, Mark Peterson, Kelsey Reider, and Luke Tournabene (chair). Information on all candidates is provided in Appendix C.

24. RFAC: Raney Fund Award Committee – Rebecca Blanton Johansen

Committee Members: Misty Paig-Tran, Mollie F. Cashner

In 2020, the Raney Fund Award Committee received 30 submissions on or before March 1st. Of the 30 submissions, 14 were from PhD students, 15 were from Master's students, and one was from an undergraduate student. These 30 submissions represent 23 different universities from across the United States.

Of the 30 submissions 27 were compliant with grant guidelines and were accepted by the committee for review. All submissions were of a very high standard with many being exceptional. The Raney Fund Award Committee had \$8000 to distribute in 2020. Based on this amount and requested budgets in proposals, the committee recommended the top nine submissions for funding. The top seven applicants were awarded \$1000, and next two were awarded \$600 and \$400, respectively. The Chair encouraged all applicants to continue their involvement and engagement with the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

The 2020 Award winners are as follows:

Michelle Herrera, Ph.D. student, University of California, Irvine, \$1000
Gut microbes and diet: testing phyllosymbiosis in closely related Prickleback fishes with different diets.

Aubree Jones, Ph.D. student, University of Rhode Island, \$1000
A comparative analysis of lateral line system development to investigate the ontogenetic origin of an adaptive phenotype.

Louis Penrod, Ph.D. student, Florida Institute of Technology, \$1000
Cranial spines in fishes as a passive mechanism of fouling reduction.

Amanda Palecek-McClung, Ph.D. student, Clemson University, \$1000
The influence of mucus production in the adhesive performance of Hawaiian gobies.

Jeremy Lomax, Ph.D. student, Brown University, \$1000
Test for hyomandibula driven jaw translation in a Pacu species, *Piaractus brachypomus*.

Matthew Jenkins, M.S. student, North Carolina State University, \$1000
Light up the darkness: artificial light at night and diel behavioral patterns in stream fish.

Lindsay DeHaan, M.S. student, Western Michigan University, \$1000
Does diadromy drive the locomotor evolution of Clupeiform fishes?

Lucia Combrink, M.S. student, University of Wyoming, \$600
Eco-evolutionary feedbacks in response to predator introductions in the alpine lakes of the Wind River Range.

Kara Noonan, M.S. student, Clemson University, \$400
The influence of butterflyfish and coral genome on the progression and transmission success of coral disease.

25. RHGC: Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee – Melanie L.J. Stiassny

In April of 2020, the Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee, consisting of Melanie Stiassny (chair), Karsten Hartel, and Hank Bart evaluated the credentials of five nominees for the 2020 award for excellence in systematic ichthyology. The nominees included four new and one renewed nomination for the award. The recipient of the 2020 award will be announced in July at the plenary session of the annual ASIH meeting in Norfolk, Virginia. A full-page announcement detailing the winner's accomplishments, along with a photograph, will be published in *Copeia* 2021 (1). As with previous awardees, this year's recipient will be encouraged to submit a paper on systematic ichthyology for review and consideration for publication as the lead paper in the second year following the award. For 2020 Stiassny departs the committee after three years of service. Karsten Hartel assumes duties as committee chair, assisted by Hank Bart and a third member to be elected at the Norfolk meeting. [***Secretary note – Karsten Hartel has stepped down and Hank Bart has agreed to Chair in 2021*]

26. RKJC: Robert K. Johnson Award Committee – Eric Hilton

The Robert K. Johnson Award for Excellence in Service honors the memory of former ASIH Secretary and *Copeia* Editor Robert Karl Johnson, whose long service and lasting contributions to the Society included production of the first guide to ASIH policies and procedures. The Johnson Award recognizes individuals who have made major contributions to the Society through their service to the organization and is awarded to either an ichthyologist or a herpetologist in alternate years. This year's award will be presented to an ichthyologist. The 2020 Johnson Award Committee consisted of Kyle Piller, Michael Douglas, and Eric Hilton (Chair). The committee evaluated the nominations of several distinguished and highly qualified ASIH members. The committee's 2020 award recipient is Henry L. Bart, Jr. The results will also be featured in an upcoming issue of *Copeia*. Eric Hilton will rotate off the committee at the end of 2020 and Michael Douglas will become Chair in 2021, followed by Kyle Piller as Chair in 2022. An ichthyologist will be elected to the committee in 2020 meeting, and a herpetologist at the 2021 meeting.

27. AES: Representative to the American Elasmobranch Society – Chip Cotton

The American Elasmobranch Society held its 35th annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah as part of the annual Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH). AES had 105 oral presentations and 49 poster presentations. Dave Ebert delivered the AES Presidential Address (plenary) entitled “Searching for Lost Sharks”. Steve Kajiura and Chris Lowe organized a symposium entitled “The Behavior and Sensory Biology of Elasmobranch Fishes”, which included 19 oral presentations. The student workshop entitled “Graduate school and mental/emotional health: How to succeed academically while maintaining your well-being” was organized by Bryan Keller and the featured speaker was Paula Williams (Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Utah). Approximately 50 students attended this workshop, with funding provided by AES to subsidize student lunches.

Dave Ebert conducted his second business meeting as president, with some new and some returning executive committee members: Secretary Tonya Wiley, Treasurer Chris Bedore, Editor Chuck Bangley (new), and Past-President and Dean Grubbs. Jen Wyffels and Kara Yopak were elected to the Board of Directors. Our new Nominating Committee is Shannon Corrigan, Chris Mull (chair), Emily Peele, David Shiffman, and Rachel Skubel. Kevin Feldheim and Marianne Porter were elected to the Grant Fund Committee and Steve Kessel was appointed the new chair of this committee. Carl Luer continued to chair the Student Award Committee, with assistance from Andy Nosal (Gruber Award) and Kara Yopak (Carrier Award). Cheston Peterson continued to chair the Student Affairs Committee, Steve Holman continued to chair the Publication Fund Committee, Gavin Naylor continued to chair the Shark Attack File Committee, Sonja Fordham continued to chair the Conservation Committee, and Paula Carlson continued to chair the Captive Elasmobranch Census Committee. The first “year-class” of elected officers on the Equity and Diversity Committee were Dovi Kacev, Steve Kajiura, and Lisa Whitenack. They join Joe Bizzarro (Chair), Chip Cotton, Kady Lyons, and Melissa Nehmens who were previously appointed to the ad hoc committee and will remain until the next general election fills the remaining elected positions. Chip Cotton continued to serve on the Meeting Management Planning Committee and serve as the AES liaison to JMIH.

Approximately 175 people attended the AES banquet and award ceremony where plaques and checks were presented to award winners. To commemorate the recent death of AES founder, Sonny “Doc” Gruber, a group of present and former associates from the Bimini Shark Lab presented a short video in his honor. Afterwards, all the past “Gruber Award” recipients in the room (n=9) were asked to take a group photo with the current year’s recipient.



There were 8 presentations considered for the Jeffery C. and Carol A. Carrier Poster Award (best student poster) and 16 presentations considered for the Samuel H. Gruber Presentation Award (best student oral). Josh Moyer received the Carrier Award for his poster “Feeding Kinematics and Behavior of the Sand Tiger Shark, *Carcharias taurus*.” Diego Cardena received the Gruber Award for his talk “Development and applications of DNA forensics to global shark conservation and law enforcement.” No recipient was selected for the Eugenie Clark Award in 2019.

The American Elasmobranch Society Student Research Award was presented to Oliver Shipley for his project “Examining within-individual stable isotope variability of shark teeth: implications for the study of shark trophic behavior in time and space”. The Henry & Anne Mollet Research Award was presented to Emily Peele for her project “The effect of temperature on brain development in the Port Jackson shark, *Heterodontus portusjacksoni*”. The Donald R. Nelson Behavior Research Award was not awarded in 2019. Out of 26 applicants, 12 Student Travel Awards were given to Amanda Barker, Mary Bowers, Camila Caceres, Hannah Calich, Brianna Hall, Derek Kraft, Ryan Lehman, Amelia Roskar, Gail Schwieterman, Rachel Shaw, Hannah Verkamp, and David Weber. In its third funding cycle, there were 20 Young Professional Recruitment Fund (YPRF) awardees out of 59 applications. Three of these recipients were in attendance at the AES meeting in Snowbird. The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) raised over \$5000 through silent and live auctions, raffle ticket sales, and the AES store. These funds will support student travel at the next meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

28. AFSR: Representatives to the American Fisheries Society – Michael E. Douglas and Marlis R. Douglas

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) and The Wildlife Society (TWS) held their first-ever joint international conference with ~4,400 attendees and guests in **Reno NV**, from 29 September-03 October 2019. The conference was held in the Reno-Sparks Convention Center and featured 124 symposia [half of which (N=62) represented collaborations among societies]. One such symposium (chaired by M.R. and M.E. Douglas: “*To Go Boldly ...*”: *The Genomics Frontier of Conservation and Management*”) featured 24 speakers and represented a collaboration among four societies [ASIH, AFS, TWS, and DFC (Desert Fishes Council)]. The scientific program also featured 278 poster presentations, 112 contributed paper sessions, 33 workshops, 28 working groups, and 10 contributing education sessions. Exhibitors (N=137) displayed products ranging from technological through services provided to books and biodiversity prints.

