

Evolutionary Anthropology Society
2006 Annual Report
Eric Alden Smith, President (February 2007)

EAS Board

Eric Alden Smith (U of Washington), President 2005-2007 (easmith@u.washington.edu)
Patricia Draper (U of Nebraska), President-elect 2005-2007 (pdraper@unlnotes.unl.edu)
William Irons (Northwestern U), Past President 2005-2007 (w-irons@northwestern.edu)
James S. Boster (U of Connecticut), Secretary/Treasurer 2003-2007 (james.boster@uconn.edu)
Mary Shenk (Carolina Population Center) Contributing Editor, Anthropology News 2003-2007
(mshenk@u.washington.edu)
Elizabeth Cashdan (U of Utah), Board Member 2005-2009 (cashdan@anthro.utah.edu)
Lee Cronk (Rutgers U), Board Member 2005-2009 (lcronk@anthropology.rutgers.edu)
Jane Lancaster (U of New Mexico), Board Member 2003-2007 (jlancas@unm.edu)
John Patton (California State U, Fullerton), Board Member 2003-2007
(johnpatton@fullerton.edu)
Brian Madison Wood (Harvard U), Student Representative 2005-2007
(bmwood@fas.harvard.edu)

Status, Activities, and Accomplishments

2006 was our first year as a regular section of the AAA (following Executive Board approval in May). As in 2005, we organized invited sessions, held board and business meetings, and published a regular column in *Anthropology News*.

Membership: Membership in EAS appears stable, and our finances are secure. As of the end of 2006 we had 333 members, all of them dues-paying; 205 were regular members, 2 life members, and 125 student members. We are concerned that our student membership has dropped by 35% over the past year (while non-student membership has risen by 7%), and therefore need to pay particular attention to recruiting and retaining student members. We have emphasized in both word (mission statement) and deed (program organization) that EAS is particularly interested in serving students with interests in evolutionary anthropology, but this is a volatile segment of the membership which we need to do a better job of reaching.

Finances: Our financial resources are modest but steadily increasing. Revenues come strictly from the dues we charge members (\$5 for students, \$10 for others).

REVENUE:	
Membership - Regular	\$1,794.62
Membership - Student	506.66
Total revenue	2,301.28
EXPENDITURES:	
Awards & Honors	500.00
Postage	4.26
Meeting Food and Space	323.47
Development & Promotion	0.00
Total expenditures	827.73
Change in net assets	\$1,473.55

As the above table indicates, EAS coffers hold nearly fifteen hundred dollars (as of Nov. 2006), an increase of about \$1300 over the previous twelve months. While we do want to maintain a “cushion” for unexpected expenses, we seem to have the wherewithal to increase our expenditures (see “Future plans,” below). We currently expend \$500/year on our two awards, about \$300/year for the AAA party, and a few bucks for miscellany. We do not publish a journal, and thus have not been affected by AnthroSource financing constraints; instead, we offer EAS members a reduced subscription rate to the journal *Human Nature*, one of the major journals for publications in evolutionary anthropology. This journal also offers the likelihood of publishing selected (and peer-reviewed) papers from one of the EAS invited sessions in a special journal issue each year (an EAS session from 2005 is currently in press via this channel).

AAA meeting: The AAA meetings this year in San Jose featured three EAS-sponsored sessions selected by the 2006 EAS Program Committee (Pat Draper, Lee Cronk, and Frank Marlowe). Presentation submissions (n= 30) exceeded supply (n=21, limited to 3 sessions, 7 papers per session, including the poster session), so the Program Committee had to make some difficult choices. Our sessions this year were:

“Current trends and directions in evolutionary studies of cooperation”

Organizer & Chair: John Patton (CSU - Fullerton)

“Cultural dimensions of kin investment: The foundations of kinship and family”

Organizers: Donna Leonetti (U of Washington), Mary K. Shenk (Carolina Population Center), and Brooke Scelza (U of Washington)

“Evolutionary perspectives on human behavior” (poster session)

Organizer: Patricia Draper (U Nebraska)

Chair: Elizabeth Cashdan (U Utah)

In addition, EAS members were successful in getting a Presidential Session on the program, at no cost to the EAS session allocation:

“The evolution of inequality”

Organizers: James Boone (U New Mexico) and Eric Smith (U of Washington)

A highlight of the meetings for many was the well-attended EAS party on Saturday night, graciously hosted by John Patton and Brenda Bowser.

2006 Awards: We had many eligible candidates for both awards this year. The judging panel (Mike Alvard, Jane Lancaster, and Pat Draper) selected the following winners from among the EAS-sponsored poster and oral presentations:

Best Student Investigator Award: Jeremy Koster (U of Connecticut), poster presentation on “Explaining non-optimal foraging decisions by indigenous Nicaraguan hunters”

Best New Investigator Award: Aimée Plourde (U College London), paper presentation on “A costly signaling model of the origins of prestige goods”

Each received a \$250 prize and a nice addition to his/her vita.

Future Plans

Elections: EAS has biennial elections coming up in Spring 2007. We will elect 3 new board members (2 for 4-year terms, and 1 student member for a 2-year term) as well as a President-elect (to serve for 2 years prior to assuming EAS presidency). A Nominations Committee consisting of Lee Cronk, John Patton, and student member Siobhan Mattison developed a list of nominees. The Board reviewed the nominees and made a final selection for the ballot, which will list 2 candidates for President-elect, 2 for the Student Board Representative, and 6 for the 2 open Board positions. In addition, the appointed positions of Secretary/Treasurer and that of Contributing Editor also turn over in 2007; the Board appointed

Donna Leonetti (U of Washington) and John Ziker (Idaho State U) to assume these respective positions, beginning November 2007.

AAA program: Discussion at the business meeting revolved around how to balance the selection of submissions of organized sessions (which often have more coherence) against individual-paper submissions (which draw on a broader and perhaps more junior set of EAS members). Members were urged to consider submitting organized sessions to the AAA Program Committee directly, including sessions co-sponsored with other sections (particularly ones that might not be utilizing their poster sessions) and to the Presidential Sessions selected by the AAA Program Committee.

Other initiatives: At the Nov. 2006 board and business meetings, we discussed possible additional initiatives, including travel awards for students and foreign scholars presenting at EAS sessions, and a book award. These suggestions met with wide approval, but no final decisions have yet been made.