



Annual Report for 2007 AAA-Archaeology Division

1. STATUS, ACTIVITIES, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Membership:** We continue to be gravely concerned about the drop in membership (see 2006 annual report). As of Nov. 2006 it was 1123, a record low back to 1991. For Nov. 2007 we are further down, to 1106. Furthermore, the drop is even more precipitous for student membership than for regular members, which does not bode well for our future or for that of the AAA as a whole. At the fall Executive Committee meeting we discussed ways to increase membership. Target recruiting goals are 150-200 regular and 150-200 student members. Clearly we need to enhance the profile of the AAA among student archaeologists, for whom the SAA (and/or SHA) is the principal choice for a professional association. Archaeology graduate students are not sufficiently getting the word that AAA is important. The cost of basic AAA membership is also a major factor (our section student dues is a negligible \$10). An ad hoc subcommittee was created to investigate ways to increase the attractiveness of attending AAA meetings among students, in addition to our existing travel awards for students from under-represented populations. We also seek to increase membership in the “regular” category, especially among practicing archaeologists. We hope that the election of an archaeologist to the Practicing Seat on the AAA Executive Board, as well as a good working relationship with the new Committee on Practicing, Applied, and Public Interest Anthropology will assist us in attracting practicing archaeologists to the AAA, while maintaining a strong presence among academic archaeologists. Efforts by the AAA membership services to reach out to lapsed AD members are very much appreciated. The AD is especially heartened by the broad and “inclusive” theme for the 2008 San Francisco meeting, as it should attract more archaeologists and especially practicing archaeologists.
- **Financial Balances:** The AD enjoyed a financial balance of \$73,744.02 as of Oct. 31, 2007; the total will be lower by the end of the year because of the expenses of the fall meeting and awards. With the AnthroSource contract change to Wiley/Blackwell, we look forward to ceasing the deficit spending for our publication of the last several years. We remain concerned about some of the costs with the new contract, given that financial details (especially the cost for page overruns) have been minimal. Total annual publication expenses for the *Archeological Papers of the AAA* stood at \$19,746 (as of Oct. 31), of which \$12,686 (64%) was offset by section dues and only \$7060 by actual revenue. These numbers are under-budget for 2007, and we are hopeful that 2008 will be even better in terms of our budget. We are currently reluctant to lower our section dues from \$45 back to the pre-AnthroSource \$35 until we can gauge the impacts of anticipated AnthroSource revenues and reduced costs, and the change to an income-based dues structure, as well as our efforts to reverse membership decline.
- **AAA Meeting Highlights:** The 2007 program included 18 invited and volunteered sessions and 123 individually volunteered papers and posters reviewed by the AD Program Editor (all papers/posters submitted were accepted). There were two AD-sponsored invited sessions: “Rules of Engagement: Social Justice and the Practice of Archaeology” organized by David Kojan and Burcu Tung, and “The Challenges of Decolonizing Archaeological Practice” organized by Patricia McAnany and Shoshanna Parks. At the AD’s invitation Traci Arden organized a symposium co-sponsored by the Society for Humanistic Anthropology that was designated a

Presidential session, entitled “Critiquing *Apocalypso*: An Anthropological Response to the Perpetuation of Inequality in Popular Media.” Also encouraged by the AD, Minette Church and Bonnie Clark organized a two-part Presidential Session (papers and forum) entitled “Collateral Damage: Military Policy, Local Communities, and the Costs of Freedom.” AD RPA liaison David Anderson and AD President Susan Gillespie organized a forum bringing together speakers from RPA and the AAA Committee on Practicing, Applied, and Public Interest Anthropology (the old PAWG) entitled “What Should the AAA Be Doing to Support Professional Archaeologists Employed Outside of Academia?” Finally, the well-attended 2007 AD Distinguished Lecture in Archaeology was presented by Philip L. Kohl, entitled “Shared Social Fields: Evolutionary Convergence in Prehistory and Contemporary Practice.”