The **2020 Meeting** (if so held) will be in Columbus OH (30 August through 03 September), and represents the 150th Annual meeting of the society. The meeting will be located at the Columbus Hyatt and Greater Columbus Convention Center. The meeting theme is: “*Learning from the past, meeting challenges of the present, and advancing to a sustainable future.*” Abstract deadline has been extended until 18 May 2020 (<https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/>)

AFS Societal Governance: In 2019, the AFS presidency transitioned from Jesse Trushenski (Director of Animal Health and Welfare, Evaqua Farms and Riverence) to Scott Bonar (University of Arizona & USGS Arizona Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Unit), with Brian R. Murphy (Professor of Fisheries, Virginia Tech University) as president-elect.

29. MMSC: Margaret M. Stewart Award Committee – Whitney Anthonyamy

The Margaret M. Stewart Excellence Award will be presented annually to a deserving ichthyologist (odd years) or herpetologist (even years) to recognize exceptional achievement for mid-career professionals. The committee consists of three members, each serving a staggered, 3-year term. The president appoints one new member annually, alternating between an ichthyologist and a herpetologist. The 2020 committee included two herpetologists (Dr. Whitney Anthonyamy, Chair; and Dr. Rayna Bell) and one ichthyologist (Dr. Christopher Martinez). Dr. Martinez will chair the committee in 2021 and Dr. Bell will chair in 2022. The membership was solicited for nominations for a herpetologist and the committee considered three files, one new submission and two submissions from the previous cycle. After thoughtful review, the committee selected Dr. Emily Taylor for the 2020 award. The two who were not selected this year will be considered automatically in next award cycle, as nominations remain active for five years. As the 2020 JMIH meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19, Dr. Taylor will receive her plaque and cash prize directly by mail, but will be recognized for her award during the plenary of the 2021 JMIH meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

30. AIBS: ASIH REP. TO BioOne & AIBS – Alan H. Savitzky

BioOne is a nonprofit consortium that provides electronic publishing services for many independent society and institutional publishers, providing royalties based upon online journal usage, as well as profit-sharing (i.e., distributing net profits at the end of the fiscal year). As a member of the BioOne Board of Directors I attended one meeting of the Board in November 2019 and one virtual meeting in April 2020, in addition to special themed Board meetings in March and April 2020.

BioOne continues to provide a very high level of service and essential income for its member publishers. The organization currently publishes 207 titles, from 157 nonprofit and society publishers. In 2019 the collection added over 75,000 pages of new content to its more than 1.5 million pages previously available to users. BioOne returned a total of over \$3.5M in Revenue Sharing payments ("royalties") to its member publishers and more than \$960K more in Surplus Sharing (which, as a nonprofit itself, BioOne does not retain). BioOne's content is available in approximately 4,000 libraries worldwide, including about 2,500 institutions in developing countries that have free access to BioOne journals. BioOne continues to enjoy a very high renewal rate among subscribing institutions and consortia. The renewal rate was 93.8% in 2019, an exceptionally high number that reflects both the strong value of BioOne's collection of journals (the per-title cost of BioOne journals was 94% lower than the global average in 2019) and the partnership that the organization has built with academic libraries worldwide. Importantly, BioOne transitioned from outsourcing sales to internalizing the sales operation, which has proven to be a highly effective shift.

In 2020 BioOne announced the winners of the third competition for its Ambassador Awards. Presented to five early-career authors who published in BioOne journals, nominations are made by journal editors, and eligible authors must submit a short summary that explains their work to a nonscientific reader. One of this year's recipients, Christopher M. Murray, published the winning paper in 2019 in *Copeia* (107:517-523). This is the second year that one of the recipients published in *Copeia* and the third year that an award was made to the author of a herpetological paper.

As with every other organization serving the scientific and academic communities, BioOne is now closely monitoring developments related to COVID-19. Specifically, BioOne has been advocating for the fiscal health of its society publishers, a number of which were driven to cancel upcoming summer conferences (including the 2020 JMIH). It has also been monitoring trends affecting the funding of academic libraries. Fortunately, BioOne's exceptional value (i.e., its cost per journal) and long-standing relationship with academic libraries, which were involved in its founding, should position BioOne for continuing success even in the current uncertain times.

The **American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS)** is an umbrella organization of over 150 member societies and organizations (MSOs), many of which focus on organismal biology or ecology. This year AIBS ended its program of individual memberships, although individuals can continue to subscribe to its journal, *BioScience*,

which is available through Oxford University Press. AIBS continues to provide a strong connection to national lawmakers and policy professionals through its Public Policy Office. That office continues to issue regular electronic newsletters, and it organizes community responses to executive and legislative developments at the federal level. Particular areas of emphasis include policy related to research funding, conservation, and support of natural history collections. AIBS organizes regular visits between biological professionals and members of Congress. Individual society members are encouraged to visit the AIBS Public Policy website (<https://policy.aibs.org/>) for information on legislative activity related to the biological sciences and natural resources and for recommendations on how to respond to significant policy developments. AIBS maintains a formal partnership with the Natural Science Collections Alliance and is a founding member of the USGS Coalition. These activities have obvious relevance to members of our society.

Representatives of the AIBS MSOs are members of the AIBS Council, which traditionally has met annually in Washington, DC in December. The 2019 meeting addressed the theme of “Beyond Specimens,” addressing the diversity of materials and activities associated with biodiversity collections. I was unable to attend that meeting. The 2020 meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held online, with the theme of "Strengthening the Bioeconomy."

31. CONS: Conservation Committee – Frank H. McCormick

Formation of a Joint Conservation Committee of the Participating Societies.

Principals from the conservation committees of the participating societies met in Snowbird and finalized the Letter of Agreement creating a joint Conservation Committee representing the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, American Elasmobranch Society, Herpetologists League, and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. Members of the respective committees consulted with executives and received support for the proposal. A draft of the operating principles and structure of the committee was developed, and the separate committees provided comments. The draft was finalized in the fall and the presidents of ASIH, AES, HL, and SSAR signed the letter of agreement in late 2019 and early 2020. Work on the charter and governance of the Joint Committee needs to be completed. The charter was to have been finalized at the JMIH in Norfolk, VA. Outreach to the Neotropical Ichthyological Association and needs to be done to gauge their interest in joining the joint committee.

Comment to US EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on proposed repeal of the Waters of the US (WOTUS) rule (Docket EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0203).

CONS continued to provide detailed comments in opposition to the proposed rule change citing the peer-reviewed, scientific foundation of the existing rule. The comments emphasized the ecosystem services provided by headwater streams and wetlands, including water storage, water filtration, flood mitigation and essential habitat for wildlife and fish. CONS also solicited individual comments from the membership (via the ASIH Facebook page).

Comment to NY Department of Environmental Conservation asking that the Atlantic Leopard Frog be listed as either “Threatened” or “Endangered”.

CONS urged NYDEC to strengthen protections for the Atlantic Coast leopard frog, a species that has declined dramatically over the past century across northern parts of its range and is now at risk of extinction in New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. Comments identified the primary causes of the severe declines in the species’ populations: habitat loss, metapopulation disruption via roads and habitat fragmentation, and several diseases.

Comment to CITES to support listing of wedgefishes, giant guitarfishes, and mako sharks.

CONS provided comment to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) requesting that CITES include wedgefishes, giant guitarfishes, and mako shark species in Appendix II at the 18th Conference of Parties. Inclusion in Appendix II promotes species conservation through permitting systems to track international trade and controls aimed at ensuring that exports are sourced from fishing operations that are legal and sustainable.

32. EHRC: Education and Human Resource Committee – Michael Pauers

MEMBERSHIP:

Current Members:

Michael J. Pauers - Chair
Carol Johnston
Steve Kimble
Sara Ruane –co-Chair

ACTIVITIES 2019-2020:

Activities Completed/In Progress:

This was a quiet year for the committee, as no issues were brought to us by the society for consideration or action, and there were no self-generated actions.

Pauers once again convened the Ichthyology Education Committee, consisting of **Johnston, Lara Ferry, Ed Heist, Chris Lowe, and Gene Helfman**, in order to review the nominees and select the winner of the 2020 Meritorious Teaching Award in Ichthyology. No new nominations were submitted, but the referees are busily reviewing the dossiers of all candidates.

33. HACC: Herpetological Animal Care and Use Committee – Christopher L. Parkinson

Nothing to report.

34. HSOC: Representative to the Herpetological Societies (SSAR and the HL) – Alan H. Savitzky

The primary interactions between ASIH, HL, and SSAR continue to revolve around the JMIH, together with a close intersociety affiliation associated with the Joint Conservation Committee (and involving also the AES).

The SSAR Board is proceeding with planning a separate meeting at the University of Michigan in 2021. That is one year later than originally proposed, the date having been changed to avoid competition with the World Congress of Herpetology in 2020. The separate meeting of SSAR in 2021 reflects their established policy of meeting separately from the JMIH once every five or so years. The SSAR is already considering an offer to hold another meeting separate from the JMIH in Gainesville in 2026.

