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AAA unveils scholars' Web site on race and human variation

The American Anthropological Association is pleased to announce the launch of a preview site for scholars on race and human variation at raceproject.aaanet.org.

The scholars' site marks an initial step in developing a larger Web site designed to enhance public understanding of race and human variation. The public Web site will debut in January 2007 as one of the major outcomes of a public education project entitled RACE.

Spearheaded by AAA, with grants from the Ford Foundation and National Science Foundation, RACE will bring together the knowledge of anthropologists and related scientists and scholars to advance a better understanding of this complex and highly charged topic. The project will present the concept of race as a dynamic and sometimes harmful cultural construct and will examine the topic through three integrated viewpoints: the history of the idea of race, the science of human variation and the contemporary experience of living with race in the United States. The project also will include a 5,000-square-foot traveling museum exhibit, the public Web site and educational materials.

The scholars' Web site, developed in collaboration with S2N Media Inc. in New York, features some of the scholarship behind the development of the RACE project. The site includes background on the RACE project and its scope, a calendar of upcoming events, a link to the museum exhibit's promotional brochure, a link to AAA's statement on race, information about the project's advisors and many contributors, and scholarly papers about race and human variation. Materials on the scholars' site will move to the public site prior to its debut in January.

The papers, prepared as part of scholarly activities supported by the RACE project, are the cornerstone of the scholars' site. They are published online with open access to advance ongoing and future scholarship in this area of inquiry and promote public understanding. The site also grants fair use of copyrighted materials included therein; information about what is permitted under fair use is included in the site.

For more information about AAA's RACE project or the scholars' Web site, contact Peggy Overbey, principal investigator and project director, at 703-528-1902, ext. 3006, or poverbey@aaanet.org.

Founded in 1902, the American Anthropological Association is the world's largest professional organization of anthropologists and others interested in anthropology, with an average annual membership of more than 10,000. The Arlington, Va.-based association represents all specialties within anthropology — cultural anthropology, biological (or physical) anthropology, archaeology, linguistics and applied anthropology.

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