In addition to these contributions to the scientific program, the AD Executive Committee held its regular four-hour fall meeting and the one-hour Business Meeting open to all members on Friday of the AAA meeting. At the Business Meeting the following out-going officers were acknowledged: Teresita Majewski (Member at-Large), David Anderson (Treasurer), Tom Rocek (Publications Director), Susan Gillespie (President), and Charles Cobb (Nominations Committee Member).

- **Awards:** At the Annual Business Meeting the following awards were presented:

The \$1000 Gordon R. Willey Award to Christopher Fisher for his 2005 article in *AA*, “Demographic and Landscape Change in the Lake Pátzcuaro Basin, Mexico: Abandoning the Garden.” The Willey recipient is chosen by the AD Executive Committee from among archaeological articles appearing in the previous three years of the *AA*. The prize subcommittee was chaired by President-Elect Janet Levy.

The \$500 Student Diversity Travel Grants were established in 2003 (for 2004) in direct response to a request by the AAA Long Range Planning Committee to increase diversity in the discipline. Eligible applicants are drawn from historically under-represented minorities, and this was the first year that students with disabilities were included. Applications from three eligible students were received and awarded in 2007, all of whom gave papers at the meeting: Deanna Dartt-Newton, Kelly Peterson, and Kerry Thompson.

In addition to the above, the AD annually sponsors a session at the SAA meeting. For the 2007 SAA meeting in Austin, TX, the following symposium was sponsored “Residential Burial: A Multi-Regional Exploration” (Ron Adams and Joyce White, organizers). As noted below, papers from this symposium were proposed for a volume of the *Archeological Papers of the AAA*; the prospectus was approved by the AD Executive Committee at its Friday morning meeting.

Incoming President Janet Levy also selected a chair for the 2008 Alfred Vincent Kidder Award committee. This secret committee will receive nominations for the award and present their choice to the AD Executive Committee at its spring meeting. The winner’s name will then be forwarded to the AAA Awards Committee.

At its fall meeting the AD Executive Committee voted unanimously to name the Distinguished Lecture for Patty Jo Watson, to honor this outstanding archaeologist’s decades of contributions to archaeological theory and practice. The name will be announced publicly in spring 2008.

- **Endowments:**

In its second full year, the Gordon R. Willey Endowment Fund reached \$14,445.06 by Sep. 30, 2007 and will approach \$15,000 by the end of the year with anticipated gifts and transfers of unused travel money. The endowment cannot be tapped for the award until the amount is close to \$30,000. The fund is currently earning only about 3% interest, and we have asked the AAA EB to reconsider this paltry amount in order for the fund to reach its target amount sooner. Elaine Lynch provides a list of donors to the AD President on a quarterly basis so that we can send our own thank-you letters and acknowledge them (with permission) on our website.

There is the possibility of eventually establishing a second endowment whose purpose would be to fund the annual Distinguished Lecture honorarium and travel expenses for the awardee.

- **Publications:** In 2007 AP3A (now a serial) published one volume (#17), put one volume into production (#18), accepted a revised prospectus for #19 in the spring, and at the fall meeting approved a prospectus for #20. This is the second consecutive year that AP3A has been back on schedule (one volume per year), and we anticipate by the end of 2008 being able to request that AP3A be considered for inclusion in citation indices.

AP3A 17: Flad & Hruby, *Rethinking Production in Archaeological Contexts* (May 07)
AP3A 18: Robin & Brumfiel, *Gender, Households and Society: Unraveling the Threads of the Past and the Present* (anticipated distribution April 08)
AP3A 19: Rowan, *Beyond Belief: The Archaeology of Religion and Ritual* (2009)
AP3A 20: Adams & King, *Residential Burial: A Multi-regional Exploration* (2010)

The revised MOU with Wiley/Blackwell was signed by Publications Director Costin, Treasurer Widmer, and President Levy shortly after the annual meeting. With this new contract, we would like to pursue reprinting popular out-of-print issues and creating “virtual readers” composed of articles drawn from the AP3A. Down the road we hope to consider other options, such as alternative formats for online media.