The SSAR approached HL in 2018 about the possibility of merging the two societies, and a nonbinding poll of the membership of both societies was held in 2019. The poll, which simply asked members whether they supported entering discussions to consider such a possibility, revealed strong interest in a potential merger. As a result, a Steering Committee was formed by the two societies to discuss such a merger, and an open forum was held 2019 JMIH in Snowbird to allow for member input into a merger plan. I attended that open forum. The potential merger was also discussed at the SSAR's Long-Range Planning Committee meeting.

As ASIH Representative to HL and SSAR, I have not been involved in, or informed of, any of the private discussions among officers or the Steering Committee regarding the possible merger. However, reports on the Long-Range Planning Committee and Steering Committee meetings and on the open forum were published in *Herpetological Review* (2019. *HR*, 50(4):883). From those published reports and presentations at the open forum, it appears that discussions revolved around whether true economies of scale are likely to be realized by such a merger and whether the distinctive cultures and identities of the two societies can be maintained. The possibility that an entirely new society might be formed by the merger and both of the two existing societies might then be dissolved appears to have met with some resistance, although it was also noted that newer members may be less concerned about historical distinctions than some of the more senior members. The process was reminiscent of merger discussions among the three major North American ornithological societies several years ago. In the end, two of those societies chose to merge into a new (and seemingly stronger) society, while the third society chose to retain its individual identity and rejected the proposed merger.

Although the open forum had been intended only to provide a vehicle for discussion, rather than for decisions, the strong sentiment among members present to pursue a merger led to a motion being proposed to initiate the process of merging HL and SSAR. Noting that the question of a broader merger (i.e., one that might include ASIH) had never been put to the members, I proposed an amendment that both ASIH and AES be involved in the initial discussions. That was not intended as a proposal that ASIH or AES necessarily be party any such final merger. Rather, as a member I felt that all four of the JMIH societies, and especially the ASIH, which shares a substantial number of members with HL and SSAR, should be involved in the merger discussions early, so questions impacting both the JMIH organization and the herpetological members of all three societies could be discussed. That proposal was accepted as a friendly amendment and the nonbinding motion passed as amended, although the amendment was later interpreted as allowing ASIH and AES to be involved "in an observer-only capacity." Whether either ASIH or AES has been contacted regarding the merger process, or where that process stands currently between HL and SSAR, has not been reported to me.

It should be noted that cancellation of the 2020 JMIH due to the COVID-19 pandemic has placed a financial burden on all of the participating JMIH societies (as outlined for ASIH by President Beachy in his message of 27 March to members). That essential and appropriate response to the current public health crisis does reveal again the disparate fortunes of the JMIH community, whose two groups of members (on the basis of organismal focus), herpetologists and ichthyologists, are divided among four societies. It is unclear whether the impacts of the JMIH cancellation would have had a greater or lesser effect on a less divided group of organizations. Ours are not the only meetings to have been canceled this summer, at considerable cost to their sponsoring societies, and there is some expectation those organizations may now be driven even more rapidly away from print publication of journals in order to meet the financial pressures imposed by the pandemic. If members are increasingly focused on the benefits of the annual meetings and on other services (such as awards and research grants to students), rather than on receipt of print journals, the logic underlying the continuing value of separate societies could also be impacted.

35. IACC: Ichthyological Animal Care and Use Committee – Phillip Harris

No report.

36. IHCC: Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee – J. Watkins-Colwell (Chair), Sarah K. Huber (Co-Chair), Kate Bemis and Jennifer Gardner (Student Representatives), and reviewed by Committee

On 26 July 2019, the ASIH Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee met. The IHCC meeting was attended by 41 collection personnel (including several student collection assistants) representing at least 25 institutions or collections.

The third annual *Spiritus Award* was presented at the 2019 JMIH meeting to John Simmons for collection stewardship in herpetology. The 2019 *Spiritus* committee was composed of Greg Watkins-Colwell (Chair), Katherine Maslenikov, and Meredith Mahoney. The IHCC formally congratulates John on receiving the *Spiritus Award*.

The *Spiritus* committee for the 2020 award cycle is Katherine Maslenikov (Chair), Meredith Mahoney, and Sarah Huber. Greg Watkins-Colwell rotated off following the award presentation and Sarah Huber was elected at the ASIH Board of Governors meeting to serve on the committee. For the 2020 *Spiritus* cycle the award will be presented to an individual in recognition of their service and commitment to ichthyological collection stewardship.

The IHCC sponsored a Symposium at the 2019 JMIH meeting: The Expanding Role of Natural History Collections (Eric Hilton, Chair; Greg Watkins-Colwell, Co-chair; Sarah Huber Co-chair). The symposium included 19 talks from invited speakers with funding provided by ASIH, SSAR, and HL. Six manuscripts resulting from the symposium have been submitted to *Copeia* for publication in an upcoming issue.

The 2020 JMIH, which was to be held in Norfolk, VA, has sadly been cancelled. Sarah Huber had planned to organize a workshop to be held at the end of the meeting at the VIMS Ichthyology Collection on collections management. The full-day workshop was to include a “soup-to-nuts” hands-on workshop for processing fresh specimens, collecting and archiving tissue collections, field book organization, etc. This workshop will be postponed until 2023, when JMIH is scheduled to return to Norfolk.

At the 2017 ASIH meeting, the accreditation sub-committee presented plans for a society wide accreditation at the business meeting and received approval for the Executive Committee to proceed with an accreditation proposal. The current committee consists of Sarah Huber (Chair, ichthyology), Jessa Watters (herpetology), Katherine Maslenikov (ichthyology), Randy Singer (ichthyology), Ben Frible (ichthyology), and Kirsten Nicholson (herpetology). The committee met at the 2019 JMIH to discuss plans moving forward and had hoped to test run an accreditation at the 2020 JMIH. This has been postponed. The committee continues to evaluate and improve the accreditation process in anticipation of a test run at a future meeting.

Randy Singer (UMMZ) continues to serve as the ASIH/SPNHC representatives (ASIH rep to SPNHC and SPNHC rep to ASIH) and routinely sends memos to himself on behalf of either society.

The IHCC decided to increase the visibility of IHCC over social media. However, instead of curating our own Facebook page or Twitter, we will post on already existing pages (e.g., ASIH Facebook page, Natural History Collections Facebook group). Norma Salcedo has agreed to be our Communications Committee chair and will oversee social media posts. If you have anything that you would like posted, please forward it on to Norma.

The IHCC discussed courses and syllabi relating to collections, collection use and management. Many university-based collections offer courses on these. Adania Flemming discussed a course that she taught at University of Florida. There was interest in collecting these course syllabi and having them available to members. Mark Sabaj discussed the work stations at ANSP where visitors can use software to visualize CT scan files.

The IHCC continues to use a Google Group to improve routine communication among IHCC members and to facilitate involvement of those individuals who are unable to attend JMIH. Visit this group at <https://groups.google.com/group/asih-coll>

Kate Bemis and Jennifer Gardner were elected to serve as student co-chairs. We will be looking for a new student representative in 2020, as Kate Bemis has accepted a position at NOAA.

2019 Collections Committee Meeting Attendance (41 people)

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Adania Flemming | Randy Singer | Emily McFarland |
| Andrew Williston | Sarah Huber | Esther Langan |
| Caleb McMahan | Susan Mochel | Jennifer Gardner |
| Eric Hilton | Andy Bentley | Jessa Watters |
| Greg Watkins-Colwell | Ben Frable | Jonathan Huie |
| H. J. Walker, Jr. | Bill Lindt | Justin Mann |
| Jose Rosado | Calder Atta | Katie Boole |
| Kate Bemis | Casey Dillman | Ken Thompson |
| Katherine Maslenikov | Cristina Cox Fernandes | Mariangeles Arce H. |
| Kevin Swagel | Dave Catania | Marta Gomez-Buckley |
| Kirsten E. Nicholson | David L. Auth | Sam Ghods |
| Lauren Scheinberg | David Werneke | Sara Cartwright |
| Mark Sabaj | Diane Pitassy | Zach Randall |
| Meredith Mahoney | Emily Dearmon | |

ASIH COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE as of 1 Jan 2020

Chair

Greg Watkins-Colwell

gregory.watkins-colwell@yale.edu

Co-Chair

Sarah Huber

skhuber@vims.edu

Student Representatives

Kate Bemis

kebemis@vims.edu

Jennifer Gardner

jgardn92@uw.edu

37. SPNHC: Representative to Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections – Randy Singer

The 2019 and 34th annual SPNHC meeting was held 25-31 May 2019 in Chicago, IL USA. The meeting was held at the Chicago Hilton and was hosted by the Field Museum. This year's SPNHC meeting was attended by 507 attendees from 17 countries and over 116 different institutions.

