

SOCIETY FOR LATIN AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGY
Annual Reports
December 2005

Respectfully submitted by

Gabriela Vargas-Cetina, Ph.D. President.
Ramona Perez, Ph.D., out-going treasurer
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gabriela Vargas-Cetina

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Between January and November I was acting President of our society, and after being elected to the position in the Spring, I began to work with both the out-going and the in-coming members of our Board. Our outgoing Board members are Guadalupe Rodriguez, Secretary; Jeanne Simonelli and Beth Conklin, Councilors, and Ramona Rodriguez, Treasurer. Our incoming Board members are Rita Henderson, Student Representative; Hortensia Caballero, Igor Ayora-Diaz and Travis DuBry, Councilors; Ramona Perez, Secretary; and Jeffrey Cohen, Treasurer.

Through the year we discussed the changes we would like to see our Society undergo, beginning with a change of name to The Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA) and a change of mission, so as to include first generation migrants from Latin American and Caribbean countries in the scope of academic interests of our membership. Guadalupe Rodriguez was in charge of the SLAA programme for the AAA conference, and we issued our call for papers with "Re-conceptualizing Latin America" as the central theme. We invited Lynn Stephen to give the first SLAA Keynote Address, on this theme. We emailed our membership telling them we want to change our section's name and modify our mission so as to shift the attention from Latin America as a geographical region to the Latin American and Caribbean people, wherever they are. I published two short pieces on the AN, and there were papers on our journal and invited sessions at the DC meetings addressing the related themes (the place of the Caribbean as part of Latin American history and culture, and viceversa; migration and remittances; cultural identity of Latin American and Caribbeans around the world). In short, we orchestrated an information campaign, asking our membership to write to us and come to our business meeting to let us know what they think.

We also discussed the transformation of our Conversations across the Americas special event from a lecture to a forum, where we can have actual conversations. In face of the hardships derived from the inclusion of our journal in AnthroSource, we re-structured the way we fund Board members coming to the meetings from outside of the United States. We now have a policy to allocate partial funding to three Board members and one student representative coming from abroad, on a rotation basis.

At the meetings in DC we had full and enthusiastic support of our membership to go ahead with the changes to our name and mission, which have to be ratified by mail ballot, and several people nominated themselves for the two positions for which we are having elections. We are in the process of putting together the ballot and the proposed changes to our bylaws and mission. We are also creating the Roseberry-Nash Student Award for best graduate student paper. We have started work on our website, which was completely outdated, and we are starting a listserve. Through our Call for Nominations we are seeking a Councilor to be in charge of an urgent action list, and a Councilor specialized in the Caribbean to help us enhance the visibility of Caribbean studies within our AAA section.

AnthroSource

We are worried by the cost of AnthroSource to our section, because it is rapidly draining our funds. We believe in electronic publishing but are concerned that, right now, the services of the University of California Press seem to be too expensive for us in the long run. Looking at our membership base, most in academic employment, we think we can sustain the print edition of our journal. We have thought hard about AnthroSource and have made a proposal to the AAA Section Assembly, looking to increase the economic viability of our journal, and maybe give and hopefully receive ideas to and from those sections as small or smaller than ours. This proposal is as follows: (a) We could either stop or continue our print publication, while keeping the electronic publication. Our Society's members could get a cd or dvd at the end of the year, with the journal issues of that year, so they are not completely cut off the journal's base if the Society decides to go online only. (b) Libraries and non-AAA members could get separate print and/or annual cd or dvd subscriptions, and they may or may not choose to purchase the electronic issues as well, either through AnthroSource or through an extra fee for the annual cd or dvd. That is, print, cd and AnthroSource subscriptions could be separate and purchased in different combinations; (c) We could start programmes of affiliation to our Society, separate from affiliation to the AAA, so we expand our individual journal's subscriptions and our Society's services beyond AAA members. For this, our Society is envisioning the possibility of holding small Spring seminars in different countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, so that local scholars can participate as our Section's affiliates without having to join the AAA; And (d) we will re-consider our being part of AnthroSource or ending our contract with UC Press in 2007 when it is up for re-negotiation; perhaps, if we decide not to renovate our contract with AnthroSource, we will go to a different online publication service, more according to what we can actually afford.

TREASURERS' REPORT

Jeffrey H. Cohen, in-coming treasurer

Ramona Perez, out-going treasurer

During this year our balance has changed as follows:

REVENUE	YTD	2005 Budget	Variance	2006 Budget
membership – regular	13,234	15,435	-2,201	16,030

membership – student	3,666	5,180	-1,514	4,620
membership – international	847	800	47	880
single copy print sales	87	320	-233	0
mailing list rental	15	0	15	0
TOTAL REVENUE	17,849	21735	-3,886	21,530
EXPENDITURES				
travel & Related Expenses	0	3,000	-3,000	3200
Awards & Honors	0	0	0	1000
Postage	3	0	3	0
Misc. Expenses	0	150	-150	150
Meeting Food and Space	0	1,400	-1,400	1600
Storage	152	190	-38	0
Section Dues Allocation Expenses	0	28,979	-28979	20,317
	155	33,719	-33,564	26267
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	17,694	-11,984	29,678	-4,737

For next year, we already have expenses of \$500 paid to Florida International University (FIU) for the last issue, plus \$900, for international travel.

