



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES SECTION

STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY ■ STRENGTH THROUGH DIVERSITY

AFS EOS Travel Awards Committee
IDNR Div of Fish & Wildlife
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Indianapolis, IN 46204
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January 1, 2009

RE: Request for contributions to EOS Student Travel Fund for the 2009 AFS Annual Meeting

Dear Fisheries Leader:

We are grateful to the AFS units and fisheries organizations that continue to support the student travel fund administered by the Equal Opportunities Section (EOS) of the American Fisheries Society. Your contributions help us achieve the goals of the AFS Strategic Plan to "create a climate in which diversity is welcomed, acknowledged and appreciated."

Through all of our efforts, the Society is gradually becoming more diverse. Nearly a quarter of AFS members are now women, as indicated by the 2008 Membership Survey—a dramatic increase from only 5% as recently as 1982. We've come a long way from the 13 women who were AFS members in 1964. We still have some distance to go to reflect the broad range of perspectives and skills needed to address complex fisheries issues, but these trends are clearly improving!

With your help, we have distributed \$25,000 over the past seven years to assist 49 students from 34 institutions in 6 countries. As an example of student response to receiving an award, Caitlin O'Brien, a B.A. student at Oberlin College, Ohio, wrote the following:

I was thrilled to hear that I have been selected as one of the recipients of the 2008 EOS award! Before I wasn't sure I'd be able to attend, but now I will definitely be able to experience my first professional conference. I am very excited! Thanks for your help!

Your contribution for student travel to the 2009 AFS Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, will enable us to continue ensuring that more **minority and female students will be able to participate** in annual conferences and develop professionally through associations with AFS. Checks may be written to the "Equal Opportunities Section" designated for the *EOS Travel Award Fund*. Units have typically sent \$100 to \$500, although any amount would be greatly appreciated.

Contributions may be sent to:

Julie Claussen
AFS-EOS Treasurer
IL Natural History Survey
1816 S. Oak St.
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 244-5113
juliec@uiuc.edu



If you are aware of students from underrepresented groups who need funds for travel to the 2009 Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN, please have them visit the EOS website or contact me by May 15, 2009.

Tennessee is within driving distance of a large part of the US population. Therefore, we anticipate that a record number of students may apply for funding. Out of 25 applicants for the San Francisco meeting, we provided \$500 travel awards to 11 students, including three students from Mexico. Next year, we hope to exceed that number.

The luncheons that we have co-sponsored over the past few years with the International Fisheries Section or Fish History Section have been consistently attended by over 60 guests. The presentations have been well-received, encouraging AFS to continue supporting programs that give young people from diverse backgrounds an opportunity to explore their interests in fisheries as a profession (*photo top right* of Dr. Larry Alade, past recipient of the travel award and current EOS President).

We anticipate hosting a similar luncheon and an interactive symposium on “Diversity in the Fisheries Professions” in Nashville. There is no fee for students at the luncheon, due to generous contributions by mentors in the Society. However, all participants must **RSVP by August 1** to facilitate space and menu planning. We hope to see you there!

The list of 2008 student recipients and AFS unit contributors is appended below and posted to the AFS website, along with the 2009 travel award application at: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/eos/>. Please take a moment to read comments from past year’s recipients in our Winter Newsletter, note their enthusiasm and help us encourage more students this year. We also invite you to join the social network on our new *Facebook* page.

Thank you for providing leadership in the promotion of professional and social diversity in the fisheries disciplines. If you have any questions or suggestions about how the EOS may more effectively promote diversity throughout AFS units and events, please contact the current section president, Dr. Larry Alade at email larry.alade@noaa.gov.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

[distributed by electronic mail to save resources]

Gwen White, Ph.D.
EOS Travel Awards Chair

Cc: Larry Alade, President, Equal Opportunities Section

EOS Congratulates 2008 Travel Award Recipients

Out of 13 applicants, we were able to provide awards to 8 students this past year, focusing primarily on students who have been involved in leadership positions in AFS subunits or sections and who are presenting a paper or poster at the meeting.

2008 EOS Travel Award recipients

Julie Harris, North Carolina State University (PhD)

Beth Holbrook, University of Minnesota-Duluth (PhD)

Kristen Homel, Montana State University (PhD)

Heidi Lewis, Southern Illinois University (PhD)

Caitlin O'Brien, Oberlin College, Ohio (BA)

Ashlee Paver, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (MS)

Kristen Pitts, Kansas State University (MS)

Elizabeth Romero Hernandez, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Mexico (MS)

Sara Seidel, Utah State University (MS)

Total (2001-2008):

\$25,000 over 8 years to assist 49 students from 34 institutions in 6 countries!

EOS Grateful to 2009 and 2008 Travel Award Contributors

The EOS Travel Award is entirely dependent on annual solicitations for funds from units across the American Fisheries Society and to external organizations. We are very grateful to two divisions, four sections, and four chapters for their contributions.

It's not too late for additional contributions. Annual line items in unit budgets are especially appreciated! Please contact Gwen White (gwhite@dnr.in.gov) with contributions or leads.

2009 EOS Travel Award Contributors (to date)

Annual line item:

Fisheries Management Section (\$500)

North Central Division (\$500)

Indiana Chapter (\$100)

Additional contributions:

Tidewater Chapter (\$300)

Ontario Chapter (\$250)

University of Maryland Eastern Shore Student Subunit (\$100)

2008 EOS Travel Award Contributors

Education Section (\$1,000)

Fisheries Management Section (\$500)

North Central Division (\$500)

Southern Division (\$500)

Alaska Chapter (\$300)

Ontario Chapter (\$250)

Fish Health Section (\$250)

Michigan Chapter (\$250)

Estuaries Section (\$175)

Arizona-New Mexico Chapter (\$100)

Indiana Chapter (\$100)