

December 19, 2006

TO: AAA President Setha Low

FROM: Norma Gonzalez,
Outgoing Chair AEC

2006 REPORT

Even though the Anthropology and Education Committee was organized as a standing Committee in 2004, the AEC was not able to have a face-to-face meeting until the AAA Annual Meetings in 2005. In 2006, we held our second meeting. In the interim, we have held numerous telephone conferences and have communicated via our AEC listserv. We have concentrated our efforts in terms of the charge that we have been given and have been successful in several areas.

At this time, we report the following activities:

CHARGE:

- To identify, develop, and promote effective methods for the teaching of anthropology in K-12, community college, undergraduate, graduate, adult education and museum programs.
- To use AAA meetings, the AAA website, Section newsletters, and other media to diffuse information about anthropology curricula and teaching methods.

ACTIONS:

1. Guven Witteveen, AEC committee member, worked in conjunction with Lucille Horn to grant San Jose area teachers a waiver to attend AAA meetings. This will be an on-going outreach initiative to host city K-12 teachers. Twelve teachers attended AAA through the waiver process. A brochure identifying pertinent sessions was developed for attending teachers. AEC worked in conjunction with CAE member, Rosemary Henze, to identify possible attendees.
2. AEC sponsored an invited session in 2005 on the topic of developing standards for the teaching of anthropology. As a follow-up to the session, AEC chair, Norma Gonzalez, wrote an article for AN entitled: "Seeking member input on the issue of teaching standards for Anthropology", published in Spring, 2006. Readers were encouraged to post their comments on a specific blog site: <http://anthroed.blogspot.com>. Due to the low level of interest in developing standards, AEC has decided not to pursue this issue in the near future.

3. AEC sponsored two well attended sessions at the 2006 AAA meetings:
**“Critical Dangers and Opportunities for Anthropology and Education:
Issues of Race and Class in Community Colleges.”**

**Warning-Dangerous Curves ahead: Anthropological Involvement with k-12
Curricular Initiatives.**

4. The AEC published and distributed a tri-fold written by Guven Witteveen at the AAA meetings describing AEC activities to AAA members. PDF file is attached.
5. AEC approved a proposal submitted by Mark Lewine on “Developing Anthropology in Community Colleges.” Proposal is attached.
6. AEC will improve its website link and update the resources available for educators.

CHARGE:

- To work with other educational organizations, such as the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) and the National Council for the Teaching of Science (NCTS) to enhance the public understanding of anthropology.

ACTIONS:

1. AEC appointed committee member Bev Chiarulli to produce 1,000 copies of a flier that will be distributed at the annual NCSS meeting in November, 2006. Elizabeth Ten Dyke, a guest of the AEC committee volunteered to distribute the fliers. (Copy of the flier is attached). Responses from teachers have already been received on the listserv.
2. AEC member Guven Witteveen has agreed to contact the Social Science Professional journal regarding the possibility of a theme issue.

In addition, AEC nominates four candidates to take over the vacancy as Norma Gonzalez rotates off the committee. These four candidates are:

1. Colleen Popson, Anthroquest author. (colleen@archaeology.org)
2. Elizabeth Ten Dyke. AAA member and public school administrator.
Kingston, NY (etendyke@earthlink.net)
3. Matt Lane. Social Studies Teacher in Virginia, entering graduate school in anthropology at the University of Chicago in fall, 2007. (mlane@northcross.org)
4. Andrew J Petto, PhD
Editor, National Center for Science Education

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AEC also nominated Mark Lewine and Kathy Borman to serve as co-chairs of AEC.