

ANTHROPOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT SECTION
Annual Report 2005
Tom Sheridan, President 2003-05

Executive Board, 2005

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

After the tumult and chaos surrounding last year's American Anthropological Association annual meeting, the Anthropology & Environment Section made up for lost time by sponsoring or co-sponsoring a series of exciting symposia, sessions, and events culminating at the AAA's 104th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. last December. The third annual Julian Steward Award for best book in ecological/environmental anthropology and the first Lourdes Arispe Award in Anthropology & Environment were announced, and the Rappaport Student Panel was a grand success. For a complete listing of A&E sessions and events at the Washington meeting, please go A&E's new website at www.eanth.org My thanks to A&E Program Chair Eric Jones for doing such a great job.

The Section also ensured that it will continue to be as active in the future as it has been in the past by raising membership from \$15 to \$20 a year. Finally, webmaster Sean Downey completely revised A&E's website to make it more attractive and user-friendly. We urge you to visit it at www.eanth.org

1) Membership

A&E membership was 514 in January 2005 and dropped to 484 by November 30, 2005. During the year it fluctuated from a high of 516 on April 30 to a low of 481 on October 31. These fluctuations may reflect: 1) dissatisfaction with the AAA and the controversy over the 2004 Annual Meeting; 2) A&E's increase in membership dues; or 3) the vagaries of membership in the Section unrelated to any specific issue. Similar fluctuations have characterized A&E membership in past years; in 2004, for example, membership ranged from a low of 482 on January 31 to a high of 542 on September 30.

2) Finances

A&E fund balance on 1/1/05	\$15,151.15
A&E fund balance on 11/30/05	18,218.17

On January 25, 2006, Suzanne Mattingly provided an update on expenditures for the following categories:

Travel & Related Expenses (\$2,000)	
Sheridan (President: Atlanta 04 Meeting)	\$ 600.00
Sheridan (President: D.C. 05 Meeting)	607.70
Stepp (Treasurer: D.C. Meeting)	250.00
Jones (Program Chair: D.C. Meeting)	250.00
Henne (Student Rep: D.C. Meeting)	500.00
Awards & Honors	
Nadasdy (Julian Steward Award, 2004)	500.00
McCabe (Julian Steward Award, 2005)	250.00
Gil (Rappaport Award Travel)	100.00
Amand (Rappaport Travel)	100.00
Peterson (Rappaport Travel)	100.00
Hathaway (Rappaport Travel/Prize)	350.00
Checker (Junior Scholar, 2004)	250.00
Hayden (Junior Scholar, 2004)	250.00
Lourdes Arizpe Award	
Sekaquaptewa (medal design)	250.00
Stadium Trophy	80.56
Puntenney Expenses	55.85
Note: The Junior Scholar Award (\$250) was not awarded in 2005. One Rappaport Panel finalist did not attend AAA Meeting (\$100)	
Contributions (\$500)	
AAA Minority Fellowship	\$500
Development & Promotion (\$5,000)	
Saving Wide Open Spaces Conference (\$1,500)	\$1,000
Public Policy Forum (\$1,000)	1,000
Note: \$3,000 will NOT be expended from this category from the \$5,000 budgeted and will carry over into 2006.	
Web Site (\$2,000)	
Downey	2,000.00

Because Section monthly financial reports are not released to Section presidents until about a month later, we don't know what A&E's fund balance on December 31, 2005 was yet. Nonetheless, it is clear from the above expenses that A&E spent several thousand dollars **less** than estimated in the 2005 A&E budget.

CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIA/WORKSHOPS/FORUMS

Both the Conservation and Community and Environmental Justice Working Groups of A&E organized events in 2005.

A&E co-sponsored an invited conference entitled *Saving the Wide Open Spaces: How to Conserve Biodiversity and Sustainable Ranching, Forestry, and Farming in the American West*, organized by Tom Sheridan. This conference brought global themes addressed by A&E's Conservation and Community Working Group in previous symposia and workshops – how efforts to protect habitat and conserve biodiversity affect local populations around the world -- home to the American West. Held at the White Stallion Ranch just north of Tucson, Arizona, in May, the conference brought more than thirty anthropologists, conservation biologists, ranchers, and grassroots organizers together for three days of intensive discussions. Participants came from all over the West, and included MacArthur Fellows Gary Nabhan, director of the Center for Sustainable Environments at Northern Arizona University, and Bill McDonald, one of the founders of the Malpai Borderlands Group. Other co-sponsors were the Southwest Center of the University of Arizona (host), NAU's Center for Sustainable Environments, New Mexico State University, the Desert Southwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit of the National Park Service, the Northwest Research Station of the USDA Forest Service, the Arizona Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and the Quivira Coalition (see the A&E webpage for more details).

