

ANTHROPOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT SECTION
Annual Report 2006
Kelly D. Alley, President 2005-07

Executive Board, 2006

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The AAA meeting in San Jose this year offered a variety of interesting sessions on environmental and ecological anthropology. Panels covered research on indigenous people and protected areas, human rights, knowledge and power, capitalism and nature, fisheries privatization, environmental perception, nature reverence, water resources and the state of ecological anthropology. Two new forums were submitted and accepted, a High Table Discussion Linking Environmental Change, Human Health and Welfare and a Public Policy Forum on the Precautionary Principle.

A & E gave out three awards in 2006. Dr. Julie Cruikshank won the Julian Steward award for her book, *Do Glaciers Listen*. The book explores the role played by glaciers--as actors and objects of imagination--in the oral histories of local Tlingit and Athapaskan peoples and in the imaginations of European explorers and scientists visiting the Saint Elias mountain region. Cruikshank shows how competing perceptions and understandings of glaciers over time have shaped colonial encounters and continue to shape debates over protected areas and the creation of a World Heritage site. Richard Wilk's *Home Cooking in the Global Village* and Melissa Checker's *Polluted Promises* were runners-up.

Genese Sodikoff's paper, "Land and Languor: Ethical Imaginations of Work and Forest in Northeast Madagascar," *History and Anthropology* (December 2004) and Paul Nadasdy's paper, "Transcending the Debate over the Ecologically Noble Indian," *Ethnohistory* (Spring 2005) were co-winners of the Jr. Scholar award for best journal article. We had a record number of submissions for the Jr. Scholar competition this year. Out of five fine papers presented on the Rappaport panel, Thomas Pearson's paper, "Biosafety, Anti-biotechnology Movements, and the Management of Life in Central

America," won the Rappaport prize. The students on the panel received an increase in the travel stipend to help cover their costs.

A&E had its first social event this year at a historic site in San Jose, operated by History San Jose. Crystal Fortwangler did a splendid job of arranging the venue and members enjoyed getting together for good conversation after the Business meeting.

At the November meeting, the A&E Board welcomed four new people into its fold and extended many thanks to outgoing members Eric Jones, Crystal Fortwangler, Catherine Tucker and Susan Charnley. The new members are Laura Ogden as *AN* editor, Ben Colombi as program chair, and Nora Haenn and Darron Collins as at-large board members.

A new small grants program will be initiated in 2007. In February, we will put out a call for proposals to fund panels, seminars, conferences and other academic and public events that unite ecological/environmental anthropology with activism, policy and education. We will also announce the 2007 award competitions, beginning with a call for books published in 2006 for the Julian Steward award and abstract proposals for a place on the Rappaport panel at the next AAA meeting. Calls for the biannual Lourdes Arizpe public policy award will go out this year and the solicitation of published papers for the Jr. Scholar award will go out in late spring.

A working group has now formed to explore a proposal for a carbon neutral AAA meeting and members are interested in finding ways to assist the AAA at large in greening its meeting activities. Other groups are working on improving web and networking services for members.

MEMBERSHIP

A&E membership was 485 in January 2006, 471 in June and 463 in November 2006. There has been a very slow decline in member numbers during 2006. This decline may be attributed to declining interest or to raising costs in other sections, the availability of AnthroSource online or other factors. The A&E listserv continues to be very popular and appreciated and this is the section's best outreach service. However, nonmembers can be included in that so it does not necessarily encourage people to sign on as members. The Treasurer sends out calls for membership periodically on the listserv.

In order to address declining membership, board members discussed the possibility of having a student dues category set at \$5.00. Although some feel that this lower student rate would increase membership, others are worried it might decrease revenue. The Board is still discussing this and may come to a decision this year. A&E does not have a journal so its budget is not vulnerable to drastic changes. We project that membership will remain around the same level in 2007.

LISTSERV AND WEBSITE

With more than 800 subscribers, the EANTH-listserv, maintained by Adam Henne (U Georgia), continues to remain a vital venue of information exchange,

discussion, and debate. Webmaster Sean Downey (U Arizona) has expanded and streamlined the A&E website (see www.eanth.org).

FINANCES

A&E fund balance on 11/30/06 \$16,833.77
 (this is the last record provided)

Expenditures:

Travel & Related Expenses (\$2,000)
 Alley (President: San Jose 06 Meeting) \$ 990.23
 Stepp (Treasurer: San Jose Meeting) 250.00
 Jones (Program Chair: San Jose Meeting) 250.00
 Garcia-Quijano (Student Rep: D.C. Meeting) 500.00

Awards & Honors

 Julie Cruikshank (Julian Steward Award, 2006) 500.00
 Pearson (Rappaport Award and Travel) 550.00
 Jason Paiement (Rappaport Travel) 300.00
 Chris Annear (Rappaport Travel) 300.00
 Amelia Moore (Rappaport Travel) 300.00
 Sandhya Ganapathy (Rappaport Travel) 300.00
 Genese Sodikoff (Jr Scholar Award) 250.00
 Paul Nadasdy (Jr Scholar Award) 250.00

Note: The Board voted to raise the travel stipend for the Rappaport panelists from \$100 to \$300 for 2006. The Board also raised the Jr. Scholar award to \$250 for both co-winners. The Jr. Scholar award was budgeted at \$250 total but our web site had incorrectly advertised the award amount at \$500. After an awardee pointed out the discrepancy, we decided to allocate \$500 across the two winners for this year. The Lourdes Arizpe Award was not given this year (\$500). It will be given in 2007.

Contributions (\$500)
 AAA Minority Fellowship \$500

Development & Promotion (\$4000)

We used money from this category to augment the Rappaport travel stipends, the Jr. Scholar award and fund the social event, which, included rental of facility, police security, food and drink

\$225
 \$86
 \$258.08

Web Site (\$2,000)

Downey	1500.00
Henne	500.00

Because Section monthly financial reports are not released to Section presidents until about a month later, we don't know as of yet A&E's fund balance on December 31, 2006. Nonetheless, it is clear from the above expenses that A&E spent at least a thousand dollars **less** than estimated in the 2006 A&E budget. However, it is expected that with decreased revenues and use of monies for the small grants program, we will be close to a balance on revenue and expenditures in 2007.

NEW SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM FOR A&E MEMBERS

In the past, A&E has budgeted \$3-4,000 each year for education and outreach and this money was used for conferences and public policy forums in 2005 and earlier. This money was used to augment the Rappaport travel stipends, the Jr. Scholar award and fund the social event in 2006. At the Executive Board meeting in November, the board voted to use these funds for a competitive small grants program in 2007 for education/outreach that all current members of A&E – and only members of A&E -- may apply for. A call for proposals will go out in February 2007 and the money will be distributed in 2007. The A&E Board will judge proposals and choose the winners.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXECUTIVE BOARD AND LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE: GREENING THE AAA

The A&E section is very interested in developing policies and approaches to move toward more sustainable and low-waste practices at AAA meetings. The members are in the process of developing some concrete steps to move in this direction and the section Board will be bringing these ideas to the AAA during this year and through the section assembly and the executive board at the next AAA meeting. A section of the web site will be developed to announce these ideas and plans. This is part of a long range plan to develop sustainable practices for the AAA as a whole and members look forward to working with the executive board in the future to implement their ideas.