We have also suggested that AnthroSource be aggressively marketed to contract archaeologists (as individual and institutional subscriptions), and that Wiley/Blackwell pursue the possibility of making some of the “gray” contract archaeology literature available on AnthroSource, e.g., from larger firms that have their own publication series. This would make AnthroSource more useful to archaeologists (practicing and academic) and would make AAA membership and access to AnthroSource more attractive to archaeologists.

- **Nominations:** The AD Nominations Committee presented a slate of candidates for four AD offices for the 2008 election (Secretary, Member at-Large, Student Member at-Large, AD Nominations Committee Chair). The Committee further submitted nomination materials for 11 persons to AAA offices: 2 for the EB Archaeology Seat, 2 for Long Range Planning (undesignated and Minority Seat), 2 for COSWA (undesignated and Student seat), and 1 each for Nominations, Public Policy, Human Rights, Minority Issues, and Ethics (Archaeology Seat) Committees. Given our several years of expending enormous effort and some cost in nominating candidates for AAA positions, we believe we have discovered ways to ensure better communication between the AAA, nominees, and nominating sections. AD Nominations Chair Robert Paynter will separately provide a list of recommendations to that effect. In addition, the AD Executive Committee voted at its fall meeting to recommend a change in the AD By-laws to add a Nominations Chair-Elect position to the Executive Committee. The job has become so complicated that a one-year apprenticeship (as part of the 3-year term) is needed to help ensure a smooth transition. The bylaws changes will appear on the spring 08 ballot for approval by the

membership.

- **Spring Activities:** The AD Executive Committee meets each spring at the Society for American Archaeology meeting (in Austin, Texas in 2007). At this meeting we rank nominees for AD and AAA positions, choose the Willey prize winner, vote on publication prospectuses, and the officers present their reports. Members of the AD Executive Committee man the AAA booth at the Exhibit Hall under the general supervision of the Publications Director, who sets up and takes down the exhibit.
- **Internal Communications:** The AD maintains a website on the AAA server which is regularly updated. This year we formalized criteria for the Travel Diversity awards and also the AD travel reimbursement policy, and posted both sets of information on our website. For the first time we posted the AD Annual Report on our own website. We created a brochure with information about the AD for distribution at the AAA meeting; it also appears as a downloadable file on our website. Three “e-newsletters” were sent out to AD members in winter, spring and fall using the AAA email service. (The AD has no list-serve and does not wish to institute one.) Emails are also sent out to individual members and institutions as a reminder about upcoming deadlines. The AD column in the *AN* continues to be an important source of information on section activities and news items.

The AD also responds directly to requests from members. This year such actions included requests for 1) a letter from the AAA to Congressmen and Senators protesting aspects of the Dept. of Defense’s draft plan for Base Realignment and Closure at the Fort Carson and Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS), Colorado (the AD coordinated with Alan Goodman and Paul Nuti on this letter, signed by President Goodman, which was taken seriously by at least one US Representative); 2) assistance regarding reorganization of the Hearst Museum at UC-Berkeley and its presumed impact on NAGPRA commitments (we corresponded with the Museum director and determined no action was necessary); 3) a formal AAA response to Mel Gibson’s film “Apocalypto” (the AD helped put together a session described above for the 2007 annual meeting and arranged via Paul Nuti for Dr. Judith Maxwell to write a commentary in the *AN*); and 4) a formal AAA response to the December 2007 online article in Time.com promoting the sale of antiquities as an investment (Janet Levy composed a written response on behalf of the AAA in coordination with Damon Dozier).

