

**Evolutionary Anthropology Society
Annual Report 2005**

Submitted by William Irons, EAS President in 2005
January 31, 2006

Summary

The Evolutionary Anthropology Society (EAS) has grown in membership from 172 members at the end of 2004 to approximately 370 at the end of 2005. At the AAA annual meeting in Washington, D. C. we presented our first set of sessions. These included two invited paper sessions and two poster sessions (one organized jointly with the Society for Psychological Anthropology, one co-sponsored by the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology, and two co-sponsored by the Biological Anthropology Section). In the spring of 2005, we held our first election and at the meeting in Washington our newly elected officers took office: Patricia Draper (University of Nebraska at Lincoln) became President-elect, Elizabeth Cashdan (University of Utah) and Lee Cronk (Rutgers University) became Board Members-at-large, and Brian Madison Wood (Harvard University) assumed the office of Student Representative. In June of 2005, EAS worked out a special relationship with the journal *Human Nature*. This includes a reduced subscription rate for EAS members, and an agreement that *Human Nature*, subject to review, will publish certain of the papers given in EAS sessions at the AAA annual meeting (see below for details). We are now well on our way being an active section of the AAA and a very useful forum for exchange of ideas and data relevant to the use of evolutionary anthropology in all the subfields of anthropology. We will be asking the AAA Executive Board (EB) to recognize us fully as an AAA Section at their May Meeting.

ACCOMPLISHMENT DURING 2005

Membership

Initially the organizers of the EAS (James Boster, William Irons, Eric Alden Smith) set dues low because the society would be offering limited services in the first years of its existence and because they saw no need to for extensive revenues. Dues were initially set at \$10 for regular members and zero dollars for students. We were recognized as a probationary section of the AAA in May of 2004 and following standard procedures we were given one year to recruit 250 members at which point we would then become a fully recognized section. In May of 2005 we had 320 members and we requested that EAS be fully recognized as a section. However the (EB) at its May 2005 meeting decided not to recognize us and gave as a rationale that to be fully recognized as an AAA Section we needed to have 250 dues-paying members and since students were at that point not paying any dues (to EAS, though of course they had paid AAA dues), we only had 140 dues-paying members. In response to this the EAS Board immediately held an electronic meeting and set the dues for students at

\$5. We are confident that the vast majority of student members will be happy to pay this small amount when they renew their memberships, and that we will have the membership numbers required for full recognition at the time of the May 2006 EB meeting.

However, the Board has decided to be proactive in recruiting new members. A number of plans for this purpose were discussed at the Board meeting and will be implemented over the next year. Our newly elected Student Representative, Brian Madison Wood, has already begun, before the 2005 AAA meeting, a drive for new student members by exploring the websites of Departments with EAS-relevant programs and identifying potential student members. These members were then sent an email introducing the society.

Finance

EAS is in good financial health. Our expenditures so far have been limited to monetary prizes for the Best Student Investigator Award and the Best New Investigator Award (see below under "Activities at the 2005 AAA annual meeting" for this year's awards), and to a party at the annual meeting to allow members to get better acquainted. In September when planning for our activities at the AAA annual meeting we had \$1574 in our AAA account. Our budget for 2005 allowed us to spend up to \$800 of that money in 2005. Our actual expenditures for 2005 were \$686.47, well within the budget. These expenditures include the two awards mentioned above (\$250 each) and \$186.47 for the EAS party. Our budget also allowed fifty dollars for two up-to-date membership lists from the AAA. We are allowed two free lists per year and then must pay \$25 for each additional list. The AAA staff (Richard Thomas and Carlo Simpao) generously allowed us one extra free list during 2005. We use these lists to monitor our membership and to obtain email addresses for occasional emailings to our members. It appears that our dues of \$10 for regular members and \$5 for student members will more than meet our financial needs for the foreseeable future.

The officers of EAS have discussed the possibility of initiating a journal and have rejected the idea for several reasons. First there already are several journals which provide adequate publication outlets for our research (*Human Nature*, *Evolution and Human Behavior*, and *Evolutionary Anthropology*) and the officers do not see the point of competing with these journals. Second, the experience of other sections indicates that starting a journal would very likely get EAS into financial difficulty. The third and most important reason is that we now have a special relationship with *Human Nature* (see below) which will provide EAS members with an excellent opportunity for publication and access to much of the best of research in evolutionary anthropology.

Special Relationship with the journal, *Human Nature*

In June of 2005, EAS worked out a special relationship with the journal *Human Nature*. This more than any other journal covers the interests of a large portion of our membership. The terms of the agreement are as follows:

1. Transaction Publishers agrees to offer EAS members a reduced subscription rate to *Human Nature* that is equivalent to that offered to HBES and ISHE members. EAS members can receive either a print or an online subscription for \$55, a 20% discount. They can receive a combined print and online subscription for \$75. (These rates are for both new and renewed subscriptions.) *Human Nature* is ranked 4th out of 50 anthropology journals by ISI Journal Citation Reports in terms of impact measures.
2. *Human Nature* will also devote one issue a year (approximately 100 pages) to publish one of the EAS invited AAA sessions subject to the *Human Nature* review process.
3. *Human Nature* will also publish the New Investigator and the Student award papers each year pending *Human Nature* review.

