

Annual Report 2006

Archaeology Division

1. STATUS, ACTIVITIES, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ! **Membership:** AD membership as of Nov. 2006 was 1123. This is a *record low* for the AD (using available membership figures back to 1991) and of paramount concern to the officers. Both regular and student membership categories are down. Factors affecting the decline in section membership since the last precipitous drop in the late 1990s have most to do with the annual meeting. The switch from San Francisco to Atlanta started the most recent decline, and the move to San Jose exacerbated it, along with the choice of a meeting theme which was generally considered as unwelcoming to archaeologists (although there were several very relevant and important archaeology sessions at the San Jose meeting). The increase in section dues from \$35 to \$45 that went into effect in April 2005, in anticipation of increased AnthroSource costs, may have played only a small role. There is no way to predict how the new income-based dues structure will impact membership. The AD has a remarkably high percentage of unique members compared to the other sections. When people choose not to renew AD membership, they are more often leaving the AAA itself, at least temporarily. Virtually all professional archaeologists in this country belong to the Society for American Archaeology and/or the Archaeological Institute of America and the Society for Historical Archaeology. The AAA is considered by many archaeologists to be a supplementary professional organization of lower priority, especially if costs are perceived to outweigh benefits.

- ! **Financial Balances:** The AD enjoys a financial balance of \$65,858.39 (as of Nov. 30), a surplus that is currently being drawn down with deficit spending due to AnthroSource. As of Nov. 30, expenses of \$37, 574.39 this year outpaced revenues of \$32, 314.39 by \$5660.00. Total annual publication expenses for the *Archeological Papers of the AAA* stood at \$27,526.26 (as of Nov. 30). Of this amount only \$5,711.74 was paid out of revenue generated by the publication; the remaining \$21,814.52 came out of dues, a publication cost much higher than in pre-AnthroSource days. Furthermore, the 2006 budget planned for only \$14,591.00 to be spent out of dues, and an unrealistic \$10,529 was anticipated by the AAA in revenue, twice what we realized. If AnthroSource revenues do not pick up considerably, and our membership numbers do not increase back to the 2002/2003 level of ca. 1400 members with ca. 800 regular members, we will continue to run a significant deficit and will have to curtail activities to remain solvent.

- ! **AAA Meeting Highlights:** The 2006 program included 91 papers in invited and volunteered sessions and individually volunteered papers, and 5 posters. (The program in archaeology was significantly smaller than in 2005—166 papers and 11 posters in Washington—and than the 2003 program in Chicago.) In addition to the above, the AD organized an Executive Session on “The 1906 Antiquities Act: A Century of Critical Intersections and Dangerous Issues” (Teresita Majewski and Alice B. Kehoe, organizers). Three AD Invited sessions were “Exploring Scholarly and Best-selling Accounts of Social Collapse and Colonial Encounters” (Patricia A. McAnany and Norman Yoffee, organizers), “Changing Mesoamerican Landscapes: The Intersection of Past and Present” (Anabel Ford and Janine L. Gasco, organizers), and “The Materiality of Spirituality: Critical Directions in the Archaeology of Religion and Ritual” (Ian Straughn and Edward R. Swenson, organizers). The 2006 Distinguished Lecture in Archaeology was presented by David Hurst Thomas, entitled “Way Past Reburial and Repatriation: American Archaeology in the Active Voice.” The Executive Committee held its regular four-hour fall meeting and the one-hour Business Meeting open to all members on Friday of the AAA meeting.

At the Business Meeting the following out-going officers were acknowledged: Lisa Lucero, Secretary; Jerry Moore, Program Editor; Patricia McAnany, Member at-Large; Namita Sugandhi, Student at-Large Member; and Helen Pollard, Nominations Committee Member.

! **Awards:** At the Annual Business Meeting the following awards were presented:

The \$1000 Gordon R. Willey Award to Barbara Mills for her 2004 article in *AA*, "The Establishment and Defeat of Hierarchy: Inalienable Possessions and the History of Collective Prestige Structures in the Pueblo Southwest." The Willey recipient is chosen by the AD Executive Committee following upon a ranking presented in the spring meeting by the prize subcommittee chaired by President-Elect Janet Levy.

