

**American Anthropological Association
YEAR Section Annual Report**

ARCHAEOLOGY DIVISION

Submitted By:

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NA

Board Members:

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Tiffany C. Cain, Student Member-at-Large, tcain@sas.upenn.edu (through Nov. 2018)

Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.

Number of Members: 552

List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.

see above response; too expensive, marginalization of archaeology

Finances:

Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).

Financial Balance: \$110,348 net assets

Publication Sponsored budgets.

The current CAFE balance is: The publication of the AD is called AP3A, which runs a healthy balance.

The 2018 report has not yet been released; but it appears that, in large part due to large payouts to Wiley, the AP3A is operating at a loss of over \$1100

List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.

decreasing members

Sessions:

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.

Session:

Invited Sessions

The AD sponsored 13 sessions for this year's meeting, which 9 less than we had last year. One of these sessions was associated with community outreach, 'Anthropologies and the Environment: Technology as Outreach in Education.' We also had an AAA Late-Breaking Roundtable, '#MeToo in Archaeology,' organized by Chelsea Fisher and Jason De León. There are 16 poster presentations in a Saturday session, 'Technology, Infrastructure, and Materiality.'

AD board members Tiffany Cain and Elizabeth Chilton organized a roundtable for students, 'Navigating Careers in Archaeology: A Mentoring Session Sponsored by the Archaeology Division for Student Members.'

We used our sponsorship credits to support two invited sessions 'Hindsight Politics: The Present and Future of the Political Past,' organized by Maxime Lamoureux St-Hilaire. There is also an archaeology AAA Executive Session, 'Mobility, Resilience and Resistance: Migration in Historical Perspective,' organized by Parker VanValkenburgh and Jason De León.

Awards:

List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.

Awards:

Awards were presented during the AD Business meeting at the AAA conference in San Jose, CA on Thursday, November 15.

While the A.V. Kidder Award is an AAA award, the AD board formed a confidential committee to select and notify 2018 awardee Dr. Patricia Crown (University of New Mexico)

Patty Jo Watson Distinguished Lecture award to Charles R. Cobb (Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida), who delivered a talk at the Business Meeting, "The Topology of Erasure—An Archaeology of Remembering Through Forgetting."

Gordon R. Willey award for outstanding paper published in American Anthropologist. Award presented to Angelo Dante for 'Histories of a Burnt House: An Archaeology of Negative Spaces and Dispossession' (2017).

Seven students received a one-year membership award for presenting a paper at the AAAs:

Annalisa Bolin (Stanford U)

Kasey Diserens Morgan (U Pennsylvania)

Chandler Fitzsimmons (College of William and Mary)

Laura Heath-Stout (Boston U)

Jade Robinson (U Nebraska)

Anne Sherfield (U Michigan)

Liam Wadsworth (U Alberta)

Two students received Student Diversity Travel Grants.

-Nicole Smith (U Michigan), "Unsilencing the Silenced: The Relationship between the Materiality and Memory of Child Migrants."

-Aja M. Lans (Syracuse U), Roundtable: Black Feminist Science

Meetings:

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

No

If granted, who/what was it/they used for?

NA

List spring meeting activities

During the spring of 2018, the AD sponsored a session at the Society for American Archaeology meetings in Washington, D.C., 'Practicing Archaeology in

the Contemporary Political Climate' organized by Claire Novotny (Kenyon College) and Franco Rossi (Boston University/Brandeis University)
Also, the AD held a 1/2-day Board meeting with excellence attendance at the SAA meeting in Washington, D.C.

Mentorship:

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.

AD board members Tiffany Cain and Elizabeth Chilton organized a roundtable for students, Navigating Careers in Archaeology: A Mentoring Session Sponsored by the Archaeology Division for Student Members.

Early career scholars.

* The AD makes an effort to bring early-career scholars into positions of leadership within the AD (positions that do not require a large time commitment but provide a sense of community).

Independent scholars.

Because one of the AD Board positions is reserved for a Practicing Archaeologist, the AD is sensitive to the needs of scholars working outside of the academy

Outreach:

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.

#MeToo in Archaeology—solicited stories from archaeologists of sexual harassment and assault

Communications:

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.

The AD President sends about 8 email blasts to AD members each year. Also, Facebook, Twitter—announcements, recruitment

The AD website is used primarily to communicate to members full information regarding the leadership structure and contact information for current Board members; awards offered; fundraising efforts; lists of publications in the AP3A series and information about submitting a manuscript; and the policies and archives of the AD

Governance:

Changes in bylaws or governance structure.

None

Initiatives:

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

AD Recruitment drive for 2019, 10% discount offered

Ask AAA:

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.

see next answer

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

Since archaeology is a major subfield, we need better integration in the AAA. AD and AAA numbers are dropping because archaeologists do not see the relevance or usefulness of joining an organization that seems to marginalize them (e.g., small rooms at AAA meetings, awkward times, etc.).

AAA should reevaluate the session submission process to make it less cumbersome and more inviting for interdisciplinary sessions and topics that do not neatly fall into section designations.