Activities at the 2005 AAA annual meeting

EAS sponsored four sessions at the annual meeting in Washington, D. C. Two were invited paper sessions and two were poster session. These sessions were organized by our 2005 Program Committee, Eric Smith and James Boster. The sessions were

"Morals and Mating: How Religions Regulate Sexuality and Negotiate Marriage Contracts," Invited Poster Session cosponsored with the Society for Psychological Anthropology. James Boster, Chair and Organizer.

"Evolutionary Anthropology: New Research," Invited Poster Session co-sponsored with the Biological Anthropology Section. Organized by Eric Smith and Chaired by James Boster.

"Human Behavioral Ecology: Applications to International Development and Public Policy," Invited Paper Session co-sponsored by the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology. Organized by Bram Tucker and Lisa M. Rende Taylor and Chaired by Lisa M. Rende Taylor.

"Evolutionary Anthropology: Mating, Parenting, and Sociality," Invited Paper Session co-sponsored with the Biological Anthropology Section. Organized by Eric A. Smith, William Irons, and James Boster, and Chaired by Eric A. Smith.

Eric A. Smith also reviewed a Volunteered Paper Session on behalf of EAS: Social Evolution and Demography," Chaired by Kimber Haddix McCay.

The session entitled "Human Behavioral Ecology: Applications to International Development and Public Policy" (organized by Lisa Rende-Taylor & Bram Tucker) will be submitted to *Human Nature* for likely publication as a special issue of that journal pursuant to our special relationship with *Human Nature*.

EAS also held a board and a business meeting and hosted a party on Saturday evening.

Awards

Patricia Draper (EAS President-elect) chaired the Panel of Judges which evaluated presentation for EAS awards. Elizabeth Cashdan, Lee Cronk, Frank Marlowe, and John Patton served on the Panel. The winners of the 2005 EAS Awards were:

Best New Investigator Award: Elizabeth Blum (Norra Stockholms Psykiatri), "Delayed Dispersal in Humans: Effects of Family Circumstances on Dispersal Timing"

Best Student Investigator Award: Wesley Allen-Arave (University of New Mexico), "Is Blood Thicker than Water for Back-Scratchers?: Balanced Nepotism in a Small-Scale Society"

Anthropology News Contributing Editor

Mary Shenk (Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) has served as our Contributing Editor throughout 2005 and has used the columns to present information on graduate programs in evolutionary anthropology. The information she has gathered and presented on these programs is on the EAS website (www.anth.uconn.edu/eas/) and serves as a valuable resource for potential graduate students interested in evolutionary anthropology. Dr. Shenk is continuing as Contributing Editor in 2006 and is continuing to research graduate programs in evolutionary anthropology.

Website (www.anth.uconn.edu/eas/)

James Boster continues to serve as EAS Webmaster and John Shaver (University of Connecticut) has agreed to assist Professor Boster as Web Associate. During 2005, the website was updated several times to keep abreast of events.

Officers from the 2005 annual meeting on

Eric Alden Smith, University of Washington, Seattle, President 2005-2007

Patricia Draper, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, President-elect 2005-2007

William Irons, Northwestern University, Past President 2005-2007

James Boster, University Connecticut, Secretary/Treasurer and Webmaster 2003–2007

Elizabeth Cashdan, University of Utah, At-Large member of the Board of Directors 2005-2009

Lee Cronk, Rutgers University, At-Large member of the Board of Directors 2005-2009

Jane Lancaster, University of New Mexico, At-Large member of the Board of Directors 2003-2007

John Patton, California State University, Fullerton, At-Large member of the Board of Directors 2003-2007

Brian Madison Wood, Harvard University, Student Representative 2005–2007

Mary Shenk, Contributing Editor to *Anthropology News* 2003-2007

FUTURE PLANS

The society's plans for the future, as mentioned above include a membership drive, requesting full recognition as an AAA Section at the May EB meeting, and organizing a set of session for the 2006 meeting in San Jose. Patricia Draper has agreed to serve as Chair of the Program Committee for the 2006 meeting. It has been suggested that we make a regular practice of appointing the President-elect as Chair of the Program Committee for the year following his or her election. This is a good way for the President-elect to get more fully involved in the society's affairs.

ISSUES FOR THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND EB

We have two suggestions.

1. Simplify procedure for current AAA members who wish to join a new section when they are not renewing their membership. The current procedure is cumbersome.
2. Arrange for the President and Secretary-Treasurer of a section to be able to see the section membership list any time without needing to with make a special request from Membership Services. Arranging a password for these people to allow them to see the current membership list at anytime would simplify many things.