- **Coordination with AAA Leadership, Government and Media Relations, Other Sections, and Committees**

2007 AAA initiatives to which the AD responded include: 1) support for the AAA to take a public position in favor of co-signing written testimony to Congress to ratify the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property; 2) a request for archaeology nominees for the new AAA Committee on Practicing, Applied, and Public Interest Anthropology; 3) a request for archaeology representation on an AAA ad-hoc committee to respond to the Dept. of Interior’s draft of a new Nationwide Programmatic Agreement; 4) a request for survey data on the AP3A from the AAA Committee on the Future of Electronic and Print Publishing; 5) section input into an AAA resolution on promotion and tenure in response to the Barnard College case; and 6) coordination with representatives of the AAA-EB, BAS, CMA, and other AAA members who are native American scholars to draft AAA’s response to the regulations proposed by the Dept. of Interior for the disposition of culturally unidentified human remains under NAGPRA.

In addition, AD President-Elect Janet Levy wrote the proposal to the AAA President and

Executive Board for the AAA to become a supporting institutional member of the US Committee of the Blue Shield. This proposal, which was also supported by the Council for Museum Anthropology, was adopted at the fall AAA Executive Board meeting. Levy also interacted with Jim Peacock, chair of the Commission on the Engagement of Anthropology with the US Security and Intelligence Communities regarding concern for the protection of cultural properties in this matter.

The AD took very seriously the proposals regarding governance changes made by the Commission on Governance and approved by the EB in April. We engaged in email discussions on the section leadership list-serve, and together with David Haines of SUNTA crafted a proposal on SA Representation on the AAA EB for vote at the Section Assembly (because of circumstances at the assembly, it was not voted on). Like some other sections the AD is concerned about the openness of nominations to the EB, the need to ensure fairness in voting procedures within the SA, and the related issue of proliferation of small sections (below the 250-member minimum requirement). We await the outcome of further discussion of these issues.

- **Outreach Activities:** The AD is regularly involved in activities with other professional associations and societies.

As noted above, the AD Executive Committee meets as a committee at the spring **Society for American Archaeology** meeting, and its members staff the AAA booth at the SAA meeting. (In a reciprocal arrangement, members of the AD Executive Committee are asked to set up and take down the SAA booth in the exhibition hall at AAA meetings not held in Washington.) The AD President and President-Elect also attended the Archaeology Presidents' breakfast to discuss issues with the heads of other archaeological organizations. President-Elect Janet Levy, a member of the SAA Ethics Committee, has served as a liaison with SAA on ethical issues of concern to both associations. The AD Secretary regularly sends AD news items for publication in the *SAA Archaeological Record*.

The **Society for Historical Archaeology** has taken the initiative of designating one of their members as a formal liaison with AAA-AD (Bob Paynter, who is currently our Nominations Committee Chair). There is a mutual desire for closer ties between the SHA and the AD. We are currently exploring the idea of having reciprocal sponsorship of symposia at our respective annual meetings.

The AAA is one of four sponsoring organizations of the **Register of Professional Archaeologists**, and the AD pays \$3000 of the annual \$5000 sponsoring fee (the remaining \$2000 is paid by the AAA). AAA members therefore get a price reduction on their annual RPA dues, paying \$45 instead of \$120. The AD has the responsibility (advisory to the AAA President) for choosing the individual who represents AAA interests on the RPA Board of Directors. At our fall meeting the AD nominated current representative David Anderson for a second three-term on the Board of Directors. As noted above, the AD assisted in organizing the RPA Forum at the 2007 AAA meeting.

The AD President is a member of the **Archaeology Presidents List-Serve**, maintained by the **World Archaeological Congress**, in effect representing archaeology within the AAA to other archaeological associations worldwide. Through this list-serve, the AD is asked to respond to various threats to cultural resources, in which case the AD President either acts on behalf of the division or passes on requests for coordinated action to the AAA. In 2007 the AD responded where requested, most notably sending a letter to the US Cultural Property Advisory Committee

in support of extending the US-Cyprus MOU and to add import restrictions on coins as part of that MOU. We also posted the information regarding the Colorado PCMS (see above) on this list-serve, which generated some letters from those organizations to the Dept of Defense.