The \$500 Student Diversity Travel Grants were established in 2003 (for 2004) in direct response to a request by the AAA Long Range Planning Committee to increase diversity in the discipline. Five recipients were presented with a 2006 award: Jason J. Gonzalez, Olaf Jaime-Riveron, Ora V. Marek, Sean Näleimale, and Gina Quistiano Zavalo. These recipients were chosen by a subcommittee of the Executive Committee. In its spring 2007 meeting the EC will take up the issue of adding disabled students to the eligibility list of "historically under-represented [ethnic] minorities" in response to a request by a disabled student. The Executive Committee approved a more formal set of criteria for choosing recipients of this award at the fall EC meeting.

In addition to the above, the AD annually sponsors a session at the SAA meeting. For the 2006 SAA meeting in San Juan, PR, the following symposium was sponsored: "The Legacy of Broken K: James N. Hill and American Archaeology" (Lisa Lucero and Robert Preucel, organizers). For the 2007 meeting in Austin, the chosen symposium is "Residential Burial: A Multi-Regional Exploration" (Ron Adams and Joyce White, organizers). The selection is made by a subcommittee of the AD EC chaired by President-Elect Janet Levy.

The AD also supervised the selection of the 2006 Alfred Vincent Kidder Award, presented to a Southwestern archaeologist, Jeffrey S. Dean. The AD solicits nominations for this award, which are then ranked by a prize committee whose members are selected by the AD EC but whose names are kept confidential. The winner's name is then forwarded to the AAA Awards Committee. The AD is charged the cost of putting the recipient's name on the medal. In sum, the AD takes principal responsibility for this AAA award.

! **Endowments:** This was the first full year of fund-raising for the Gordon R. Willey Endowment Fund, established in late 2005. It is overseen by a subcommittee composed of the AD President, President-Elect, and Treasurer. Two targeted letter campaigns were carried out in February and June to attract "founders" to the fund. In October information and requests for contributions were disseminated more broadly to the membership through our column in the *AN*. We have asked Elaine Lynch and/or Suzanne Mattingly to provide a list of donors on a quarterly basis so that we can send our own thank-you letters and acknowledge them (with permission) on our website. According to the last report from Suzanne, between late 2005 and the end of 2006 twenty individual donations were received in the amount of \$8925.00. In addition, when budgeted travel reimbursements are not needed by individual Executive Committee members to attend our fall or spring meeting, the amount of the reimbursement can be moved into the Willey Endowment (this is allowable within the terms of the endowment). In 2006, \$1626.60 in travel money was shifted to the Willey Endowment. Those two amounts add up to \$10,551.60, not including interest earned by the fund in 2006 (\$55.92 as of Nov. 30). The \$10,000 threshold for the fund corpus

has thus been achieved.

- ! **Publications:** 2006 was a catch-up year, with two volumes of the *Archeological Papers of the AAA* published, putting us back on schedule (1 volume/year).

Vol. 15 Baxter (ed.) *Children in Action: Perspectives on the Archaeology of Childhood* [2005], published Feb. 2006

Vol. 16 Ashmore, Dobres, Nelson, Rosen (eds.) *Integrating the Diversity of 21st Century Anthropology: The Life and Intellectual Legacies of Susan Kent* 2006, published August 2006

Volume 17 will be ready for printing in 2007. The prospectus for volume 18 (2008) was accepted by the AD EC in spring 2006, with the manuscript on the way. One additional prospectus was reviewed at the fall AD EC meeting and sent back to the editor to revise and resubmit.

We continue to experience difficulties understanding the costs and revenues for publication expenses, as noted above. On another matter, we would like to explore the possibility of reprinting popular out-of-print issues, given that digital access through AnthroSource is still low. Some issues are used as textbooks, so there will continue to be new demand for printed copies.

- ! **Nominations:** The AD Nominations Committee presented a slate of candidates for 5 AD offices for the 2007 election. The Committee further submitted nomination materials for 11 persons to the AAA Nominations Committee (3 for EB seats, 2 for the AAA Nominations Committee Archaeology Seat, and 6 for seats on committees on Public Policy, Ethics, Human Rights, Minority Issues, and COSWA). An enormous effort and some cost is being incurred by the AD to present viable candidates for AAA positions, but the effectiveness in doing so is unclear; in 2006 only one of the AD nominees was selected to run for an AAA position. We are currently waiting for the 2007 ballot to come out. If our nominees are overlooked by the AAA Nominations Committee, especially given the incessant calls for section nominations, we are reluctantly prepared to reprioritize our efforts.

- ! **Spring Activities:** The AD Executive Committee meets each spring at the Society for American Archaeology meeting. At this meeting we rank nominees for AD and AAA positions, choose the Willey prize winner, vote on publication prospectuses, and the officers present their reports. Members of the AD EC man the AAA booth at the Exhibit Hall under the general supervision of the Publications Director, who sets up and takes down the exhibit.

