

25 January 2007

To: Kim Baker
From: Andrea Wiley, Awards Committee Chair

Re: 2006 AAA Awards Committee Annual Report

The business of the awards committee in 2006 centered on deciding on recipients of the Boas, McGraw Hill, and AIME awards, and coordinating other AAA awards: Kidder, Textor, Mead). The Awards Committee was comprised of Wendy Ashmore, Frederic Gleach, Barbara Rose Johnston, Kay Orzech, and Andrea Wiley. Newly appointed for 2006 were Wendy Ashmore and Frederic Gleach. . Tom Leatherman took over the AAA Awards committee chairship effective November 2006 as Andrea Wiley rotated off the EB.

The Awards Committee submitted the following recommendations for AAA Awards to the AAA Executive Committee May 2006 (all approved):

Boas Prize for service to Anthropology: **Nancy O. Lurie** and **Richard Ford**

McGraw-Hill Prize for undergraduate teaching in anthropology: **George J. Bey**

Anthropology in the Media award (AIME): **Eugenie C. Scott**

We approved the recommendation of the Textor Prize committee: **Antonious C.G.M. Robben** is the 2006 Textor Prize winner.

Alfred Vincent Kidder Award for 2006 (selected by AD, see attachment A): **Jeffrey S. Dean.**

We were given no information on the Mead award in 2006, and hence did not act on any nominee. Hence the realignment of the Mead award with other AAA awards did not happen, and it is not clear what the status of the 2006 Mead award is.

All awardees were present and were given their awards at the AAA Awards ceremony in San Jose, Nov 2006

-The committee decided to offer the awardees the choice of which image they wanted to have on the medal they received. The "head shot" chosen as the alternative was the 1901 image from the American Philosophical Society (catalog # U5 1.24, Fechner, Wilhelm: Franz Boas, profile view; see Appendix B). However, at the May 2006 AAA Executive Board meeting, this decision was rejected and it was decided that only the 1901 image would be used on all future Boas medals.

-The problem of small pools of nominees continues. At our teleconference in spring 2006 several strategies were outlined to deal with this chronic problem.

1. The Awards committee chair will send personalized notes to all section heads encouraging them to put the issue of nominations for these awards on the agenda of their annual business meetings.
2. The awards committee chair will make an announcement encouraging sections to initiate nominations at the Section Assembly meeting at the annual AAA meeting.
3. The website announcements/descriptions of the awards need to be elaborated. Specifically, the awards should have their own webpages, with pictures of past winners along with the encomia written for the *AN*. This is especially important for the Boas award. The guidelines for nominations should also be reviewed to insure that they are as clear and explicit as possible such that nominations are not rejected because of poorly-prepared dossiers. The actual award itself (i.e. crystal apple, medal, etc) needs to be described.
4. While the symbolic significance of these awards is important, the actual award benefits need to be highlighted and perhaps enhanced. For example, the Boas award allows for \$1000 to offset the recipient's travel to the meeting where the award is given. Given the very high costs of travel these days, could this amount be increased, or could there be an additional cash prize? This is particularly important this year, when we have two winners of the Boas award. The committee felt strongly that they should each be given the \$1000 travel award rather than splitting this amount in two. Likewise, could McGraw-Hill be encouraged to provide a cash prize along with the crystal apple for the teaching award? Could AAA provide a cash prize for the AIME awardee? Obviously these suggestions require additional budgeting for the awards by the AAA, and we would urge the relevant committees to consider these requests.
5. The possibility of putting the award announcements and encomia (along with pictures) in the *American Anthropologist* was discussed.
6. The committee also urged the publication of the winners of the AAA awards and possibly the request for nominations in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. While this may not have a profound effect on the pool of nominees, it would raise the profile of the awards across the scholarly community.