Participants continue to exchange information and ideas; several were invited to give talks at the Quivira Coalition's annual conference in Albuquerque in early January, which now attracts about 500 ranchers, environmentalists, scientists, and grassroots activists each year. And at least two initiatives have emerged from the conference. One is the preparation of an edited volume, not a conference proceedings, which is being coordinated by Dr. Vernita Ediger of Stanford University's Department of Anthropological Sciences. The other is a research and extension project directed by Dr. Barron Orr of the University of Arizona's Office of Arid Lands Studies. It is called *Arizona's Open Spaces and the New Exurban Clientele*. Ranchers at the conference were amused by how many anthropologists were conducting research on them, reminding many of us of the old joke that the typical Navajo family consisted of a husband, wife, children, and anthropologist. But an equally pressing research priority was the tidal wave of new immigration to the rural West---the exurbanites moving onto former ranch lands after they had been subdivided. Barron is expanding research started by Tom Sheridan and Chuck Hutchinson, the Director of Arid Lands Studies, in the Sonoita Valley of southeastern Arizona, and giving it an applied focus by coordinating it with Agricultural Extension at the UA, Arizona's land grant college. A workshop on January 20, 2006, at the University of Arizona attracted more than eighty participants.

Meanwhile, at the AAA meeting in December, Melissa Checker and the Environmental Justice Working Group held a Public Policy Forum entitled *The Second Bush Administration and Environmental Justice*, which brought together anthropologists and activists Barbara Allen (VA Tech), whose book, *Uneasy Alchemy: Citizens and Experts in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor Disputes* (MIT Press, 2003) was co-runner-up for the Second Annual Julian Steward Award in 2004; Charles Lee (Office of Environmental Justice); and Connie Tucker (NEH Environmental Justice Advisory

Council. The forum was stimulating, provocative, and like the Saving the Wide Open Spaces conference, brought issues anthropologists usually address in Latin America, Asia, or Africa back to our own backyard.

Although it was not an A&E-sponsored event, Tom Sheridan and Paige West participated in the Indaba (Workshop) on Social Science Research in Protected Areas, held at Kruger National Park in South Africa in April 2005. Their participation was a result of Dr. Conrad Steenkamp's involvement in the A&E Conservation and Community Working Group.

GRANTS/AWARDS

Julian Steward Award

The third annual Julian Steward Award for best book on ecological/environmental anthropology published in 2004 (\$250) went to:

- J. Terrence McCabe, *Cattle Bring Us to Our Enemies: Turkana Ecology, Politics, and Raiding in a Disequilibrium System* (University of Michigan Press).
- First runner-up was María Luz Cruz-Torres for *Lives of Dust and Water: An Anthropology of Change and Resistance in Northwestern Mexico* (University of Arizona Press).
- Second runner-up was Kenneth Michael Bauer for *High Frontiers: Himalayan Pastoralists in a Changing World* (Columbia University Press).

Junior Scholar Award

No Junior Scholar Award was granted this year. The award will resume in 2006 and will cover articles by junior scholars published in both 2004 and 2005.

Roy Rappaport Prize for Best Student Paper

The second year of A&E's new format for the Rappaport Award began last spring, when 26 students submitted abstracts. A panel of judges – Pete Brosius, Jill Constantino (winner of the Rappaport Prize in 2004), Melissa Johnson, and Kelly Alley – selected five finalists, who turned those abstracts into papers that were presented in an A&E session entitled **New Directions in Anthropology & Environment: 2005**

Rappaport Student Panel, held on Saturday, December 3, at the AAAs. The finalists were:

- Michael Hathaway (U of Michigan) "Conservation as Development: Transnational Projects in Southwest China" (**Winner**)
- Vladimir R. Gil (Columbia) "Strategies in Local Contamination Conflicts with a Transnational Mining Corporation in Peru: The Antamina Case, 1996-2003"
- María A. Pérez "Property and Nationalism Disputes Over a Cave in Venezuela's Roraima Plateau"
- Nicole Dyan Peterson (Columbia) "Creating Loreto Bay National Park: Institutional Constraints on Natural Resource Management"
- Nikhil Anand "Net-Working the State: Processing India's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan"

Judges who read the completed papers – Melissa Johnson, Becky Zarger, and Barbara Rose Johnson -- awarded the \$250 Rappaport Prize to Michael Hathaway. My thanks to Wendy Weisman, who made the new format work in 2004, and Adam Henne, who took over after Wendy left to carry out her dissertation fieldwork in Baja California and did such a terrific job in 2005.

Lourdes Arizpe Award in Anthropology and Environment

The presentation of the first biennial Lourdes Arispe Award, originally scheduled for the 2004 AAA Annual Meeting, was held at this year's meeting instead. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Dr. Pamela Puntenney, former member of the A&E Board, the reception was a moving and magnificent success. The Lourdes Arizpe Award Committee consisting of Shirley Fiske, Michael Orbach, Carla Guerron-Montero, and Pam selected co winners, **Drs. J. Peter Brosius of the University of Georgia and George M. Guilmet**, both of whom were present. They received beautiful silver medallions created by Emory Sekaquaptewa of the Bureau of Applied Anthropology (BARA) at the University of Arizona and a Hopi tribal judge. The committee established an endowment to fund the award; it is called the Lourdes Arizpe Fund and will be administered through the AAA. It also raised \$2,950 for the award itself. The reception's six co-sponsors were: the University of Michigan's Department of Anthropology; Professor Steven Brechin; the Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology of the University of Arizona; the Tropical Resources Institute of the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies; and an anonymous donation.

