

SOCIETY FOR LINGUISTIC ANTHROPOLOGY
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Officers

Current Officers

President: Joel Kuipers

Secretary-Treasurer: Betsy Rymes

Members at large: Bambi Schieffelin and Nico Besnier

Editors of SLA column: James Stanlaw and Mark Peterson

Nominating committee: chair: Misty Jaffe; Jack Sidnell, Janet McIntosh

Program chair: Stanton Wortham

JLA editor: Asif Agha

President Elect: Joseph Errington

2. The Year's activities

A. Membership and Budget

The SLA Treasurer, Betsy Rymes, submitted her financial report. Net assets August 31, 2006 were \$24,299.47, up from \$21,429.43 at the beginning of the year.

As of August 2006 the membership of the SLA was 627.

Members	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Regular	432	414	431	439	433	430	433	427
Student	206	195	194	197	194	192	190	194
Life	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Total	644	615	631	642	633	628	629	627

We have witnessed a slight fall in membership that we believe is related to a lack of incentive to join multiple sections. At the business meeting the SLA membership was polled to see what we could provide as an organization that will add value to the organization. The resulting discussion indicated that the website could be used to this end. The website will be discussed later.

B. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*

The editor is Asif Agha. Assistant editors include Michael Lempert, Sabina Perrino. The Book Review Editor is Seran Schug. Two issues were printed this year, both on time: JLA 16.1 (June 2006): 152 pgs.

JLA 16.2 (December 2006): 154 pgs.

52 manuscripts were submitted to JLA, and of those 19 were accepted, 19 rejected, 11

sent for revision and resubmission and 3 are under review

46 books were received for review. Of those, 14 have been assigned for review. Our average turnaround time has decreased by 34% (from 4.1 months to 2.7 months). Our submissions are up 73% (from 30 last year to 52 this year). Given this rise in submissions, and despite our quicker turnaround, we now have a publication queue: As one issue goes to press, the next one is already filled.

Anticipated changes for 2007: A new editor will be appointed by the Society of Linguistic Anthropology to take over in August 2007. Also, a special issue has been proposed and is under review.

C. *Anthropology News* SLA column

The Contributing Editors for the SLA column in *Anthropology News* are James Stanlaw and Mark Peterson. They have continued to do excellent columns for the SLA and actually constituted more column inches than any other contributor.

D. Prizes

Sapir Prize.

A committee made up of Leanne Hinton and Asif Agha, along with the SLA President, read submissions for the 2006 Sapir Book Prize. 22 publications were received. The prize was awarded to Charles Briggs and Richard Bauman, for their book "*Voices of Modernity: Language Ideologies and the Politics of Inequality*". The prize was presented to both recipients at the SLA business meeting at the AAA Annual Meeting.

Student Paper Prize

While the Student Paper Prize was not awarded this year, Janina Fenigson and Paul Kroskrity redefined the criteria for submission in the hope of getting a robust competition for the prize next year. Increasing submissions for this award will be one of our major concerns for the coming year.

E. Program

Our excellent Program Chair this year was Stanton Wortham. 19 symposia were submitted, and all were accepted (100%). There were a total of 130 papers presented at the symposia. 25 individual papers were submitted of which 19 were accepted (73%). 3 Posters were submitted, all accepted. This year we received fewer submissions. In 2006 there were also many fewer requests for invited symposium status than in 2005 (2, as opposed to 12 last year).

This year's deceptively high acceptance rates do not reflect a change in the SLA's submission standards but rather the decision of the AAA Program Committee to accept all symposia of the C classification. The result was positive for SLA in that many of our colleagues have been able to get on the program, which is certainly better than the opposite outcome.

Kira Hall will be the next Program Chair.

F. SLA Executive Board and Business meetings

The SLA held its executive board meeting from 6 to 8:45 p.m. on November 16 at the AAA meetings, and the various reports summarized in this report were presented there. The Business Meeting was held 6:15-7:55 p.m. on November 17. After the meeting was adjourned, an informal reception and discussion continued during which the members discussed future roundtables and the future of the SLA website.

G. Nominations

AAA Positions for which candidates were fielded:

LRPC

Pam Bunte Practicing/Professional Seat

Committee on Public Policy

Elizabeth Keating Undesignated Seat

COSWA

Jocelyn Ahlers Practicing/Professional Seat

Laura Miller Undesignated Seat

Executive Board

Jennifer Jackson Student Seat

SLA Positions

President-Elect

Joseph Errington

Secretary-Treasurer

Angela Reyes

*** Members at Large**

Janina Fenigsen

Paul Kroskrity

* Note: Paul Kroskrity indicated he would be willing to serve for one year in order to get the members at large on staggered terms. This means we will need to elect one member at large in the 2007 elections.

H. SLA Website

The state of the SLA website has been of primary concern in 2006. Discussion at the Board and Business meetings have indicated that the website could be an excellent resource for SLA members and thus add value to the membership. We have begun a redesign process and intend to update existing information while also adding resources such as teaching materials, “tools of the trade”, information for Linguistic Anthropology students (i.e. graduate programs, tools for grant writing, etc.), and possibly a “member’s only” section.

In order to maintain the updated website we hope to add a Webmaster position to the executive board. While no one has expressed disapproval of this position, no one has offered to serve.

Respectfully submitted by
Joel Kuipers, President of the SLA