The theme of this meeting was “Making the Case for Natural History Collections”. Many seminars and talks focused on how to increase collections usability and sustainability. New to this meeting was a session called Specimen Spotlight. This was a chance for everyone to highlight one specimen in their collection and explain why that specimen is special and what makes it important. These short, five-minute, one-slide presentations allowed a larger group of people to participate in the meeting and when viewed as a group these spotlights demonstrated the diversity, importance, and greatness of museum collections.

This meeting marked the end of Ruth O’Leary’s term as treasurer and Breda Zimkus and Jessica Cundiff’s last terms as co-chairs of the collection’s best practices committee. The meeting next year was planned for Edenborough, but due to COVID-19 it will be hosted online.

38. Spiritus — Katherine P. Maslenikov

The ASIH created the annual *Spiritus* award to recognize excellence in service and support of natural history collections of fishes, amphibians and reptiles. The 2019 *Spiritus* was awarded to John E. Simmons, currently President of the museum consulting firm Museologica, with decades of experience managing herpetology collections. The 2020 *Spiritus* will recognize an ichthyologist, as the award alternates between disciplines from year to year. Nominations are effective for three award cycles over a five-year period. Committee members are not eligible for nomination while serving on the committee and for one year following. Each new committee member serves for three consecutive years and becomes chair in their third year. In odd years, the committee is composed of two herpetologists (including chair) and one ichthyologist and receives nominations for candidates with a herpetology background. In even years, the committee is composed of two ichthyologists (including chair) and one herpetologist and votes on ichthyological candidates. For the 2020 *Spiritus* award the Committee consisted of Katherine P. Maslenikov (chair), Meredith J. Mahoney, and Sarah K. Huber.

The committee considered four nominations for the 2020 *Spiritus* award. Each nominee has had a long career synonymous with excellence and professionalism and is a respected member of our community. The committee reviewed the nomination packages and met via Skype to discuss the candidates and evaluate their contributions to the curation of ichthyological collections and to collections stewardship. The candidates ranked most favorably had complete nomination packages including a CV of the nominee as well as multiple letters of support. The *Spiritus* committee would like to encourage future nominators to submit nomination packages that allow the committee to fully evaluate the impact of the nominee on the field.

The winner of the 2020 *Spiritus* award would have been announced at the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Norfolk, VA 22-26 July 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent cancellation of the 2020 JMIH, the award is being announced through the Board of Governors report. The *Spiritus* winner for 2020 is Alexandra (Lex) Snyder, who retired in 2018 from the Museum of Southwestern Biology at the University of New Mexico after a long career managing several different ichthyology collections, training students, and serving the collections community in many ways, including decades of service to the ASIH.

39. NFJC: Joint ASIH-AFS Committee on Names of Fishes – Larry M. Page

The Committee on Names of Fishes continues to review a large number of changes to the “Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico.” The committee met for a full day on 24 July 2019 in Snowbird, Utah, at the annual JMIH meeting. This followed a 4-day meeting in September 2018 in Gainesville, Florida, with funding from the American Fisheries Society. Members on the committee are Katherine Bemis, Lloyd Findley, Carter Gilbert, Héctor Espinosa-Pérez, Karsten Hartel, Robert Lea, Nicholas Mandrak, Margaret Neighbors, Larry Page (chair), Ross Robertson, Juan Schmitter-Soto, and HJ Walker. Changes to the list of names include adding about 1,000 names of fishes that occur at depths of

more than 200m but within the Exclusive Economic Zone (“deep” species), assigning a "U" to each marine species that is found in the U.S. to enable the creation of a list of marine fishes for the U.S., which was not possible in previous lists, and considering an electronic version of the list. The committee decided not to recognize the deep species added to the list with a “D” or an “E” in the occurrence column as had been discussed previously, but rather with a caret (^) to the left of the scientific name just as the * and + symbols are used now to indicate a change has been made in the list or another relevant comment is in the appendix. The new symbol will be explained at the beginning of the list, and no appendix notes will be provided for deep species except when there is a question about taxonomy or occurrence in our region.

The committee considered recommending a change in the name of the “Names of Fishes Committee” and the name of the book that the committee publishes approximately every 10 years to more accurately reflect the broad taxonomic review activities of the committee, but voted for now to keep both the same as they are. The committee also decided to provide more information on the committee to be published on the AFS and ASIH websites, possibly including some/most of the material in the Introduction to the 7th edition of the “Common and Scientific Names of Fishes.” A discussion relative to this topic was on the need to review the principles as printed in the 7th edition, in particular the one that discourages common names that are intended to honor persons. This is particularly relevant to French names, some of which in the 7th edition are honorific. The committee seemed inclined to maintain the principle as written, and Nick Mandrak will discuss this issue with Canadian colleagues and make a recommendation to the committee as to whether this principle should apply to French names. We also discussed adding a principle to make it clear that we do not consider political ramifications such as protection of species when reviewing changes in names.

The committee discussed at length a proposal to add names of fishes in Spanish and French for all species in the list, not only for those occurring in Mexico or Canada, respectively, as done now. This idea had been discussed at previous meetings without a final decision. The committee concluded that although there might be occasions when such a common name would be useful (e.g., if a species previously unknown from Mexico was found to occur there a name would already be in the list), the potential for use seemed to be too small to warrant the amount of work and expense required to produce, review, and print such lists. The committee appreciates the considerable effort on this already expended by Juan Schmitter-Soto, and suggested that he consider publishing such a list of names on a website readily accessible in Mexico.

The committee discussed, as it had in meetings for several years, making the list available online where it can be regularly updated and accessed. Potential hosts for the website had been approached, including AFS and the California Academy of Sciences which hosts Eschmeyer’s Catalog of Fishes, but only AFS had shown interest. Some progress followed discussions with AFS but did not lead to an online presence. Ross Robertson noted that setting up the website at STRI on Caribbean fishes had cost \$50,000 initially and considerable assistance is needed to keep the software updated. Our wish to make the website interactive with the public, including allowing comments and suggestions to be made through the website to the committee, would require long-term maintenance and have a continuing cost. Regardless of the difficulties in going online, the committee will continue to investigate ways to do so.

The committee discussed how to update the higher classification for the list, noting that options included following those in the *Fishes of the World*, 5th edition (Nelson, et al. 2016), *Eschmeyer's Catalog of Fishes*, and Helfman and Collette's *Fishes: The Animal Answer Guide*. We also discussed producing our own classification following recent, comprehensive phylogenetic information in, e.g., Hughes, et al. (2018). *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.* 115(24):6249-6254. We decided it was better to go with an existing classification and chose the ECoF, in part because it is updated regularly as changes in classification are published and accepted, and when the names list moves online, it can be more easily linked to the ECoF.

A discussion on when and where the committee should meet next led to an offer from Nick Mandrak to investigate the possibility of a meeting being hosted in Canada with funding provided by a Canadian agency. This might be linked to a workshop organized to review the taxonomy of North American ciscoes (*Coregonus*). The committee also discussed the value of presentations by committee members at annual ASIH and AFS meetings. This would inform the members of the societies about what the committee does as well as potentially address specific taxonomic issues. We also agreed to have a full-day meeting at the JMIH meeting in 2020.

40. NSCAR: Representative to the Natural Science Collections Alliance – Larry M. Page

The NSC Alliance is a nonprofit association that supports natural science collections. The approximately 100 institutional members are members of an international community of institutions that house natural science collections and utilize them in research, exhibitions, education, and outreach activities.

On March 31, 2020, the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSC Alliance) joined with the American Institute of Biological Sciences and Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections to remind federal science policy officials that biological collections can be used to better understand important societal problems, such as zoonoses like SARS-CoV-2. The groups called for a ten-year investment of \$1 billion to support digitization, particularly of economically significant entomological collections, biodiversity surveys, biodiversity-enabled research, development of new cyberinfrastructure and tools, and investments in science education.

The NSC Alliance provided testimony to House and Senate Appropriations Committees regarding fiscal year 2021 funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and certain programs that curate natural history collections within the Department of the Interior and Smithsonian Institution. NSC Alliance encouraged Congress to provide NSF with at least \$9 billion in FY 2021 in testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies. The testimony highlighted the importance and role of natural history collections: “Natural science collections advance scientific research and education, and that informs actions to improve public health, agricultural productivity, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and American economic innovation. Current research involving natural science collections also contributes to the development of new cyberinfrastructure, data visualization tools, and improved data management practices. The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Office of Management and Budget

specifically recognized the importance of scientific collections to our nation's bioeconomy in this year's S&T funding priorities memorandum to federal agencies."

In testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, NSC Alliance urged Congress to provide new investments within the Department of the Interior and the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History and testified that "Scientific collections, and the collections professionals and scientists who make, care for, and study these resources, are a vital component of our nation's research infrastructure. These collections contribute to the expansion of our bioeconomy. Whether held at a museum, government managed laboratory or archive, or in a university science department, these scientific resources form a coordinated network of data (for example, genetic, tissue, organism, and environmental) that are a unique and irreplaceable foundation from which scientists are studying and explaining past and present life on earth. Research results improve human and environmental health, enhance food security, and provide monitoring for responses to environmental change and species conservation." The NSC Alliance provides regular policy and news updates via the NSC Alliance Washington Report. The newsletter is freely available. Subscribe: www.nscalliance.org.

