January 28, 2009

Dear Members of the Executive Board:

Receive my greetings and wishes for good health. The Committee on the Status of Women in Anthropology (COSWA) has the honor to present its annual report. In this report, we outline our accomplishments for the year 2008 and set our goals for the year 2009.

We would like to express our wholehearted appreciation and gratitude for the work of Suzanne Mattingly. Ms. Mattingly has been a splendid administrator and supporter of our work.

This is the only report I will submit as Chair of the COSWA, as my term ended in November 2008. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Executive Board and staff of AAA, as well as to my fellow Committee members for three years of very enjoyable and productive work (one of them as COSWA’s Chair).

Truly yours,

Carla Guerrón-Montero, Chair
Spring 2008: Schomburg Scholar-in-Residence
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Bill Davis, AAA

Suzanne Mattingly, AAA

From: Carla Guerrón Montero, COSWA Chair, 2008

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

January 28, 2008

Status, Activities, Accomplishment

The Committee on the Status of Women in Anthropology continues to be active in pursuing gender parity within anthropology by means of three activities: (1) monitoring, (2) advocating, and (3) educating. The committee is composed of seven elected members and two ex-officio members. This year the elected members of the committee met once by phone conference and once face-to-face. During the phone meeting the committee helped plan sessions for the AAA meeting in San Francisco, California, discussed the progress of the two climate surveys, and selected the Squeaky Wheel Award winner. The face-to-face meeting was held at the AAA meeting. One subcommittee of COSWA has been actively working on the practicing climate survey, chaired by Keri Brondo, who rotated off COSWA in 2007. The committee met regularly via phone conference. COSWA members Carol Colfer and Carla Guerrón Montero participated in this subcommittee.

In 2008, COSWA continued its efforts to update its web-based resources, strengthen its mentoring program, and developing its institutional memory document. The mentoring program was maintained and continues to be active. The committee continued to expand the resources available on its website.

In 2008, COSWA continued to participate actively in the analysis and production of the report of the practicing anthropology climate survey carried out in 2007. As noted above, former COSWA Chair Keri Brondo, and COSWA members Carla Guerrón-Montero and Carol Colfer actively participated in the group that conducted the survey. A team at the University of Memphis analyzed the results of the Survey, and produced a final report with findings and recommendations. The survey was circulated online, shared with COSWA members, and discussed in person with Linda Bennett at the AAA meetings in San Francisco, California.

Board Members continue to work on COSWA’s institutional memory document. Carol Colfer engaged in in-depth interviews with former founding (or early) members of the Committee Joan Mencher, Suzanne Hanchett, Connie Sutton, and Carole Vance. In addition, COSWA members with the assistance of Suzanne Mattingly collected historical information about the Committee, devised a timeline and distributed responsibilities for the production of this document. Member Holly Wardlow contributed the assistance of U of Toronto graduate student Asli Zengin to work on the project. In addition, former chair Keri Brondo and outgoing chair Carla Guerrón Montero volunteered to continue to be actively engaged in this project.
COSWA Highlights at the Annual Meeting

1. **Session - The Squeaky Wheel Squeaks Again: Reflections on the Status of Women in Anthropology.** The session was organized by Keri Brondo and Catherine Kingfisher, and chaired by Carla Guerrón Montero. It recognized the work of Squeaky Wheel recipients for their dedication and commitment to achieving greater parity for women in anthropology. Four awardees from 1998 to 2007 participated in the session, and discussed 1) the relevant issues at the time they received the award; 2) what has changed/stayed the same since that time; and, 3) challenges that remain for achieving gender parity within anthropology. At the session, Dr. Margaret Conkey was recognized for receiving the 2008 Squeaky Wheel Award. Details of the session are available on the COSWA website. The reception of this session was highly positive; the co-organizers and chair of the session have submitted a proposal to the journal Voices for the publication of the papers, along with an introduction and a discussion of the status of feminist anthropology in Latin America.

2. **Squeaky Wheel Award** - The Squeaky Wheel award was presented to Dr. Margaret Conkey for her unwavering dedication to support and promote women within the discipline as well as initiating feminist archaeology with her 1984 article with Janet Spector, *Archaeology and the Study of Gender.*

3. **Practicing Anthropology Climate Survey** – Linda Bennett presented the results of the survey at the COSWA Executive Board Meeting in San Francisco, California. COSWA members provided comments and suggestions at the meetings and through subsequent email exchanges.

4. **Executive Meeting** – At the meeting, two out of the three new members of the Committee were introduced, Elizabeth Tunstall and Hanna Garth (student seat). Samantha Solimeo was unable to attend the meeting. Members discussed next year’s activities and goals. In addition, Catherine Kingfisher and Elizabeth Tunstall were elected COSWA’s co-chairs for 2009. It should also be noted that COSWA members voted to change the name of the Squeaky Wheel Award to the “COSWA Award.”

Future Plans

COSWA is looking forward to further expanding its visibility and working with other AAA sections. Committee members will organize joint sessions with the Association of Feminist Anthropologists (session) and the National Association of Practicing Anthropologists (workshop). Committee members also discussed the possibility of organizing a third session (special session) discussing the two COSWA surveys recently administered (for academics and practicing anthropologists).

Over the next year, the committee plans to finish its institutional memory document and publish it on the Committee’s webpage. In addition, the Committee’s co-chairs plan to approach NAPA to discuss the possibility of pairing up with this section to develop a strong and diverse mentoring program.