- **Changes in By-laws or Governance Structure:** None this year.

2. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- **Projects:** As noted above, within the next 3-5 years the AD may be in a good position to establish another endowment, to fund the costs associated with the annual Distinguished Lecture.
- **Membership:** No single project we can undertake is likely to have a big impact on membership; instead, we are contemplating a variety of alternatives, including increasing our visibility through AnthroSource publications, adding a new student membership award, and strengthening ties with historical archaeologists in the SHA—all these options are under discussion.
- **Inclusivity:** As noted above, this was the first year in which eligibility for the Student Diversity Travel Grant included students with disabilities. We will try to gauge the effectiveness of this award in the next several years.

3. OTHER ITEMS: CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- We remain concerned about membership decline especially among students, within both the AD and the AAA. Students are our future; thus, extra efforts need to be made by the AAA as well as individual sections to ensure that we are successfully reproducing ourselves. Students tend to complain about the cost of AAA membership and also for attending the meeting. More could be done to respond to their special interests, including having a section of the AAA website and the *AN* devoted to student issues.
- We are also concerned about the uncertainties of AnthroSource costs, although we have guarded optimism regarding the projected financial relief and opportunities for innovative marketing and increased revenue with the new Wiley/Blackwell contract.
- As noted above, the AD Nominations Committee Chair (Robert Paynter) has some specific recommendations for improving the nominations process, which he will communicate separately.
- A final concern is more broadly based and has to do with the **future of archaeology** in this country. According to the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) the cultural resources industry in the United States is estimated to be made up of over 500 firms employing over 10,000 people working in a variety of fields, including archaeology (www.acra-crm.org). Many graduate anthropology departments seem to be unaware that this business sector has been steadily creating a growing need for graduate (especially MA) training in archaeology. The message that came from ACRA at the Archaeology Presidents breakfast in the spring SAA meeting is that many jobs are going unfilled or are going to under-qualified applicants, and prospects for meeting the increasing demand are dim. At the same time, a good half-dozen UK universities with MA and MS programs in archaeology now send their representatives to the SAA meeting to recruit US archaeology students. In other words, this country is starting to seriously outsource graduate education in archaeology. Given that there are almost no graduate archaeology departments in this country, for the foreseeable future only US *anthropology* graduate departments can fulfill this demand. The AAA is the *only* professional association that

can communicate this fact to anthropology departments and assist them in their efforts to promote graduate training in applied anthropology, including archaeology. (The SAA has been taking such steps to improve graduate education, but it speaks only for archaeologists, not all anthropologists.) The recognition now being given to practicing anthropologists by the AAA is a welcome first step. However, much more could be done to create a cultural shift within academia towards acceptance of the value of graduate training for non-academic careers in anthropology.

4. SECTION OFFICERS: AD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2008

President: Janet E. Levy, jelevy@.unc.edu

President-Elect: Ben A. Nelson, bnelson@asu.edu

Secretary: Rani T. Alexander, raalexan@nmsu.edu (also Contributing Editor to *AN*)

Treasurer: Randolph J. Widmer, rwidmer@uh.edu

Program Editor: Lisa Frink, lisa.frink@unlv.edu

Program Editor-Elect: Stephen W. Silliman, stephen.silliman@umb.edu

Publications Director: Cathy Lynne Costin, cathy.l.costin@csun.edu (also AD Webmaster)

Nominations Committee Chair: Robert Paynter, rpaynter@anthro.umass.edu

Member at-Large: Minette Church, mchurch@uccs.edu

Member at-Large (Practicing): Carol McDavid, mcdavid@publicarchaeology.org

Student at-Large Member: Andrew Roddick, aroddick_berkeley@yahoo.com

AAA liaison to RPA: David Anderson, dander19@utk.edu

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