41. WCMC: Web Content and Management Committee – Missy Gibbs

2019 members: Missy Gibbs, Mark Sabaj Perez, Anat Belasen, Caleb McMahon, Jacqueline Webb, and Dennis Murphy (webmaster)

The WCMC met in Snowbird on July 27th from 4-6 p.m. in Red Pine in the Cliff Lodge.

We discussed a variety of topics:

1. Graduate Student Forum. Anat will investigate the level of interest among graduate students (including what topics to include). If there is enough interest, it should be set up separately due to security issues. Graduate students would need to moderate & manage it, and Dennis will help set it up.
2. GDPR Compliance (European personal data requirement) will be an issue if we want to use Google Analytics to look at usage data.
3. Investigate options regarding Standard Symbolic Codes. We need to have it more in sync. Caleb mentioned a system used for collections that gets automatically updated...this would be good to have.
4. Caleb will be the second person on the web records in case anything happens to Dennis so records are accessible.
5. Members asked for clarification of our relationship with BioOne (we get a lot of \$\$ from BioOne and that amount is tied to downloads that occur from. Leo can provide Dennis with a list of open-access journals quarterly, which can then be posted, to encourage even more downloads., and to encourage use by the membership (use benefits the society). We have placed the Virtual Issues feature of the website on hold (use BioOne instead), along with the News feature (not really used).
6. Members suggested that it would be really useful to have a description of each committee on the website, including responsibilities, committee charge, and how to become a member. There should also be an introductory statement about who can serve on committees. This info is in the

Policies & Procedures Manual, but that may be too deeply buried for most to find. A statement on the page that has the listings of committees linking to the PPM might be a good solution.

Planned activities, 2020 meeting in Norfolk

We will revisit the structure of the website, especially in regards to Standard Symbolic Codes, Graduate Student Forum, and Committees, and discuss whether there are things we want to do a little differently.

42. HIST: History of the Society Committee – David G. Smith

Three Historical Perspective articles were published in 2019: on Richard Highton, Vic Hutchison (both Herpetology) and Thomas White (Ichthyology).

The most significant event in 2019 was the tragic loss of Joe Mitchell in an auto accident. Joe was an irreplaceable part of the historical team. He had a long-standing interest in herpetological history and was the Society Historian in Herpetology for the past 15 years. He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. An obituary was published in the 108 (1) issue of *Copeia*.

Aaron Bauer was added the Committee as the new Historian for Herpetology. He joins Greg Watkins-Colwell on the herpetological side, and David Smith, Inci Bowman, Eric Hilton, and Kate Bemis on the ichthyological.

Plans were begun last year for the observance of the 100th meeting of ASIH at Norfolk VA in 2020. As pointed out in last year's report, since the first meeting in 1916, there were four years in which the meeting was not held, thus setting up 2020 as the 100th. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the 2020 meeting has been cancelled, thus postponing the 100th meeting until next year. This will mark only the fifth time since the Society was founded that a meeting will not be held.

43. SCSH: Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM – Lynne R. Parenti

The Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM is an initiative launched in 2018 to advance professional and ethical conduct, climate, and culture. The Consortium's focus is to build communities actively intolerant of sexual and other bases of harassment and to develop collective efforts across STEMM—among societies, academic and research institutions, teaching hospitals and others, as well as researchers, faculty, and students. Policies and plans produced through the Societies Consortium's collective effort will be significantly more effective, timely, and cost-efficient than if each society were to produce strategies and resources on its own.

Lynne Parenti was appointed ASIH representative in April 2019. This year she participated in a meeting of society representatives held at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC, in September 2019 and prepared a report for EXEC on the meeting. The SCSH aims to

provide customizable model policies, as nearly all societies struggled with the same issues such as those surrounding awards and honors. Small societies have instituted Codes of Conduct (CoC) and formed CoC committees. The Evolution meetings have an active CoC committee. Their website on Safe Evolution could be a model for JMIH:

<https://www.evolutionmeetings.org/safe-evolution.html>

SCSH currently has about 123 Members. ASIH is one of the 100 Inaugural Members of the Consortium. Societies pay a fee based on their annual revenue (under \$1 million pays \$500).

44. Diversity Report – Rayna Bell and Mariangeles Arce H.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report 2020 - Rayna Bell + Mariangeles Arce H.

The Committee prepared an updated diversity survey of ASIH membership with the aim of better understanding the composition of the Society's membership, identifying how ASIH can best support the needs of our members, and how we can improve efforts to recruit and sustain a more diverse membership in our discipline. The results of the 2019 survey with recommendations from the Committee on how society leadership can address challenges and opportunities presented by these results were posted to the ASIH [website](#). Although JMIH 2020 is cancelled, the Committee is preparing 5-minute and 15-minute presentations summarizing survey results and the rationale for Diversity & Inclusion initiatives in preparation for audiences at EXEC, BOFG, Plenary Session, and BAAM at JMIH 2021. We suggest that the ASIH newsletter and social media publicize the 2019 survey results and recommendations in advance of JMIH 2021. The Committee reviewed applications for the Cashner Student Awards (previously the Diversity & Inclusion Awards) and made ten awards by random lottery of all qualified applicants. Although JMIH 2020 is cancelled, the recipients will retain their 2020 Cashner Student Awards and the monetary support will be applied for expenses to attend JMIH 2021. The 2020 recipients are: Valentina Alvarez, Neil Balchan, Rene Martin, Victor Hugo Colín Martínez, Carmen del Rocío Pedraza Marrón, Emanuell Ribeiro, Danielle Rivera, Ricardo Rivera Reyes, Adolfo Rodríguez-Velázquez, Khalil Russell. We will add photos and biographies of the 2020 recipients to the ASIH website and will publicize the award recipients on ASIH social media this summer. Contingent on the Society's financial situation, the Committee would like to offer the Cashner Student Award to a cohort of ten 2021 applicants. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is chaired by Mariangeles Arce H. and Rayna Bell. The Committee also includes: Anat Belasen, Adania Flemming, Kimberly Foster, Michael Franklin, Christopher Martinez, M. Rockwell Parker, Adela Roa-Verón, Beck Wehrle, Molly Womack.

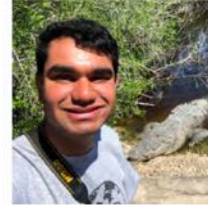
Meet the winners of the ASIH 2020 Cashner Student Award!



Carmen Pedraza



Rene Martin



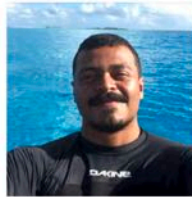
Neil Balchan



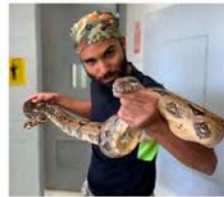
Valentina Alvarez



Khalil Russell



Emanuell Ribeiro



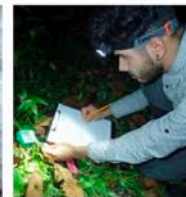
Adolfo Rodríguez-
Velázquez



Ricardo Rivera
Reyes



Danielle Rivera



Victor Martínez

[See also Diversity Survey Report in Appendix F.]

45. HFMH: Honorary Foreign Member (Ichthyology) – G. David Johnson

The Committee to nominate a new Honorary Foreign Member in Ichthyology to replace Phil Heemstra consisted of Bruce Collette, Melanie Stiassny, and Dave Johnson, Chair. We reviewed a list of about a dozen candidates, most of whom had been considered previously, and based on publications and other contributions to ichthyology we selected Ralf Britz. (Germany). In addition to the summary below, his Curriculum Vitae is attached. [Secretary Note – CV for the candidate has been added to the end of Appendix C]

Current address:
Sektionsleiter Ichthyologie
Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden
Museum für Tierkunde
Königsbrücker Landstrasse 159
01109 Dresden
Germany

E-mail: ralf.britz@senckenberg.de

Current Position: Since December 2019 - Museum of Zoology, Senckenberg Natural History Collections Dresden.

Previous Position: 2004-2019 Fish Researcher, The Natural History Museum, London
Research Interests and expertise: Comparative anatomy, phylogenetics, systematics and Taxonomy of actinopterygian and sarcopterygian fishes, ranging from general questions of evolutionary biology and homology and studies of higher level relationships to basal problems in taxonomy and systematics of various fish groups. Ralf's research emphasizes an ontogenetic perspective and sets standards for detailed anatomical (particularly osteological) studies of fishes. He is one of the few who insists steadfastly on studying the earliest life history stages whenever possible. This requires singular dedication.

Ralf's specific taxonomic expertise is with freshwater fishes of Southeast Asia, in particular those of India and Myanmar/Burma, and South America, specifically Brazil. He has done extensive field work in Myanmar and India.

In addition to his highly respected morphological work, Ralf has co-authored numerous publications that bring molecular data to bear on taxonomic and phylogenetic questions. Publications: 142 in peer reviewed journals and book chapters, ranging from species descriptions and taxonomic revisions to phylogenetic and biogeographic studies. Some of his most impressive and enduring papers are those that offer solutions to long-standing homology questions with ontogeny.

