

## **Association for Political and Legal Anthropology**

Submitted by John Bowen, APLA President, February 26, 2006 (For the Period January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005).

**Mission** APLA is committed to promoting the critical anthropology of politics and law within anthropology, across disciplines, and in the broader public sphere.

**Activities** During the reporting period, APLA published two issues of its journal, the Political and Legal Anthropology Review (PoLAR), held its annual student paper prize competition, welcomed new Board members, and published columns in the Anthropology Newsletter. We invited two panels for the 2005 AAA meetings: Democracy in America, 200 Years after Tocqueville; and Transnationalism and the Anthropology of Rights, and held a graduate student mentoring session and two roundtables.

APLA membership continues to climb at a modest pace, from 469 in January 2005 to 493 in November 2005 (322 regular, 170 students, and 1 life). In November 2005, APLA's revenues for the year to date were \$12,088, up slightly from the previous year, and net assets were \$24,100, also up slightly for the year. Under the new financial arrangements for AAA publications, APLA transfers a single amount to PoLAR to finance some of its expenses. At present that transfer leaves APLA with a deficit of \$2,763, but with solid net assets. We need to monitor publication costs.

**PoLAR** Annelise Riles of Cornell University served as Editor for her third year, and published two issues, the journal's volume 28. Each issue featured a symposium: on Critical Perspectives on Human Rights and Multiculturalism in Neoliberal Latin America in Spring 2005, and on Anthropology and Human Rights Administrations in Fall 2005. PoLAR increased subscriptions by 5% over the preceding year, to yield 497 individual subscriptions (all but 4 by APLA members) and 106 institutional subscriptions. The journal is now available in full-text form on Westlaw and Hein Online. This availability increases readership of anthropology articles by legal students, teachers, and professionals. On the other hand, library subscriptions to AnthroSource virtually eliminate incentives for law schools to subscribe to the journal.

PoLAR has been able to remain under budget through tight control of costs but also by virtue of Cornell University's subsidies in the form of salaried personnel, space and real costs. We are concerned that when devising the new formulae for distributing AnthroSource costs and revenues, the AAA will take into account these cost subsidies, the responsible management of the journal, and its unique scholarly role.

**Elections and Officers** John Bowen continued to fill out June Nash's term, and began his full two-year term as President at the end of the 2005 AAA meetings, when Bill Maurer began his term as President-elect. As of the end of the AAA meetings, Mindie Lazarus-Black and Mark Goodale began their 2-year terms as Board members, and James Holston and Elizabeth Krause entered the second years of their terms; Elizabeth also agreed to chair the Nominations Committee, and Mark the Student Prize Committee. Susan Coutin began her term as Treasurer, and Madeline Adelman hers as Secretary. Elizabeth Faier agreed to serve as Program Chair, where she is working with Chris Timura. Daniel

Goldstein and Elizabeth Krause are the new AN Editors. Jason Cross agreed to work with the incoming Graduate Student representative, Carie Hersh, in planning mentoring activities for the 2006 AAA meeting. Amanda Snellinger is the new Communications Liaison.

**AAA Meetings** At the 2005 meetings, alongside our invited and sponsored sessions, we began a new tradition of round tables and mentoring workshops. We held two well-attended roundtables, on Religions Meet Law and Politics in the New Europe, and Ethnographic Approaches to Bureaucracy. We also invited graduate student members of APLA to submit short research descriptions for a dinner-table mentoring session, led by senior APLA members. The participants wholly enjoyed the mentoring session, and we plan to host several such events at the 2006 meetings.

**Student Paper Prize** Jessica Greenberg won APLA's annual student paper contest in 2005 and received a scholarship toward travel to the 2006 AAA meetings. The paper will be published in PoLAR in the fall 2006 issue.

**AN Column** Daniel Goldstein and Elizabeth Krause now serve as editors of the *Anthropology Newsletter* column.

**APLA Website and Communications** Amanda Snellinger is working with Annelise Riles to transform the current on-line features of APLA into a more integrated APLA-PoLar web site, with features reserved for APLA members. We plan to focus over this coming year on developing that site as the infrastructure for improving APLA-PoLar offerings and attracting new members, particularly graduate students, to the Association.

**Continuing Activities in 2006** Our major challenges for 2005 are (1) to expand our web-based offerings into a coordinated, journal-plus-section portal, (2) to continue to expand our membership, particularly through mentoring activities for graduate students and (3) to work with the AAA to develop a plan for long-range financial stability for the section and the journal. Achieving this last goal will depend on the AAA developing a solid revenue stream for AnthroSource and a plan for allocating these revenues.

***Names and Email Address of Officers During the Reporting Period***

John Bowen, President pro tem (for June Nash) through 2005; President through 2007,  
[jbowen@wustl.edu](mailto:jbowen@wustl.edu)

Jan Hoffman French, Treasurer, [jan.french@duke.edu](mailto:jan.french@duke.edu)

Elizabeth Faier, Secretary, [efaier@richmond.edu](mailto:efaier@richmond.edu)

Rebecca Torstrick, Board Member, [rtorstri@iusb.edu](mailto:rtorstri@iusb.edu)

Rosa Dejorio, Board Member, [rdejorio@unf.edu](mailto:rdejorio@unf.edu)

James Holston, Board Member, [jholston@ucsd.edu](mailto:jholston@ucsd.edu)

Elizabeth Krause, Board Member, [ekrause@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:ekrause@anthro.umass.edu)