- ! **Internal Communications:** In August 2006 the AD launched a completely rebuilt website (hosted by AAA), which should prove far more user-friendly and easier to update. Two “e-newsletters” were sent out to members in spring and fall using the AAA email service, and for 2007 we plan to add a winter e-newsletter for our members. The AD has no list-serve and does not wish to institute one. The AD column in the *AN* continues to be an important source of information on section activities and related news items.

- ! **Outreach Activities:** The AD is regularly involved in activities with other professional associations and societies:

As noted above, the AD EC meets as a committee at the spring Society for American Archaeology meeting, and its members staff the AAA booth at the SAA meeting. In a reciprocal arrangement, members of the AD EC are regularly asked to set up and take down the SAA booth in the exhibition hall at the AAA meeting. The AD also assisted the SAA’s Public Education Committee in evaluating its new website on archaeology education.

The AAA is one of four sponsoring organizations of the Register of Professional Archaeologists, and the AD pays \$3000 of the annual \$5000 sponsoring fee (the remaining \$2000 is paid by the AAA). AAA members therefore get a price reduction on their annual RPA dues, paying \$45 instead of \$120. The AD has the responsibility (advisory to the AAA President) for choosing the individual who represents AAA interests on the RPA Board of Directors. The current representative is David Anderson (dander19@utk.edu), who is also the AD Treasurer. The AD assisted in organizing the RPA Forum at the 2006 AAA meeting, and RPA President Jeff Altschul spoke to the AD members at the annual Business Meeting. We also put a direct link to the RPA website on the AD website.

The AD President is a member of the Archaeology Presidents List-Serve, maintained by the President of the World Archaeological Congress, in effect representing archaeology within the AAA to other archaeological associations. Through this list-serve, the AD is asked to respond to various threats to archaeological resources, in which case the AD President passes on requests for coordinated action to the AAA through Paul Nuti or directly to the AAA President. In January the AD was asked to write letters to Utah state legislators to defeat a bill that would gut regulations for professional certification of archaeologists. In April the AD responded to press releases circulated by the WAC and the Archaeological Institute of America condemning the guidelines adopted by the Association of Art Museum Directors that would make it easier for museums to acquire looted antiquities. We asked AAA President Alan Goodman to charge the AAA Committee on Ethics to look into this issue, possibly in coordination with the SAA Committee on Ethics. In July, with Paul Nuti's assistance, the AAA agreed to put on its website an endorsement of a press release on the AIA website condemning the destruction of cultural resources resulting from acts of violence in the Levant. In December, in view of requests from anthropologists to the AD, the AD asked for some coordinated action from the AAA in devising a means for anthropologists to respond to issues raised in the film "Apocalypto."

The AD, through the efforts of Member at-Large Teresita Majewski, organized an Executive session at the 2006 meeting on the centennial of the 1906 Antiquities Act, at the request of Frank McManamon of the National Park Service. We coordinated with Susie Bodman to have Frank write an essay on the centennial to be posted on the AAA website.

In October 2006 the AD played a leading role in selecting AAA's nominees for the federal NAGPRA Review Committee, coordinated by Paul Nuti.

! **Changes in By-laws or Governance Structure:** None this year.

2. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

! **Projects:** As noted above, the AD is currently actively soliciting funds for the Gordon R. Willey Endowment fund that will eventually generate revenue to pay for the Willey prize. Within the next 3-5 years we plan to consider setting up another endowment, this one to fund the costs associated with the annual Distinguished Lecture.

! **Membership:** At the fall AD EC meeting we discussed a variety of ways to increase membership, most of them focused on enticing archaeologists to participate in the 2007 meeting in Washington—e.g., a student paper prize, special workshops or forums. Other ideas for longer-term goals were concerned with extending AAA's attractiveness and outreach to archaeological professionals and students in other countries and to practicing archaeologists. Earlier in the year

AD suggested archaeologist members to the AAA's Practicing Anthropology Working Group, and we hope that group's efforts will make a real difference in attracting non-academic archaeologists to the AAA. Practicing archaeologists outnumber academic archaeologists, but few of them currently see any benefit to being a member of the AAA compared to the SAA (an organization with nearly 7000 members). Something as simple as an application form for AD membership that could be distributed at the SAA meeting could help draw members. A "students only" page on the AD website could also prove attractive in selling the benefits of AAA membership to students.