Ralf is the author or co-author of 71 new species five new genera and one new family.
Mentorship/teaching: In addition to mentoring several masters and PhD students, Ralf has been teaching an intense 10 day bi-annual course on Vertebrate Anatomy with focus on fish anatomy at the University of Sao Paul, Brazil since 2007. This course has become legendary," and it has had a significant impact on the quality of the publications and professional careers of many students who have taken it.

46. HEC: HERPETOLOGY EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Erin Muths

The members of the Herpetological Education Committee this year were Erin Muths (Chair), Emily Taylor, and John Maerz. We invited Amanda Hewes (starting her PhD at the University of Washington this fall) to fill the student spot for the HEC for a two year term (2020 and 2021). She has accepted and was approved by the society presidents in May. The committee also received input and advice from Brad Shaffer (2019 Chair).

The HEC committee has two main tasks: selecting the recipient for the Meritorious Teaching Award in Herpetology (MTAH) and overseeing the Herpetology Hotline.

1. Meritorious Teaching Award in Herpetology

The main responsibility of the HEC is selecting the recipient of the Meritorious Teaching Award in Herpetology (MTAH), which is sponsored by The Herpetologists' League, the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, and the American Society of Ichthyologists and

Herpetologists. This award recognizes superior teaching effectiveness and mentoring of students in herpetology.

The committee posted announcements for the MTAH online on society websites and in society journals. We also solicited nominees on social media and through announcements at local meetings (e.g., state PARC meetings). We solicited 5 new applications. Four applicants remained eligible from previous years (nominees remain in the pool for 3 years), so that we considered 9 nominations (all men).

The award criteria and the nominating process were updated in late 2019 and changed in two fundamental ways. First, the committee recommended that the announcement more clearly state that this award is for an individual who is both experienced as a teacher and mentor and is currently teaching herpetology. Secondly, in response to clearly stated concern about potential conflict of interest by one of the societies, we revised the criteria to state that the individual should be nominated by a peer rather than a student. The potential conflict of interest was of considerable concern to one of the societies. Both of these recommendations were formally accepted by the Presidents and Boards of ASIH, HL, and SSAR.

The members of the HEC evaluated this year's nominee materials and ranked them according to a set of scoring metrics (also updated and streamlined in early 2020), and then used those scores, plus in-depth discussions of all candidates to reach consensus on a 2020 winner. The recipient of the 2020 MTAH will be recognized in July and will be sent a plaque and a check for \$500.

As there has been some confusion as to past winners of the MTAH, we provide this list:

| | |
|------|----------------|
| 2010 | Whit Gibbons |
| 2011 | Bob Powell |
| 2012 | XXXXX |
| 2013 | Craig Guyer |
| 2014 | Alan Richmond |
| 2015 | Brad Shaffer |
| 2016 | Emily Taylor |
| 2017 | John Maerz |
| 2018 | Fred Janzen |
| 2019 | Nancy Karraker |

2. Herpetology Hotline

We have not secured an update on the hotline activities due to current circumstances but will update this report when the update for the hotline is available.

Please see the accompanying text below outlining a proposal for the Herp hotline to become a separate committee or at minimum, a sub-committee of the HEC.

3. As a reminder:

The HEC has four members: a representative for each of the three societies plus one student member. Erin Muths is the SSAR representative, and is chair in 2019/2020. Emily Taylor, representing HL, is scheduled to chair this committee for 2020/2021, and John Maerz, representing ASIH is scheduled to chair the committee in 2021/2022. Amanda Hewes is the student representative (term 2020-2021). The chair position changes at the annual meeting in July after the award is presented. In 2016 the HEC decided that each year one of the presidents of the three societies would nominate a new committee member. In 2019, John Maerz was nominated by ASIH and accepted. We invited Nancy Karraker (2019 MTAH winner) to serve as the SSAR representative to the HEC starting in July 2020 to replace E. Muths. M. Crump has approved the nomination and will make the appointment when Dr. Karraker responds to the invitation.

HERPETOLOGICAL HOTLINE PROPOSAL

1. PROPOSAL:

Maintaining the form of the Herpetological Hotline, including monitoring the inflow of questions and, importantly, maintaining a volunteer staff require a significant amount of time. To better recognize this effort the HEC suggests that 1) the Herp Hotline, a joint effort by the three societies, be a committee that is separate from the HEC, with its own chairperson, and 2) mentors and hotline responders should be recognized formally. Although these volunteers are recognized on the hotline webpage and in recent annual reports, their commitment is significant and a formal acknowledgment is needed (e.g., an official title, a certificate after a year of service, mention at society meetings). We request that the Societies approve these two changes (1 and 2 above) and identify Michelle Koo or other appropriate person to chair of this committee.

2. HISTORY – INCEPTION OF THE HERP HOTLINE

The Herp Hotline was begun shortly after the inception of the Herpetological Education Committee (HEC) as an outreach tool by the joint HEC. Greg Watkins-Colwell led this effort through SSAR and it was generally seen as an SSAR product despite its origins. After Greg passed the leadership to Michelle Koo at the Austen JMIH it was again considered a joint effort. In 2017 The Herp Hotline was revamped with a new focus on involving graduate students and early career herpetologists to engage with the public who have herpetological questions. The hotline is now hosted online at: <https://ssarherps.org/all-about-herps/herpetology-hotline/>, but was, for many years hosted at the Peabody Museum. The Hotline Team, “mostly researchers working at universities, museums, and government wildlife agencies” who are members of at least one of the three societies respond to questions submitted online. Response to questions is generally within two weeks and responses are informative, engaging and respectful using a model of upbeat professionalism. The hotline is popular, receiving 3-4 emails steadily per week in 2018, for a total of 168 questions. Fifty percent of the questions are identification or general herpetology questions. The next most popular questions are on husbandry or animal care questions, including wildlife, approximately 33%. About 6% (10 last year) were related to Education and how to become a professional herpetologist. Because of the large amount of husbandry and care questions, the hotline has consulted with Joe Mendelson to see if we can involve professional herpetologists with this kind of specific experience. Many of these questions, such as injured or diseased animals, are out of scope for our Herp Hotline Team and it

would be sufficient if we could simply forward them to appropriate forums or other resources. This is in progress.

3. CURRENT STATUS (Please see report from Michell Koo new as of 12 June 20): Michelle Koo (UC Berkeley) is leading this effort without official recognition. As of July 2019, the two mentors are Alex Krohn (UCSC) and Vicky Zhuang (UTEP) they train new recruits, update guidelines, and provide general oversight. Alex and Vicky now have jobs so new mentors are needed. Securing backup responders, ready to step in when current responders move on or are unavailable for a period of time would be prudent to prevent question backlogs.

Hotline responders:

Grant Bassett (TSU San Marcos)

John Bellah (USGS)

John Cavagnaro (Villanova)

Oceane Da Cunha (UTEP)

Improvements have been made recently including the disclaimer on the form page:

<https://ssarherps.org/all-about-herps/herpetology-hotline/>, and the implementation of mentors to help train new volunteers (hotline responders) who are answering questions.

47. APPENDIX A. CONSTITUTION

ASIH CONSTITUTION (revised & ratified 2 August 2014)

Article I: Name

The name of this Society shall be "THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS AND HERPETOLOGISTS." The Society is incorporated in the District of Columbia (22 November 1949).

Article II: Object

Section 1. The object of this Society shall be to advance the scientific study of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles.

Section 2. The Society shall be operated as a nonprofit corporation.

Article III: Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be open to persons interested in the object of the Society.

Section 2. The membership of the Society shall consist of the following classes:

a. Active members who pay annual dues in the following categories: Student, Regular, Associate, and Sustaining. In addition, a fifth category, Life Members, pay 25 times (25 x) regular annual dues in one lump sum or four equal consecutive annual payments.

b. Honorary Foreign Members shall be elected by the Board of Governors from among the ichthyologists and herpetologists, located outside of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, who have attained distinction as investigators. The Honorary Foreign Members shall be equally divided between ichthyologists and herpetologists.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Society shall be: A President, who shall assume the duties of this office for a one-year term immediately following a term as President-Elect. A President-Elect, who shall serve a one-year term; the office shall alternate annually between an ichthyologist and herpetologist; the President-Elect shall be ineligible for another term until two years have elapsed from the end of a term as President. A Treasurer, a Secretary, and an Editor shall be elected annually.

Section 2. The Officers, shall be elected online, 60 days after the Annual Business Meeting by active members of the Society. The slate of nominees shall be furnished by the Nominating Committee to the Board of Governors at their annual meeting. The Board of Governors will approve the slate. Additional nominations may be presented from the floor of the Board of Governors and the Annual Business meetings. All nominations shall be accompanied by a brief statement of qualifications and a written statement of willingness to serve from the nominee. The term of office shall commence on 1 January following the annual meeting at which the officers were elected. In the event of a tie in election for any office, the Executive Committee shall determine the winner.

Section 3. The officers named in Section 1 shall discharge the duties usually assigned to their respective offices (see Bylaws) and shall be members in good-standing during their terms of office.