Several months ago, I took an informal poll on my personal Facebook page (Lisa J. Lucero), and posed this question: "Dear archaeology colleagues, for those of you who are not members of the AAA Archaeology Division, would you mind sharing your reasons? We are really trying to boost our numbers/presence in the AAA....I know \$\$\$ is an issue; what else, please?" Here are the points people made (I did not include them all since there was lots of people saying the same thing:

Informal FB poll via my personal account Sept. 19, 2018: HIGHLIGHTS

Dear archaeology colleagues, for those of you who are not members of the AAA Archaeology Division, would you mind sharing your reasons? We are really trying to boost our numbers/presence in the AAA....I know \$\$\$ is an issue; what else, please?

- cost for registration and membership.

- controversy over “science” in its mission, BDS support, fierce criticism of anthropologists working with troops while screaming armed forces need to be more culturally sensitive, lots of pronouncements about decolonization while doing nothing to decenter power etc.

- less useful for networking than it once was

- lack of print journals

- the hard-left political spin of the organization

- not just the amount of money but the value I feel I get for that money.

- consistently frustrated by the timing and location of archaeological talks; amount of cross scheduling is problematic

- AAA (beyond the strong leadership of the AD) needs to give the impression they actually want us there.

- Terrible timing for the conference.

- the ASOR meetings, which are central to Near Eastern Studies/Archaeology, are on the exactly the same days every year as AAA meetings.

- If AAA were fully inclusive to the subfields (other than cultural anthropology), I would return.

- I disengaged from the big associations back when I started working in the non-profit / gov't side, esp as I work in Canada. I find the AAA and SAA don't offer me enough to justify the expense.

- I get little out of it compared to PAC and SEAC regionals

- quit when they tried to revise their mandate. and the fact that archaeology seems to be treated like an afterthought. I find the SAA, CAA, and the EMC are better uses of my time and money.

- the problem is not with the division but only with the broader organization.

- Retired status, lack of funding for TWO association meetings per year; for me--poor attendance at talks is a self-fulfilling prophecy

- \$\$\$ and too big. For a second conference, the smaller ones give so much more networking and other professional bang for the buck.

- Not much benefit to students. By this I meant things that the AD is doing to enriched the students experience. The SAA for example is still expensive but they have a ton of workshops for students and that students actually goes to.

- too large; no space to network as you are being pushed around by thousands of people. And to top it off. There were only between 30-40 sessions that could be associated with archaeology. Perhaps the AD should work hard a year in advance to attract people to organize more sessions.

- years, decades of neglecting archaeology students.

- Perhaps the conference should be more open to people who walk up and just wanted to check out the conference for a day without membership
- From a different perspective, as a linguist I stopped going regularly to the AAA because the Ling sessions were increasingly marginalized and in ever smaller rooms, and the sub-group on indigenous languages finally quit to go meet elsewhere. I go to the SAA by preference because they have more sessions I'm interested in than the AAA. I will go this year, but just to see friends.
- My school has access to the journals already
- Too big, not enough science, not enough emphasis on archaeology.
- In the end - it is really all about the culture of the AAAs. You would think that a bunch of anthros would have already figured this out, but when you marginalize a group by belittling their values, downplaying their achievements, and questioning their worth then they will often go their own way.
- The critical point was sometime in the 60s (?) when meeting organization by local anthropology departments was replaced by staff organization from DC. And they aren't necessarily anthropologists...
incredibly big and for that reason it can even be a social barrier for young anthropologists.
- Truthfully it's boiled down to time. I've been teaching full time (4-4) load. That coupled with my other time commitments means I just haven't gotten around to more than renewing my AAA membership.
- Timing of the meetings near the holidays when money for travel to family out of state is already an issue. Timing in terms of covering classes at the end of the semester. As others have stated: cost of the conference, anti-science stance, cut backs in departmental funding for travel, and more networking opportunities at smaller conferences.
- It is also subculture and heritage. I bet those who attend had their mentors also attending and encouraging them. Research themes also contribute to attendance or not. When was the last paleoindian symposium held at the AAA? Not a rhetorical question, just wondering...
- I find the AAA to be more intellectually stimulating than the other conferences I attend. There is a benefit to being able to attend talks by all four fields. The money is an obstacle. The lack of attendance at archaeological symposia is also a bummer--I find that you end up talking to yourself (or a small group of people) rather than a broad audience of colleagues.
- Because I teach all of the subfield courses at a community college the archaeology at the AAA is less of interest than the other subfields. It is the best place to randomly walk into a session and walk out with great teaching material.
- The AAA fulfills every bad academic cliché, where academics-for-academics-sake is given priority over the real world and common sense (see many of the above comments). The AAA is well on their way to irrelevance, and it's their own fault. Very unfortunate.

-struck by how many anthropologists, ...managed to speak only to themselves in esoteric, pretentious ways.