Membership

The SLAA has maintained membership in all categories, seeing the most growth in international members, which has grown from 43 in 2004 to 55 in 2005. Our total membership as of October 2004 (the most current numbers available) stands at 737 total members.

AnthroSource's Impact on our Finances

End of the year reports are prepared and submitted prior to final accounting. The numbers used in this report reflect those communicated to the general membership at the AAA meetings in Washington, DC. As noted in the Annual Meeting, it is literally impossible for the SLAA to project income and expenses since the JLAA has moved to UC Press and become part of AnthroSource. This is due to a lack of sufficient and accurate information from the AAA in calculating the amount of money that will be allocated as Section Dues. This category covers the costs of publication and distribution of all the journals from the different societies that have chosen to participate in the UC Press/AnthroSource movement and is distributed according to membership size. We have been given a budget allocation for 2005 of \$28,979.00. We thus anticipated a loss in income of \$11,984.00 for SLAA and an additional loss of \$5239.00 for the JLAA. However, as of today, we are under budget in income generated from membership dues and thus may have a loss that exceeds the anticipated \$17,223.00. In the Treasurer's Report of 2004 we anticipated that our reserves of approximately \$25,000.00 would be consumed this year. This is not the case as our reserves remain well above this mark as of today, holding at \$40,488.00 prior to the anticipated loss noted above. Thus it appears that we will not hit a deficit until the end of 2006. As also discussed at the Annual Meeting, the SLAA is gravely concerned that the movement of the JLAA to AnthroSource may discourage membership growth as the journal can be acquired through

those libraries that subscribe to AnthroSource. The Board will continue to work with the AAA and other member societies to address this problem and will remain in contact with its general membership through the newly designed website that is anticipated for 2006.

Changes and Adjustments

Our income sources have been limited to membership fees and independent income sources generated primarily from the royalty income donated by the Whitefords and which is earmarked for our international travel grants. We previously had independent journal subscriptions but the transition to UC Press has eliminated the accounting for this and we are currently unable to determine whether this income will continue and how it will be accounted for in the budgetary process. The Board also debated increasing membership fees as recommended by AAA; however, it was determined that the potential loss in membership due to participation in AnthroSource would only be exacerbated by an increase in fees that did not demonstrate greater membership services.

Adjustments were made to expenditures that will aid in controlling costs albeit on a very small scale. These adjustments include the following:

- I. Travel grants to speakers in Invited Sessions of Conversations Across the Americas that were paid as a percentage (75%) of the total costs for travel were eliminated and a standard honorarium of \$300.00 would be paid.
- II. Travel grants (2/yr) were equally adjusted from a percentage reimbursement to a fixed fee offset of \$300.00. These grants would continue to be awarded to the newest non-US resident board member to assure that the funds were distributed equitably among board members.
- III. The Roseberry-Nash Student Paper Prize would consist of a top honor in the amount of \$500.00 with the possibility of funding an outstanding second paper when applicable in the amount of \$250.00.

Small increases in budgetary expenses were also made due to inflation including the amount set aside for the ALLA/SLAA joint reception; this increased from \$1000.00 to \$1250.00.

Our greatest future budgetary concern will be the solicitation of a new editor for the JLAA. FIU has been extremely generous in covering most of the costs of personnel, office, and office expenses. The Board will work diligently with Jean Rahier, our current editor, to secure the most suitable and best qualified editor for the future.

The SLAA and JLAA will need to work with the AAA and UC Press closely to determine a more accurate and fair accounting process that allows us to survive economically. In our current state, it appears that we will remain economically viable through 2006. Without severe changes to membership services, costs of journal production, and creative income sources the SLAA and JLAA, along with most other societies within AAA, remains in a very precarious financial condition.

JOURNAL OF LATIN AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGY (JLAA)

Jean Muteba Rahier, Editor

During the calendar year 2005, JLAA published two issues: a general issue, volume 10, number 1, April 2005, and a special issue, "Cuban Alternative Geographies," volume 10, number 2, April 2005, for a total of 487 pages. Both of these issues came out on time.

We received a total of 27 manuscripts. After due peer-review process, and following an eventual resubmission and second round of peer reviewing, 15 articles were accepted. These 15 articles were accepted for publication in an average time (from submission to acceptance) of 4 months. 9 manuscripts were rejected either after a first reading by the Editor, or following a round of peer-review. Two articles were withdrawn after the author was asked to revise and resubmit.

We published a total of 46 book, film, and essay reviews.

We do not anticipate any change in staffing in 2006.

During the year 2006, we will advertise a call for nominations/applications for the position of Editor of JLAA, to begin in the summer of 2007. We will also begin advertising/informing about the journal name change to Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (JLACA), which was voted for by the SLAA Executive Board and by the society's membership at the AAA 2005, in Washington, D.C. With that objective, a trip of the current JLAA Editor to the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) annual meeting, in May 2006, is planned.

Following the 2005 AAA meeting, a conversation with the U.C. Press concluded that the first issue at which the journal could be published under its new name is the volume 12, number 1, April 2007 issue. I personally wish, as Editor, that any future communication with the U.C. Press will be as transparent as possible, and that all decision that is taken by its staff regarding JLAA (JLACA) will be fully explained and justified to the Editor and to the members of the society's Executive Board. It is my preference that the latter be involved in any important decision that must be taken in this period of transition to full presence in AnthroSource.