

WRSA Bursary Award Winners 2014-15

This year the WRSA Committee approved three awards totalling £1300, two of these were presented on 18th November 2014 in University House. The two award winners who were present are shown below with two of the Bursary Committee.



L to R: Professor Terry Kemp, Ernest Appleby, Kyle Jackson and Patricia Rushton.

The third recipient of an award (Thomas Karikari) was not able to be present as he had accepted an invitation to attend an important event in London on promoting science development in Africa.

A brief description of each award is given below.

Kyle Jackson (3rd year PhD; Department of History). Endangered Pasts: A Proposed Gallery of Mizo Photographs at the Modern Records Centre (MRC), University of Warwick.

The bursary will enable Kyle to mount a gallery of photographs in an exhibition in the MRC for one week in Spring 2015. This exhibition will present not only the historic photographs themselves but also, most unusually, their transient character by applying speed-up procedures each night to demonstrate the temporal effects of heat and humidity.

A large number of historic photographs exist depicting the life and culture of the Mizo people from a north-eastern hill state of India. Many of the earliest ones, from the 1890's, were due to Christian missionaries, who recorded the transition from an animist culture to one overwhelmingly Christian. Later contributions came from the Mizo people themselves.

All of this material is undergoing degradation under the demanding environment of heat and humidity, and Kyle has directed a four-member pilot project in Mizoram under the British Library's Endangered Archives

Programme which digitised rare books, letters and diaries, but particularly photographs which are especially prone to chemical decomposition.

The costs of the exhibition relate to the associated materials, printing, display, and transportation. An award of £600 has been made.

Ernest Appleby (3rd year, MMorse) acting as Treasurer for Warwick UniBrass, to support Unibrass 2015 (February 14th).

Warwick UniBrass is a brass band competition, hosted at Warwick University for the first time in 2014 and now in 2015, involving 17 university brass bands from across the UK. It also involves two sets of workshops led by professionals from the 'Mighty Cory Band' and from the Coventry-based Jaguar Land Rover Band and Warwickshire Music Service. Individual sessions will be aimed at children, children and parents, and the general public. The event will be covered by local media and social media outlets. The application is to fund the costs of the necessary rehearsal space in the Arts Centre for the proposed workshops; the Awarding Sub-Committee noted the grant of £300 made last year to Unibrass had been used to very good effect. An award of £300 has been made.

Thomas Karikari (2nd year PhD; Life Sciences). Development of On-line Resources for Teaching Biology in Resource-limited Settings.

The lack of laboratory resources and modern teaching materials can be a major challenge to biology education, particularly in developing countries.



The project aims to address this situation by developing an educational website filled with 'hands-on' biology experiments that require minimal or no expensive scientific equipment to run. The target audience will be high school students and their teachers. Some content for the website has already been developed and implemented in Ghana and Tanzania. The project would establish a virtual resource centre to improve practical biology education; the components of the project would comprise:

- organising and developing resources for the website;
- designing, building and hosting the website for an initial period of two years;
- improving the website to incorporate feedback.

An initial award of £400 has been made. Consideration will be given to a submission in the 2015 competition to continue the project, depending on demonstrable progress.