-In regards to xxx assertion "the AAA is well on their way to irrelevance" goes, I would suggest that boat sailed a very long time ago (decades even). If you count yourself as an archaeologist, and you are wondering why more archaeologists are not invested in the AAA, maybe you need to reassess whether you are, in fact, an archaeologist.

-I have ties to SHA, AAA, SAA (in that order). The SHA meetings have arguably the very worst timing that anyone could possibly devise, for multiple obvious reasons - yet we persist. I collaborate with SAA and AAA members, and while I agree that AAA is not the place to have an only-archaeology session, it is the very best place to have a session that involves multiple subdisciplines.

-AAA provides infant and toddler care at conferences, and that is HUUUUUGE.

-For me it's the posturing and irrelevance. I gave up my membership when they voted "science" out of the mission statement and have been happy not to have to thumb through American Anthropologist futilely searching for something remotely interesting.

-Will going to AAA help me make a connection to get a job that I can't make at SAA? Will it help me get something published? Will I get useful feedback that can help me hone a proposed project? The answer to those questions has never been a yes for me yet and as an early career academic, my time and money must be accounted for in CV currency.

- the experience is less than welcoming. Membership in AAA is a bad investment.

-As harsh as this may sound, I feel like many (most) of my colleagues and friends embrace four-field anthropology..... I just don't feel like the AAA does.

-Also, like others, unless there was something going on / something I was invited to, I don't think the AAA's would be worth it except to bump into cultural anthro former classmates and colleagues.

-Historic archeologists actually feel more welcome at AAA than they do at SAA...I've probably given 3xs as many paper & organized more symposiums at AAA than SAA. In fact the marginalization issue expressed here about archeology at AAA is about how marginal historical archeologists feel about at SAA.

-As someone doing collaborative archaeology and heritage stuff, I often feel sidelined at the SAA - the same issues that people have commented on about small rooms, poor schedules, etc. at the AAA apply for me at the SAA. There's more of a home for reflection on archaeological practice at the AAA, I find.

-I can see the benefits of fragmentation into narrow areas and the problems with just how fucking huge AAA and even SAA are but at the same time I do worry about that fragmentation

-really encourage everyone to attend the AD reception and Patty Jo Watson talk on Thursday night of the conference. Finding that space was a turning point for

me as a grad student, and is a great networking opportunity [post by recently elected AD board member]

- In order for a change there would have to be a massive movement of archaeologists to decide "this is the year" and arrive in force to take up space. Personally, I don't see the point of making that effort, when as many have said, we have more productive conferences already, elsewhere. Are we missing out on potentially transformative new ideas and networking? Maybe. Are the other three fields missing out on our perspective? Yes, but given how large the conference is, even if archy papers were 1/4, it would still be very easy to miss them. Our colleagues have to be taught to recognize the value of our work as it is ingrained in our academic training to recognize theirs.

-The arch and bio have dedicated national conferences, whereas cultural doesn't. I think that simple fact is why they flood AAAs, and the rest of us avoid it. SAAs are huge enough as it is.

-I don't feel strongly about the AAAs one way or another - I've enjoyed going when I can afford it and don't have too many other conferences to attend - but I'll chime with this: bioarchs have been doing really really cool social bioarch at the AAAs.

-I really love attending the AAA meetings, and I find that the archaeology talks there are high quality, reflecting on the discipline itself and social dimensions of archaeology, as others have said. I have also seen some cool sessions that bring together scholars from 2-3 subdisciplines. However, I feel like it's actually a conservative conference in some ways (esp. among some of the cultural anthropologists?) and I think it's really weird that all the sessions are in English. I brought a collaborator from Mexico (cultural anthropologist), and there was not a single session in Spanish!! You can often find at least a couple SAA sessions in Spanish. I feel like this might also signal that there isn't enough focus on collaborative/participatory research (and I think archaeology is the exception). I've had good experiences attending smaller conferences sponsored by other divisions of the AAA, though.

-I currently maintain a AAA/AD membership and will do so as long as my department will pay for it. ... For years during the early 2000s, I felt more welcome at the AAA as a theoretical archaeologist. This feeling was exacerbated, ..., when some folks from our own department made some really shortsighted and hurtful comments on the SAA stage. But the wheel has turned in the past decade, and there seems to be far more space for theoretical work at the SAA. At the same time, the AAA has become a bit of a caricature of itself. About 5 years ago, when I was a struggling adjunct unable to attend any conferences, the AAA patted itself in the back by passing resolutions about the need to improve the status of adjuncts... But no one thought to make membership attendance (and access to its considerable professional resources) affordable to contingent faculty. It seemed pretty hypocritical... also, sadly, not at all surprising given the elitism that many of you seem to have felt there. I should

add, however, that I really like the AP3A and enjoyed the process when I published there last year.

-It doesn't do anything for the average Archaeology joe. The SAA needs to come to terms with it's destructive and racist past in terms of marginalizing the very people they study and helped to suppress and like the AAA doesn't really give any benefit to the average archy joe.

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

None; I think they do a great job