

Archaeology Division 2011 Annual Report

Submitted by:

Ben Nelson (bnelson@asu.edu)

I. Section Officers

Position: President

Name: Ben A. Nelson

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Position: President-Elect

Name: Rosemary A. Joyce

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Position: Secretary

Name: E. Christian Wells

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Position: Treasurer

Name: Randolph J. Widmer

Email: rwidmer@uh.edu

Position: Publications Director

Name: Cathy Lynne Costin

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Position: Anna Agbe-Davies

Name: Program-Chair Elect

Email: agbedavi@email.unc.edu

Position: At-Large Member

Name: Stephen E. Nash

Email: Stephen.Nash@dmns.org

Position: At-Large Member

Name: Elizabeth Chilton

Email: echilton@anthro.umass.edu

Position: Student At-Large Member

Name: Carrie Todd

Email: cetodd2@email.uky.edu

Position: Nominations Committee Chair

Name: Teresita Majewski

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II. Status, Activities and Accomplishments this year

1) Provide the most recent membership numbers and list any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership:

Number of Members: 931

Factors affecting Membership:

AAA Executive Board (EB) member Susan Gillespie spoke to the Archaeology Division (AD) Executive Committee regarding the EB's concern about AD membership declines. We are very concerned, too. The AAA is the second or third professional society for many of our members, and it is more expensive than any other. Most of our members are archaeologists, whose primary affiliation may be with the Society for American Archaeology, the Society for Historical Archaeology, or the American Cultural Resources Association. The myth that the AAA is anti-scientific is also affecting membership. Finally, the number of professional archaeologists may be declining, according to data from AAA member Frank McManamon, former chief agency archaeologist in the US government. The AD is taking steps to address each of these factors affecting membership (see initiatives).

2) * Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets, if applicable). Also list any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances:

Financial Balance: 101,594.64

Publications: (if applicable)

\$5,682.57

Factors affecting Finances:

Despite the apparent decline in membership, the fund balance has remained stable because of revenues from publications.

3) * List the titles of your Section's AAA meeting invited sessions, co-sponsored sessions, and any special events your Section sponsored or in which it participated. Check with your program chairs if needed: When providing session information please note if these are invited, volunteered or co-sponsored.

Session Type: Volunteered

Session: Examining Traces of Human Mobility across Spatiotemporal Scales, organized by Julia I. Giblin

Session Type: Volunteered, Co-Sponsored with Association for Africanist Anthropology

Session: Tracing Cultures and Creating Memory in Africa and the African Diaspora, organized by Bennetta Jules-Rosette and Erica L. Fontana

Session Type: Volunteered

Session: Legacies, Shifting Realities, and (Re)Inventing Roles for Women in Archaeology, organized by Sarah L. Surface-Evans

Session Type: Volunteered

Session: Preserving Traces, Revealing Tidemarks, Exploring Legacies: The Persistent Difference(s) of Shell Midden Archaeology, organized by Michelle A. Lelievre

Other Events:

- 1) Archaeology Division Business Meeting, Awards Ceremony, and Reception
- 2) Archaeology Division Annual Patty Jo Watson Distinguished Lecture: Dr. Barbara J. Mills, "More than Metaphor: Social Networks in Archaeology"

4) * Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?

Requested Grant: No

If granted, who/what was it/they used for? (if applicable)

5) List spring meeting activities (if applicable):

- 1) AD-Sponsored session at the Society for American Archaeology in Sacramento: "Surplus: The Politics of Production and the Strategies of Everyday Life," organized by Christopher Morehart and Kristin de Lucia
- 2) AD Executive Committee meeting at the Society for American in Sacramento, CA, April 1, 2011

6) List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section, if applicable (please provide the title of the award, date presented, and full name, affiliation, and title of the project/paper/accomplishment of the awardees):

Award Title: AD Distinguished Lecture

Date: 2011-11-19 00:00:00.0

Recipient: Barbara L. Mills

Affiliation: U. of Arizona

Project/Paper/etc: "More than Metaphor: Social Networks in Archaeology"

Award Title: AD Gordon R. Willey Prize (for best archaeology article in American Anthropologist)

Date: 2011-11-19 00:00:00.0

Recipient: April M. Beisaw

Affiliation: Heidelberg University (USA)

Project/Paper/etc: Memory, Identity, and NAGPRA in the Northeastern United States." American Anthropologist 112(2):244-

Award Title: AD Field School Award (jointly with the Register of Professional Archaeologists)

Date: 2011-06-15 00:00:00.0

Recipient: Michael McDonald and Annette Sharp

Affiliation: Florida Coast University and the Tribal Historic Preservation of the Seminole Indian Tribe

Project/Paper/etc: Swamp Safari Tree Island Project

Award Title:

Date:

Recipient:

Affiliation:

Project/Paper/etc:

7) * Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following (e.g., special activities, funding, awards, guidance/advising on professional matters, etc.):

Undergraduate and/or graduate students

Our main efforts are through the Student Diversity Travel Awards and the Student Membership awards, which encourage both graduate and undergraduate students to attend the meetings and present papers. Owing to communication problems, no awards were made in either category this year, but both programs were successful in 2010.

