

**To: AAA Executive Committee**

**Bill Davis, AAA**

**Suzanne Mattingly, AAA**

**From: Trudy R. Turner, COSWA Chair, 2006**

**Re: Committee on the Status of Women in Anthropology - Annual Report**

**January 31, 2007**

### **Status, Activities, Accomplishment**

The Committee on the Status of Women in Anthropology continues to be active in monitoring gender parity within anthropology. The committee is made up of seven elected members and two ex-officio members. This year the elected members of the committee met twice by phone conference and once face-to-face. During the phone meetings the committee helped plan the session and the workshop for the AAA meeting in San Jose and selected the Squeaky Wheel Award winner. The face-to-face meeting was held at the AAA meeting. This was an especially productive meeting as it allowed members of the committee to make plans for the future of COSWA. A separate sub-committee of COSWA has been actively working on an academic climate survey. The sub-committee also met via phone conference and at the annual meeting.

#### **COSWA Highlights at the Annual Meeting**

1. Session- Critical Intersections: Women Practicing Anthropology - Beyond the Ivory Tower

This session was co-sponsored by NAPA. Papers were presented by practitioners working outside academia using a gendered perspective. The session was organized by Keri Brondo and Christina Wasson. Abstracts are available on the COSWA website.

2. Workshop- Pathways to Becoming a Practicing Anthropologist. The workshop had five speakers who shared information in a less formal setting. Pati Wattenmaker organized the session.

3. Presentation of the Squeaky Wheel award to Sandra Morgan

4. Survey Sub-committee- The four members of the Survey sub-committee (Christina Wasson, Chair, Keri Brondo, Barbara LeMaster, Trudy Turner) met to discuss next steps for the survey. The on-line survey was supported by the AAA and had a response rate of about 1000 individuals. A short executive summary was presented to the AAA Executive Committee. All quantitative responses have been analyzed. Qualitative responses remain to be analyzed. The sub-committee will continue this during the spring of 2007.

Additional support for the analysis has been provided by the University of North Texas and Michigan State University. The members of the subcommittee hope to have a final report and additional publications available by the next AAA annual meeting.

#### 5. COSWA Annual meeting

There was a general feeling among members of the board that they would like to go beyond the current role of organizing sessions and conducting surveys. The committee felt that it would like to expand the sense of community of women in anthropology

Since the committee's inception twenty five years ago, significant progress has been made in attaining parity. However, disparities still remain in issues such as length of time in rank and citation patterns. In addition, the employment pattern of anthropologists has changed. A significant number of anthropologists currently work outside academia or are employed on a part-time basis. The executive board of COSWA has decided to modify the mission statement to reflect the changing nature of women's employment in anthropology. The Committee will pursue greater parity for women in the discipline by means of three activities: (1) monitoring, (2) advocating, and (3) educating. A full explanation of this is available on the COSWA website. In order to accomplish this goal, the committee has first decided to update the website. In addition, an on-line support community has been established as a Yahoo group. The mentoring program has been expanded and its mandate more fully articulated. On-line resources and tools have been expanded. A new survey jointly sponsored by NAPA is being organized.

#### **Future Plans**

COSWA is looking forward to working with other AAA sections. The joint session with NAPA at the 2006 meeting is an indication of possible future collaborations. A climate survey with NAPA is planned. In addition, the expansion of the website with additional mentors and resources will be continued and updated. The committee hopes to build an on-line support community for interested individuals. We also hope to publicize the climate surveys with reports in the AN and other venues.

On a personal note, it has been a great pleasure to work with COSWA these past three years. The committee is active and in very capable hands for an exciting future

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy R. Turner