In addition to honoring academic and practicing anthropologists or groups who have made significant contributions to anthropology and the environment, the committee proposed that a student category be added to the award.

NEW SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM FOR A&E MEMBERS

In the past, A&E has budgeted \$3-4,000 each year for education and outreach like the conference and public policy forum above. At the Executive Board meeting last December, the board voted to earmark those funds for a competitive small grants program for education/outreach that all current members of A&E – and only members of A&E -- may apply for. A committee of the last three past presidents of A&E – Pete Brosius, Bonnie McCay, and Tom Sheridan (chair) – will develop guidelines for the program this spring which will be submitted to the Executive Board. Once they're approved, we will announce the program on our website and listserv, so stay tuned!

THE AAA AND ORGANIZED LABOR

A&E took a leading role in pressuring the AAA Executive Board to establish a policy that the AAA would only host its annual meetings in hotels where the workforce was unionized. We also successfully urged to the AAA to move the 2006 Annual Meeting from the San Francisco Hilton to San Jose. The AAA now has an appointed Committee on Labor Issues to make sure the organization never faces a similar dilemma again. On behalf of the A&E Executive Board, I thank all of you for your solidarity and support during this struggle.

PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

Ever since past A&E President Pete Brosius presented his “Professionalizing Public Policy at AAA” to the AAA Committee on Public Policy in 2001, A&E has been one of the staunchest supporters of the Public Policy Center Initiative. In June 2004, Past President Sheridan attended a small working conference organized by AAA President Liz Brumfiel to draft a proposal to create Center for Human Studies and Public Policy lodged in an academic institution in the Washington, D.C. area. The planning group then contacted seven universities in the area which expressed interest in the Center. To continue its work, the planning group requested \$5,000 apiece from the Society for Applied Anthropology and the AAA. The SFAA Executive Board turned down the request, but the AAA EB voted to allocate the funds. The Public Policy Center Initiative Working Group is currently draft a request for proposals to send to those institutions.

LISTSERV AND WEBSITE

Other significant accomplishments of the A&E Section in 2005 included:

- With more than 700 subscribers, the EANTH-listserv, maintained by Adam Henne (U Georgia), continues to remain a vital venue of information exchange, discussion, and debate.
- Webmaster Sean Downey (U Arizona) has expanded and streamlined the A&E website.

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

Former Treasurer Molly Doane and I developed a proposed 2005 A&E budget of \$11,750 broken into the following categories: Awards and Honors (\$2,250); Contributions (\$500); Outreach & Training (\$5,000); Outside Office Expenses (website and listserv: \$2,000); Travel (\$2,000).

When we submitted the 2005 A&E Budget, however, Suzanne Mattingly of the AAA pointed out that our current rate of expenditures would eclipse revenues in the coming years. To partially correct the problem, the A&E Executive Board adopted several cost-cutting measures in 2004:

- Reducing the amount of the Junior Scholar and Julian Steward Awards from \$500 to \$250 apiece.
- Reducing Outreach and Training from \$5,000 to \$4,000.

These reductions will save A&E \$1,500 a year. But if we want to remain as active as we have been in the recent past, we needed to raise revenues as well. **On my recommendation, the A&E Executive Board raised membership dues from \$15 to \$20 a year.** If our membership remains about the same, this combination of increased revenues and cost-cutting will enable us to continue to sustain budgets of about \$10,000 a year.

CHALLENGES FOR 2006

In my opinion, the two biggest challenges facing A&E in 2006 are:

- Regularizing and institutionalizing existing programs and awards. The Junior Scholar Award slipped through the cracks in 2005 because no one stepped up and

took responsibility for the process the way Michael Paolisso did when he served on the A&E Executive Board. To prevent this from happening again, the Executive Board created formal committees for all of our awards and asked for volunteers at the A&E Business Meeting in Washington, D.C. last December;

- Implementing the new small-grants program for education and outreach. The committee consisting of A&E's last three presidents will be developing guidelines and criteria this spring and will announce the program soon.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with our Executive Board and all the rest of you. I hope you'll join me in a round of virtual applause for outgoing board members Steve Brush (Senior At-Large) and Wendy Weisman (Student). Also, please welcome incoming board members Vecita Chicchón (Senior At-Large), Michael Dorsey (Junior At-Large), and Carlos García-Quijano (Student Representative), incoming president-elect Janis Alcorn, and, above all, incoming president Kelly Alley.

Saludos, y Mil Gracias,

Tom Sheridan