Section 4. In the event of death or incapacitation of the President during the term of office, the President-Elect will become President. If the position of President-Elect becomes vacant, the person who received the second highest number of votes in the election will become President-Elect. If necessary, the Executive Committee shall make the determination that a President or President-Elect is incapacitated to the extent that required duties of the office are not likely to be performed.

Section 5. A vacancy in either the Editorship, Secretaryship, or Treasurership occurring in the interval between annual meetings of the Society may be filled, until the next election, by Presidential appointment.

Section 6. Executive Committee.

a. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Past-President, Prior Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee, and Chair of the Endowment and Finance Committee.

b. Each ASIH President will serve a total of four years on the Executive Committee, as President-Elect, President, Past-President, and prior Past-President, in that sequence.

c. All members of the Executive Committee shall agree in writing to abide by the Conflict of Interest policy each year.

Section 7. Between the annual meetings the business of the Society shall be conducted by the officers, acting within their individual responsibilities, and the Executive Committee, and the Board of Governors if they are called upon to vote on society business.

Article V: Board of Governors

Section 1. At the time of the annual meeting the business of the Society shall be conducted by the Board of Governors. The Board shall include not more than fifty (50) elective members, each elected from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members for a term of five years. Elective members of the Board shall not be eligible for reelection until the annual meeting following the expiration of their terms. The incumbent officers of the Society shall be members of the Board. Associate Editors will be members of the Board of Governors during their editorship. Former Presidents of the Society shall be members of the Board for life. All meetings of the Board of Governors shall be open to all members of the Society.

Section 2. Ten vacancies in the elective membership of the Board of Governors shall be filled through online election. The election will follow the Annual Business Meeting and will include from nominations provided by the Nominating Committee and/or from the floor of the Board of Governors or Annual Business Meeting. All nominations shall be accompanied by a brief statement of qualifications and a written statement of willingness to serve from the nominee. Five of the elected Governors shall be herpetologists and five shall be ichthyologists. Each member shall vote for a maximum of five candidates in the online election. The term of office shall commence on 1 January following the election after the annual meeting at which the Governor was nominated. An additional vacancy shall occur if the President-Elect is a member of a class. If a governor is elected as an officer, he/she will remain on the Board of Governors until their term is complete.

Section 3. The Board shall conduct business during the period between annual meetings only upon call by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. All members of the board shall be members of the Society and shall agree in writing to abide by the Conflict of Interest Policy each year.

Article VI: Meeting of the Society

Section 1. This Society shall hold an annual meeting. The Annual Business Meeting shall be open to all classes of members for the purposes of hearing a report on the transactions of the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors, and of acting upon such business as may properly be considered by the membership at large.

Section 2. The Meetings Management and Planning Committee shall evaluate annual meeting site proposals recommended by meeting organizer and shall report its recommendation(s) to the Board of Governors.

Section 3. The place of the annual meeting of the Society shall be determined by the Board of Governors. Notice of the meeting shall be communicated to all members of the Society at least three months before the date set for the meeting.

Article VII: Quorum

At the Annual Meeting, one hundred (100) members shall constitute a quorum of the Society and thirty (30) a quorum of the Board of Governors.

If the Board of Governors votes electronically between annual meetings, thirty (30) votes shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

One hundred (100) members shall constitute a quorum of the Society for online elections.

Article VIII: Changes in the Constitution and Bylaws

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed: (a) by majority vote of the Executive Committee, or (b) by written and signed petition from at least twenty-five (25) members in good standing of ASIH.

Section 2. Proposed amendments must be circulated to all members at least three (3) months prior to the scheduled Annual Meeting of the Society.

Section 3. Proposed amendments of this Constitution and Bylaws may be adopted at any meeting of the Society if approved by two-thirds of the members of the Board of Governors voting and two-thirds of the members voting at the annual general meeting.

Section 4. Dissolution of the society shall require two-thirds assent from members of the Board of Governors voting and ratification by ballot of two-thirds of the membership voting in response.

Section 5. In case of the dissolution of the Society, its assets shall be transferred to a successor non-profit society organized for educational, professional, or scientific purposes, or if no successor society is designated by the members of this Society, then the assets shall be transferred to some other non-profit organization of like character as determined by a vote of the membership of the society.

BYLAWS

Article I: Dues

Section 1. Annual dues shall be payable 1 January, in advance. Upon payment of arrearage, plus a late fee calculated as 10% of the annual dues, the former member shall be reinstated.

Section 2. A service charge to recover actual costs may be billed subscribers requiring special billing procedures.

Section 3. The schedule of dues will be estimated by the Treasurer, proposed by the Executive Committee, and approved by the Board of Governors to meet the financial needs of the society.

Article II: President

Section 1. The President shall preside at sessions of the Board of Governors and at the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 2. The President shall also appoint the committees prescribed by the ASIH Policies and Procedures Manual, and such other representatives or committees as may prove necessary. The President and President-Elect shall be members of all committees.

Section 3. The President shall be reimbursed out of the monies of the Society for expenses incurred in attending the meeting of the Society that he/she presides over.

Article III: Secretary

Section 1. The Secretary shall keep the records of the Society and report at the annual meeting.

Section 2. The Secretary shall be responsible for sending out notices announcing the annual meeting and for arranging the agenda for the Executive Committee, Board of Governors, and Annual Business meetings held during the annual meeting. The Secretary shall ensure that financial documents are posted on the Society website.

Section 3. The Secretary shall be reimbursed out of the monies of the Society for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society.

Section 4. The Secretary shall make such purchases and employ such assistance as is necessary to conduct the business of the Society. All such expenditures will be reported to and are subject to review and ratification by the Board of Governors.

Section 5. Unless other appointments are made by the President, the Secretary shall act as a delegate or representative of the Society at meetings of related societies covering matters of mutual interest.

Section 6. Any copyright requests or copyright-related issues and the associated records-keeping shall be handled by the Secretary in consultation with the Editor.

Section 7. Publications storage.

a. The Secretary shall be charged with the responsibility of ensuring safe storage, sale, and other disposal of back numbers of COPEIA and other Society publications.

b. The Secretary may employ such assistance including outside contractual assistance as may be necessary to discharge these functions.

c. The Secretary will report annually to the Board of Governors on the status and disposal of inventoried items.

Article IV: Treasurer

Section 1. The Treasurer shall be in charge of the funds and securities of the Society.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall arrange for an independent annual professional audit of the financial records of the society, shall prepare the IRS form 990, and shall inform the Secretary of the auditor selection.

Section 3. At the annual meetings of the Society, the Treasurer shall present a statement of the funds and monies of the Society, the statement to cover the calendar year.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall file form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, with the Internal Revenue Service annually.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall be reimbursed out of the monies of the Society for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society.

Article V. Editor and Associate Editors

Section 1. Editor

a. The Editor shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer for the journal COPEIA, and shall serve as the Chair of the Publications Policy Committee. The Editor shall bear the final responsibility and authority for all materials published in COPEIA.

b. In the processing of manuscripts submitted for publication in COPEIA, the Editor shall allocate manuscript workload among the Associate Editors, and shall receive their recommendations on manuscripts that have cleared the review process.

c. The Editor shall report through the ASIH Executive Committee to the Board of Governors, and shall seek Executive Committee and Board of Governor approval for any substantive change in ASIH publishing product or practice, especially where new or unanticipated expenditures of ASIH funds are involved.

d. In situations that may arise between annual meetings, the Editor (upon consultation with and approval by the Executive Committee) may appoint a substitute (or co-participant) for a given editorial office.

e. The Editor may employ such assistance as is necessary for the production of COPEIA.

f. The Editor's annual dues to the Society, and transportation and lodging at the Annual Meeting shall be reimbursed by the Society.

Section 2. Associate Editors

a. The divisional sections of COPEIA shall be General Herpetology; General Ichthyology; Ecology and Ethology; Physiology and Physiological Ecology; and Genetics, Development, and Morphology. Associate Editors shall select reviewers and solicit manuscript reviews, and shall make recommendations regarding acceptability for publication in COPEIA to the Editor.

b. Two Book Review Associate Editors shall promote the announcement and critical review of important new works in Herpetology and Ichthyology, respectively.

c. An Index Associate Editor or Editors shall be responsible for production of the annual index to COPEIA. The Index Editor(s) shall archive materials for periodic multi-year indices to be prepared as deemed necessary.

d. Associate Editors shall be elected online annually by Society members after the Annual Business Meeting and shall serve on the Board of Governors throughout their terms; all Associate Editors shall be members of the Society.

e. The Associate Editors shall meet with the Editor as the Publications Policy Committee at each Annual Meeting.

f. Associate Editors shall have their annual dues to the Society and their registration for the Annual Meeting reimbursed by the Society.

Article VI: Editorial Board

An Editorial Board representing the five divisional disciplines of COPEIA, shall be nominated annually by the Associate Editors for service in that disciplinary area, and appointed by the President in consultation with the Editor.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1. The Chair of the Local Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the chairs of the Meetings Management and Planning Committee, if possible, at least six months before the time of the meeting.

