

30 January 2008

To: Kim Baker

From: Tom Leatherman, Awards Committee Chair

Re: 2007 AAA Awards Committee Annual Report

The business of the awards committee in 2007 centered on deciding on recipients of the McGraw Hill Teaching Award, and coordinating other AAA awards: Textor and Mead. There were no nominations for the Boas and AIME awards. The Awards Committee was comprised of Wendy Ashmore, Frederic Gleach, Barbara Rose Johnston, Kay Orzech, and Tom Leatherman. Newly appointed members for the 2008 cycle were Lisa Markowitz and Linda Zigenbein, as Barbara Rose Johnston and Kay Orzech rotated off the committee.

The Awards Committee submitted the following recommendations for AAA Awards to the AAA Executive Committee in May 2007 (all approved):

McGraw-Hill Prize for undergraduate teaching in anthropology: Awarded jointly to Kent Lightfoot and Elizabeth Chinn

We approved the recommendation of the Textor Prize committee: James Diego Vigil was the 2007 Textor Prize winner.

Leatherman served as chair of the Mead Award and Lisa Markowitz served on the committee. SfAA appointees were John Massad and Nancy Parezo. Deliberations took place in Fall 2007 and the Mead Award committee recommended to the SfAA and AAA that the Mead Award be presented to Joao Bielh for his book *Vita: Life in a Zone of Abandonment*. The recommendation was made to the AAA EB at the November Meeting and was approved.

All awardees were present and were given their awards at the AAA Awards ceremony in Washington, DC 2007.

A new sponsor of the teaching award was found to replace McGraw-Hill. Oxford University Press has agreed to sponsor the AAA Award for Teaching Excellence for at least the next three years beginning in 2008.

The problem of small pools of nominees continues. At our teleconference in spring 2007 several strategies were outlined to deal with this chronic problem. As usual, the announcements were published in the AN Newsletter, and the awards committee chair asked the section head to make an announcement encouraging sections to initiate nominations at the Section Assembly meeting at the annual AAA meeting.