Early career scholars:

Cathy Costin, editor of the Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association, has made a sustained effort to work with the young scholars who submit volume proposals and articles for inclusion in that series. This mentorship effort has been mutually productive in that the early career scholars gain publication experience and the AAA gains the opportunity to publish their cutting-edge research. We regard these publications as one of the signal accomplishments of the Archaeology Division.

Independent scholars:

None.

8) Additional outreach efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to other sections, interest groups, and scholarly societies, government agencies, public education/community engagement, and underrepresented minorities:

1) The AD recommended to the EB that the AAA become a member of the U.S. National Committee of the Blue Shield, a heritage-preservation organization that protects monuments and symbols of ethnic identity in zones of conflict. The recommendation was made too late to be acted upon by the EB in Montreal; action is pending.

2) The AD collaborated with the EB, the AAA Director of Public Affairs Damon Dozier, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation on two issues: the protection of Mt. Taylor, New Mexico, as a protected indigenous heritage site, and the acquisition of Chimney Rock, Colorado, as a possible national monument.

3) The AD collaborated with AAA Executive Director Bill Davis and the Archaeological Institute of America in a campaign to establish a National Archaeology Day in the U.S.

- 4) The AD collaborated with the International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management of the International Council on Monuments and Sites to request repeal of Hungarian Legislation that would severely limit expenditures on cultural resource management and force assessments to be conducted impracticably.
- 5) The AD collaborated with the European Society of Archaeology, the Society for American Archaeology, the American Cultural Resources Association to begin establishing a Discover Archaeology initiative in the Americas paralleling that of Europe.
- 6) The AD continued its longstanding collaboration with the Register of Professional Archaeologists to sponsor a field school scholarship. As in 2010, the project selected is one that focuses on collaboration with an indigenous community, in this case the Florida Seminole Indian Tribe (see above, Awards).
- 7) Following on the AD's 2010 participation in the Intercongress of the World Archaeological Congress and the Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield on Archaeology in Conflict, the AD consulted with Dr. Michael Müller-Karpe of the Mainz Museum of History about his successful effort to stop the selling of illegally gained antiquities on the Ebay markets of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Dr. Müller-Karpe met with the Executive Committee of the AD in Montreal to describe his strategies, to analyze the differences between US and European cultural property laws, and to plan a strike on illicit antiquities sales in the US, hopefully with the AAA as lead organization.

9) Status and use of Section internal communications such as a website, list serve, or newsletter (if applicable): Please list internal communication tools you use and what they are used for:

We use email blasts several times a year, the AAA blog, keep our web site updated, and of course maintain active email correspondence among Executive Committee members.

10) Changes in bylaws or governance structure (if applicable):

None.

III. What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: Membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?

- 1) The AD plans to continue joining hands with fellow anthropologists on issues of common interest, including heritage preservation, cultural property protection, promotion and protection of cultural identities, and indigenous archaeologies.
- 2) The AD has formally requested the establishment of a quasi-endowment entitled Patty Jo Watson Distinguished Lecture in Archaeology. This fund will provide the basis for a funding campaign to raise monies for paying honoraria and travel expenses for distinguished speakers.
- 3) The AD plans to invite a member of the A. V. Kidder family to attend the 2012 awarding of the Alfred Vincent Kidder Award for Eminence in the Field of American Archaeology (a bi-annual prize). Following this event we plan to ask if the family would create a small endowment to fund to support an honorarium and travel expenses for this award.
- 4) The AD plans to keep reminding the membership of the many benefits of AAA membership

(intellectual exchange with the wider discipline, rights to place articles in *American Anthropologist*, job placement services, high-quality meeting venues).

5) In keeping with practice established in 2010, the AD program chair plans to develop a bulletin listing all of the archaeology sessions at each AAA meeting, and we circulate that list in an email blast in the fall.

6) Following up on an initiative begun in 2011, the AD plans to place a highly visible (probably half-page) advertisement in the *SAA Archaeological Record*, the monthly bulletin of the Society for American Archaeology, listing the Distinguished Speaker and the numerous archaeology sessions for 2012.

7) The AD plans to resume making Student Membership and Student Diversity Travel awards.

IV. Please tell us what your chief concerns and issues are, especially if they are not previously noted:

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the Section Assembly Executive Committee (SAEC)? Please be specific.

None.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board? Please be specific.

We hope that the EB will act favorably on our requests to join the US National Committee of the Blue Shield and that it will agree to the establishment of the quasi-endowment entitled Patty Jo Watson Distinguished Lecture in Archaeology.

We are grateful to President Virginia Dominguez for approving our collaborations with other professional societies, and where time allowed for consultation with the AAA Executive Board, lending the AAA's name as well.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff? Please be specific.

We would like to thank Damon Dozier for his responsiveness to our requests and for coming to the Archaeology Division Executive Committee meeting to plan future action on the attrition of federal archaeology positions.

We would also like to thank Kim Baker for her prompt responses to our many concerns.