

Honors and Awards Committee Report
Lynn Welton, Mahri Leonard-Fleckman, co-chairs
November 14, 2025

The following year will mark significant change for the Honors and Awards Committee. Lynn Welton will be completing her second year as committee chair at the end of 2025, and Mahri Leonard-Fleckman will also be stepping down from her role as co-chair. The committee has nominated Rocco Palermo and Susan Ackerman as co-chairs (pending committee/nominations committee/CCC/board approval), with the plan to have Susan act as co-chair during what would have been the final year of Mahri's chairship. A more permanent co-chair will be identified during 2026. Both Rocco and Susan have served one term on the Honors and Awards Committee, and therefore they are both familiar with its practices.

The Honors and Awards committee thanks Bob Mullins and Pinar Durgun, who are completing their second terms on the committee at the end of 2025. JP Dessel is completing his first term on the committee, and will be asked to stay for a second term. Thus, the committee will be looking for four new members for 2026 (to replace Bob and Pinar, as well as Susan and Rocco, as they step in chairship roles).

In 2025, the committee received a total of 14 nominations across all of its service awards. For consideration for its book awards in 2025, the committee received 16 nominations for the Frank Moore Cross Award. We also received 13 nominations for the G. Ernest Wright Award, and 8 nominations for the Nancy Lapp Popular Book Award. 24 posters were considered for the Joy Ungerleider poster award. The committee also considered 8 candidates for the new Student Paper Award.

The list of 2025 awardees will be made available after the Members' Meeting on Friday, November 21. The 2024 awards recipients are listed below.

DEI Actions

One of the primary challenges that the Honors and Awards Committee consistently experiences with regard to DEI is in encouraging greater numbers of nominations. Award winners can obviously only be selected if they are nominated for awards, but nominations from within ASOR's membership are generally very low. For service awards, many nominations come from within ASOR's leadership, and for book awards, most nominations come from publishers rather than ASOR members. This has been a longstanding issue, but particularly affects the diversity of award recipients because there are biases in the groups that tend to nominate themselves and/or their colleagues for awards. Marginalized and under-represented groups are less likely to consider nominating themselves or others. Many members of ASOR likely have never even considered nominating someone for an award, and we need to find ways of decreasing this sense of inertia and encouraging a wider pool from within the broader ASOR membership to nominate their peers.

One piece of feedback that has been received by the Honors and Awards Committee has to do with the perceived difficulty of preparing nominations for awards during a busy time of the year, and/or the difficulty of compiling the relevant information about individuals' service, either within or outside of ASOR, to submit such a nomination. As such, the committee has been experimenting with the creation of a Nominations Sub-Committee, whose role will be to help solicit and prepare nominations for various awards, with the aim of lowering the barrier to nominating individuals for awards and increasing nomination numbers. The Honors and Awards Committee is continuing to discuss how to improve and further develop this Nominations Sub-Committee to achieve the goals outlined above.

Honors and Awards Committee Membership

Lynn Welton, Co-Chair (until December 31, 2025)

Mahri Leonard-Fleckman (until December 31, 2026) – stepping down December 31, 2025

Cross Sub-Committee:

Ra'anan Boustan (Class of 2026, 2nd term) (Student Paper Sub-Committee)

Jessie DeGrado (Class of 2026, 2nd term) (Joy Ungerleider Poster Sub-Committee)

Susan Ackerman (Class of 2025, 1st term) (Nominations Sub-Committee)

Julian Chike, (Class of 2026, 1st term) (Student Paper Sub-Committee)

Wright Sub-Committee:

Bob Mullins (Class of 2025, 2nd term) (Student Paper Sub-Committee)

Pinar Durgun (Class of 2025, 2nd term) (Joy Ungerleider Poster Sub-Committee)

JP Dessel (Class of 2025, 1st term) (Student Paper Sub-Committee)

Rocco Palermo (Class of 2026, 1st term) (Joy Ungerleider Poster Sub-Committee)

2023 Awardees

Service Awards:

Richard J. Scheuer Medal: *Carolyn Midkiff Strange and James F. Strange*

Charles U. Harris Service Award: *Ann-Marie Knoblauch*

ASOR Membership Service Award: *Kevin McGeough*

ASOR Membership Service Award: *Jane DeRose Evans*

ASOR Membership Service Award: *Tiffany Earley-Spadoni*

P. E. MacAllister Field Archaeology Award: *Sturt W. Manning*

Community Engagement and Public Outreach Award: *Matthew D. Howland, Brady Liss, Ian W.N. Jones, Anthony Tamberino, Mohammad Najjar, and Thomas E. Levy, [ELRAP Jordan](#)*

Sketchfab Team

W.F. Albright Service Award (AIAR): *Nadia Bandak and Hisham M'Farreh*

W.F. Albright Service Award (ACOR): *Photoulla Christodoulou*

Book Awards:

Frank Moore Cross Award: *Karen Radner, Nadine Moeller, and D.T. Potts, The Oxford History of the Ancient Near East (Oxford University Press)*

G. Ernest Wright Award: *Glenn M. Schwartz, Animals, Ancestors, and Ritual in Early Bronze Age Syria: An Elite Mortuary Complex from Umm el-Marra (Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press)*

Nancy Lapp Popular Book Award: *Eckart Frahm, Assyria: The Rise and Fall of the World's First Empire (Basic Books)*

Other Awards:

Joy Ungerleider Poster Award: *Helen C. Wong and Erin M. Brantmayer, "The Boundaries of Death: Outlining Mortuary Landscapes at Jebel Khalid."*

Student Paper Award: *Nicole Constantine, "Materializing Ptolemaic Power: Ruler Cult and Festival in the Hellenistic Mediterranean"*