Section 2. The Chair of the Local Committee will work with the chair of the Meetings Management and Planning Committee, as well as hired conference planners, to make all local arrangements including the arrangements for printing the program, if necessary.

Article VIII. Committees

Section 1. Committees of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists are categorized as Standing Committees, Continuing Committees, Recurring Committees and Special Purpose Committees. These Committees and their functions are described in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Article IX: Nominating Committee

Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members; three in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected, and two in the alternate discipline. Five ASIH members in good standing shall comprise the Nominating Committee and serve meeting-to-meeting: (a) One of the two members of the outgoing Nominating Committee who is in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected. This person shall be elected and serve as chair of the new committee. (b) The immediate Past-President of the Society. This position shall be filled automatically. (c) One person in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected, chosen from at least two persons nominated by the Board of Governors. (d) Two persons in the alternate discipline chosen from at least four persons nominated.

Section 2. If only one of the two persons from the outgoing Nominating Committee is available for election as chair of the new committee, this person shall receive the chairship automatically. If neither person from the outgoing Nominating Committee is available for election as chair, the Past-President shall assume the chairship and the President shall nominate two additional persons in the appropriate discipline. If the Board of Governors fails to nominate the number of persons listed above for positions 1(c) and 1(d), the President shall provide the balance of the nominations.

Section 3. The online election of the Nominating Committee by the Society membership shall occur within sixty (60) days of the Annual Business Meeting of the Society. All nominees, including additional nominations from the floor at the business meeting for positions 1(c) and 1(d), must provide a written agreement to serve on the committee, which would include the possibility of a second year of service as chair.

Article X: Long Range Planning and Policy Committee

Section 1. The Chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee and others. The Chair shall serve for a period of three years and may be reappointed. Six other members shall be

similarly appointed and the expiration dates of the terms of their service shall be staggered in order to provide continuity. Tenure of appointment shall be on a calendar year basis.

Section 2. The Committee shall identify desirable Society policies and activities and shall advise the Board of Governors and Membership on the best way to carry out and fund Society activities.

Section 3. The Committee is responsible for the development and updating, to reflect current practice, of the ASIH Procedures Manual, and from time to time make suggestions for improvements and best response to available technologies and opportunities.

Section 4. The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Endowment and Finance Committee. The Committee Chairs shall serve as consulting (nonvoting) members of the corresponding Committee and shall keep each Committee informed, as appropriate, of mutually relevant activities.

Article XI: Endowment and Finance Committee

Section 1. The Endowment and Finance Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee and shall consist of five members, including the Chair. To provide continuity, members of the Committee shall have staggered, five-year terms. One member should be someone with experience in investing and money management. Tenure of appointment shall be on a calendar year basis.

Section 2. The Chair-Elect of the Endowment and Finance Committee shall be appointed by the President. The Chair-Elect shall succeed the Chair, each of whom will serve two years in their respective positions. The Chair may be reappointed as Chair-Elect. The Chair and the Chair-Elect will work closely together in planning and organizing the activities of the Endowment and Finance Committee.

Section 3. The Committee shall be in charge of fundraising for the endowment.

Section 4. The Committee shall advise the Society on all matters pertaining to the General Endowment Fund and the Life Membership Fund.

Section 5. The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Treasurer and other members of the Executive Committee and shall advise officials of the Society in the management of all funds and moneys of the Society.

Section 6. The Committee shall be responsible for investment of the endowment and other Society funds. A recommendation for placement of funds with a professional money manager must be approved by the Board of Governors. The Committee shall advise the Board of Governors on managed funds and shall monitor the activities of outside professional money managers.

Section 7. The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee. The Committee Chairs shall serve as consulting (nonvoting) members of the corresponding Committee and shall keep each Committee informed, as appropriate, of mutually relevant activities.

Article XII: Funds

Section 1. Society Funds and income derived therefrom shall be used only for tax-exempt purposes.

Section 2. Funds of the Society shall be as follows:

a. The Frederick H. Stoye Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards for meritorious papers presented by student members at the Annual Meeting. The awards shall be

known as the Frederick H. Stoye Awards. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to the Annual Meeting.

b. The Tracy Storer Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards to students judged to have prepared the best posters in ichthyology and herpetology at the Annual Meeting. The awards will be known as the Tracy Storer Awards. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to the Annual Meeting.

c. The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Fund shall be invested and used to award a yearly prize based on an outstanding published body of work in systematic ichthyology by a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation who has not been a previous recipient of the award. The basis for an award decision shall be determined by a Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Fund Award Committee. The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Fund Award Committee shall consist of three ichthyologists, each serving a three-year term. Each year one member is replaced by an individual elected by the Board of Governors from nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee or nominated from the floor. The senior member of the Committee serves as its Chair.

d. The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young ichthyologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of ichthyology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by an Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Award Committee. A member of the Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Award Committee shall be appointed by the President for a three-year term of service. The senior member of the Committee serves as its Chair.

e. The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young herpetologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of herpetology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Award Committee. A member of the Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for a three year term of service. The senior member of the Committee serves as its Chair.

f. The Life Membership Fund shall consist of dues received from Life Members. The interest from this Fund shall be added to the principal. When this Fund exceeds by \$1000 or more the sum computed as adequate to pay costs of fulfilling Society obligations to Life Members, the excess shall be transferred to the General Endowment Fund. An amount equal to the annual dues of the new program Life Members shall be transferred to the Society's general operating funds annually.

g. The General Endowment Fund shall be an unrestricted fund to receive money from a variety of sources. Major and minor donations to the Society without any restrictions will be placed in the principal of this Fund. A percentage of the net asset value may be dispersed by the Board of Governors for specified activities of the Society based on recommendations of the Executive Committee.

h. The Henry S. Fitch Fund shall be invested and used to support an annual award for Excellence in Herpetology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by the Henry S. Fitch Fund Award Committee. The Henry S. Fitch Fund Award Committee shall consist of three herpetologists each serving a three-year term. Each year, the senior-most member serves as chair of the committee. After three years of service, the chair is replaced by an individual elected by the Board of Governors from a slate of nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee or

nominated from the floor. Those nominated from the floor must provide a signed, written statement of their willingness to stand for election and serve if elected. The members of the committee shall be members of the Society.

Section 3. All money, stocks, bonds, or other property offered to the Society for purposes other than application to the publication expenses or other operating expenses of the Society can be accepted only by a majority of the Board of Governors, except that the acceptance of any such funds donated for use by any duly constituted activity of the Society, including the General Endowment Fund, can be approved by the Executive Committee. Acceptance of such money, stocks, bonds, or other property by the Board of Governors shall be only with the establishment by the Board of procedures to implement its use. All proposed funds shall be accompanied by a proffered gift or proposed funding source.

Section 4. The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists may formally recognize major donors to the General Endowment Fund. Four levels of major donors are: Supporter, \$1000--2999; Sponsor, \$3000--9999; Patron, \$10,000--24,999; Benefactor, \$25,000 or higher. No benefits will be provided to donors.

Article XIII. Robert K. Johnson Award

The basis for the annual Robert K. Johnson Award for Excellence in Service shall be determined by the Robert K. Johnson Award Committee. The Robert K. Johnson Award Committee shall consist of three members each serving three years. The award is given to an ichthyologist in even years and to a herpetologist in odd years. In even years, the committee is made up of two ichthyologists and one herpetologist. In odd years, the committee is made up of two herpetologist and one ichthyologist. Each year, the senior-most member serves as chair of the committee. The chair of the committee is replaced by an election of the Board of Governors from a slate of nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee, or nominated from the floor. Those nominated from the floor must provide a signed, written statement of their willingness to stand for election and serve if elected. The members of the committee shall be members of the Society.

Article XIV. Joseph S. Nelson Award

The basis for the annual Joseph S. Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award in Ichthyology shall be determined by the Joseph S. Nelson Award Committee. The Joseph S. Nelson Award Committee shall consist of three ichthyologists each serving a three-year term. Each year, the senior-most member serves as chair of the committee. After three years of service, the chair is replaced by an individual elected by the Board of Governors from a slate of nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee or nominated from the floor. Those nominated from the floor must provide a signed, written statement of their willingness to stand for election and serve if elected. The members of the committee shall be members of the Society.

Article XV: Honorary Foreign Members

The number of Honorary Foreign Members shall not exceed thirty (30).

Article XVI: Society Sets of COPEIA

The official bound set of COPEIA shall be maintained in the office of the Secretary.

Article XVII: Committees

Such committees as the President shall deem necessary shall be appointed by the President or by the presiding officer at the annual meeting, unless the composition and function of committees be otherwise set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws or in motions passed by the Board of Governors or by the membership at large at the annual meeting. Unless otherwise specified, committees shall serve for a calendar year and shall normally be appointed by the President during or following the previous annual meeting.

Article XVIII: Procedures

The procedures and policies used to govern the Society are detailed in the Policies and Procedures Manual posted on the ASIH website. Procedures and other items, not specified in that Manual, the Constitution or Bylaws of this Society, or by action at the annual meeting shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.