- ! **Inclusivity:** As noted above, in spring 2007 the AD EC will take up the issue of whether to extend the eligibility of the Student Diversity Travel Grant to include students with disabilities, an under-represented group in the profession.

- ! **Change in Governance:** If it is shown to be a successful strategy for the AD to continue to make nominations for AAA offices, we plan to institute a position of Nominations Chair-Elect to serve for one year prior to taking office as Chair. The work has become so complicated in terms of keeping track of positions open, lists of persons who have previously served, have run but not been elected, etc., that an apprenticeship seems necessary. This will be decided at the 2007 spring meeting to go on the ballot as a by-laws change in 2008, and take effect in 2010.

3. OTHER ITEMS: CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ! Membership decline is our chief concern, but many of the factors responsible for the decline are beyond our control. We cannot control unpopular meeting venues (and we realize there are real world limitations), but the Executive Board and President can do something substantial to insure that the annual meeting theme is equally inclusive of all the major subfields. Our unscientific surveys indicated a nearly unanimous feeling among archaeologists that they were less welcome at the San Jose meeting than members of other subfields. Many therefore did not bother to come (whereas the 2006 SAA meeting in Puerto Rico was very well attended, involving many international and practicing archaeologists). By way of contrast, the 2007 theme proposed by Faye Harrison has generated immediate and almost universal interest among archaeologists, and we are hopeful that archaeological participation (and membership) will climb dramatically. The AAA needs to insure that similarly *broad* and *inclusive* themes are proposed *each* year. It is also helpful to have the announcement made prior to the AAA meeting so that executive committees can discuss topics and forums that will engage their members.

- ! The AAA Nominations Process requires greater transparency. We propose that the Executive Board be given information on *all* section nominations, not just the names forwarded by the Nominations Committee. It would be helpful if members of the Nominations Committee or the AAA Secretary would work more directly with sections to help unravel the mysteries as to how best to forward nominations that will be accepted.

- ! We are still in the dark concerning the outcome of proposals from the AAA Governance Commission. The AD is gravely concerned about any measures that could serve to decrease the participation by archaeologists in the governance of the AAA. In the current structure, the AD—which uniquely speaks for the archaeological subfield of the discipline—can nominate archaeologists for open seats on committees and the EB as well as for the few archaeology seats, the President, and Secretary. If certain committees become appointed rather than elected, and if the Section Assembly (which normally counts only one archaeologist among its members) is

allowed to choose candidates for many of the now undesignated seats on the EB, the strong inevitability is that archaeology will be badly under-represented in AAA governance. This is not an outcome that anyone should favor, but it appears that little consideration has been given to this inevitability. Any proposals for changing the structure must consider the possible negative impacts on the participation by archaeologists and also biological anthropologists in AAA governance.

- ! Given the loss of the Development Director, it would be helpful to have someone in the AAA central office assist sections more directly with fund-raising. Even something as simple as a meeting at the AAA meeting of representatives of sections involved with fund-raising, to exchange ideas and strategies, could go a long way to help our efforts.
- ! A continuing concern is the enigmatic reporting of AnthroSource expenses and revenues (e.g., the major “revenue” category is actually dues paid by members—it is an expense!). Members of the AD EC met with Jasper Simons at the 2006 AAA meeting, and we are hopeful that he understands the problems and will be in a position to ameliorate them.
- ! We hope that someday the AAA can afford the software to change the way finances are reported to sections. The spreadsheets are clumsy, the categories are not always useful, and the forms have to be reformatted by hand to print them out in a useful way. Our Treasurer has to maintain his own spreadsheets on historical changes to individual line items so that we can better assess our revenue and expense streams over time.

4. SECTION OFFICERS: AD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2007

President: Susan D. Gillespie, sgillesp@ufl.edu

President-Elect: Janet E. Levy, jelevy@email.uncc.edu

Secretary: Rani T. Alexander, raalexan@nmsu.edu

Treasurer: David G. Anderson, dander19@utk.edu

Program Editor: Lisa Frink, lisa.frink@unlv.edu

Publications Director: Thomas R. Rocek, rocek@udel.edu

Nominations Committee Chair: Robert Paynter, rpaynter@anthro.umass.edu

Member at-Large: Teresita Majewski, tmajewski@srirm.com

Member at-Large: Minette Church, mchurch@uccs.edu

Student at-Large Member: Andrew Roddick, aroddick_berkeley@yahoo.com

Prepared by Susan D. Gillespie, AD President
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