

**To: AAA Executive Committee**

**Bill Davis, AAA**

**Suzanne Mattingly, AAA**

**From: Keri Brondo, COSWA Chair, 20067**

**Re: Committee on the Status of Women in Anthropology - Annual Report**

**January 24, 2008**

### **Status, Activities, Accomplishment**

The Committee on the Status of Women in Anthropology continues to be active in monitoring gender parity within anthropology. The committee is made up of seven elected members and two ex-officio members. This year the elected members of the committee met twice by phone conference and once face-to-face. During the phone meetings the committee helped plan the session and the workshop for the AAA meeting in Washington, DC, discussed the progress of the two climate surveys, and selected the Squeaky Wheel Award winner. The face-to-face meeting was held at the AAA meeting. Two separate subcommittees of COSWA have been actively working on work climate surveys. The academic climate survey sub-committee is chaired by Christina Wasson, who rotated off COSWA in 2006. The practicing climate survey sub-committee is chaired by Keri Brondo. Both subcommittees meet regularly via phone conference.

In 2007, COSWA focused on the expansion of their web-based resources, mentoring program, and the documentation of activity. The mentoring program was expanded and its mandate more fully articulated. The committee significantly expanded its website, adding web-based tools, articles and links on women in academia, sexual harassment, interviewing strategies, feminist interest groups, and other materials of interest. The committee also began logging COSWA activities online as a first step in creating an institutional history document. Finally, COSWA launched an on-line support community through Yahoo! groups.

COSWA developed and administered the practicing anthropology climate survey in 2007. The team of advisors worked on the survey design and implementation included a range of practitioners and academically-based applied anthropologists (Keri Brondo, Chair, Linda Bennett, Annie Claus, Carol Colfer, Micki Iris, Carla Guerrón-Montero, Ed Liebow, Eve Pinkser, and Christina Wasson). Kathleen Terry-Sharp and Jona Pounds at the AAA provided immeasurable support and launched the survey on our behalf through Zarcia. The survey remained open from Nov. 7 - Dec. 31, 2007. 437 individuals who self-identified as full-time practitioners responded to the survey. The analysis is in process at the University of Memphis. The committee intends to report findings and recommendations to the Executive Board at the 2008 AAA meetings.

## **COSWA Highlights at the Annual Meeting**

1. **Session** - Family and Profession: A Gendered Profession. In the session, practitioners and academics shared their personal experiences as insight into the range of possibilities available to anthropologists seeking a balance between their professional and personal well-being. The session was organized and chaired by Keri Brondo and Carla Guerron-Montero organized this session. Details of the session are available on the COSWA website.
2. **Special Event** – In the Family Gap: Children, Motherhood, and Work. This event was designed to provide a relaxed forum for women to come together, connect with one another, and share their stories. The event was organized by Tara Hefferan. Barbara Rose Johnston and Rosemary Joyce served as discussion moderators.
3. **Squeaky Wheel** - The Squeaky Wheel award was presented to Joan Gero for her work spotlighting issues of feminist concern within the current practice of archaeology.
4. **Academic Climate Survey** – The four members of the Survey sub-committee (Christina Wasson, Chair, Keri Brondo, Barbara LeMaster, Trudy Turner) met to discuss drafting the final report. Analysis is complete and the sub-committee members divided the labor for report-writing. Sub-committee members will submit their chapters to Christina Wasson by Feb.15 for final editing. The final report should be ready for publication on the COSWA website by March 2008.

## **Future Plans**

COSWA is looking forward to further expanding its visibility and working with other AAA sections. Committee members are pursuing the possibility of joint sessions with the Association of Feminist Anthropologists and the Anthropology and Environment Section. Over the next year, the committee plans to work on an institutional memory document, revise their mission statement using timeless language that is inclusive of practitioners, and to complete and publicize the results of its two climate surveys. Funding for the analysis of the practicing climate survey data would enable the committee to expedite the analysis process and dissemination of results and recommendations. All work on this survey has been completed through the volunteer efforts of subcommittee members and the University of Memphis' provision of a graduate research assistant.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed working with COSWA. Committee members are all very active and engaged.

Respectfully submitted,

Keri Brondo