

January 15, 2012

Foundation Board of Trustees  
American Association of Petroleum Geologists Foundation  
1444 S. Boulder Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74119

Dear AAPG Foundation Board of Trustees,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for being selected for the John E. Kilkenny Memorial Grant. That awards of this nature are made available by the AAPG Foundation and its donors to fund graduate student research is truly exceptional and I am honored to have been a recipient.

I am investigating infaunal metazoan communities living in modern marine microbialites in the Bahamas. Traditionally, microbialites are assumed to accrete in the absence of metazoans; the end-Proterozoic decline and Phanerozoic fluctuations in microbialite abundance and diversity are commonly attributed to the advent and diversification of grazing and bioturbating metazoans. However, the presence of diverse and thriving communities of microbialite-hosted metazoans in modern Bahamian microbialites suggests that this paradigm is in need of revision. I am in the process of characterizing the relationship between these infauna, the community of bacterial framework-builders and microbialite fabric. The award I received from AAPG has, by funding my fieldwork travels, sample collection and analysis, been of immeasurable assistance in addressing these questions.

I would like to once again thank the AAPG Foundation, and especially the AAPG Pacific Section and the generous friends and family of John E. Kilkenny whose donations make this grant possible.

Yours sincerely,



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