Annual Report for 2008:

1. AN Columns, Shirley Fiske, Corresponding Editor

“Profiles in Practice:” January 2007-May 2008 (a continuing column from 2007, initiated by the Practicing Anthropology Work Group, PAWG). The column profiled 12 practicing anthropologists and organizations that employ substantial numbers of anthropologists, e.g. Intel, CDC, and others. The intent of the column was to highlight the work of practicing anthropologists to the general readership. Profile columns are now available on the AAA website for easy access. [http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/copapia/Profiles.cfm](http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/copapia/Profiles.cfm)

Article: April 2008 New Committee on Practicing, Applied and Public Interest Anthropology (CoPAPIA), AN 49(4):24 (Bennett and Fiske)

“Anthropology Works” Column (initiated September 2008)
- Column title changed to “Anthropology Works” to reflect change in focus of columns.
- September 2008 “How Viable is an Applied Master’s Degree? What are Students’ Perspectives?,” AN 49(6):37 (Bennett & Fiske)
- December 2008 - “Tackling Homelessness,” (Jack Garrett)
- February 2009 – Reproductive Health (Barbara Pillsbury)
- March 2009 – Going Where No Anthropologist has Gone Before (Robert Hahn)
- April 2008—Archaeology and the Public Interest (T. J. Ferguson, with Bill Doelle and Jeff Altschul)

2. AAA 2008 meeting session:

Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Niel Tashima, and Linda Bennett, organizers, “Collaboration between AAA Sections in Advancing the Position of Practicing Anthropology within the AAA” A Special Forum, Chair, Linda Bennett (Saturday, 1:45-5:30 Golden Gate 1)

Abstract: The Committee on Practicing, Applied, and Public Interest Anthropology (CoPAPIA) is one of the AAA’s newest committees, having been established in late 2007. CoPAPIA’s charge stipulates that it should help (1) Foster the reciprocal relationship between anthropological theory and practice; (2) Establish liaisons with appropriate Sections; (3) Develop recommendations for training and professional development; (4) Collaborate with a range of
AAA sections; and (5) Facilitate the broadened recognition of the value of applied and practicing anthropology beyond the discipline. Recognizing that considerable advances have been made in these directions by Sections within the AAA and other anthropology organizations—including local practitioner organizations—in this forum we aim to engage with a broad array of AAA Sections in conversations about how we can more effectively partner together. This special forum is envisioned as a means to begin such a dialogue across Sections. Presidents and other leaders of 9 AAA Sections will speak briefly on their sections’ needs and interests regarding applied and practicing anthropology. In particular, they will articulate how they might work collectively and with CoPAPIA over the short-run (1-2 years) as well as over a longer period (3-5 years) to create partnerships that creatively join Sections in a common agenda. The remainder of the forum will be devoted to questions and answers from the floor and discussion among panelists regarding how a shared set of goals can be established and—hopefully—achieved.

Panelists:
Archaeology Division: Janet Levy
National Association for the Practice of Anthropology, Dennis Wiedman
General Anthropology Division, Susan Buck Sutton
Council on Museum Anthropology, Catherine Fowler
Society for Medical Anthropology, Lenore Manderson
Anthropology and the Environment, Janis Alcorn
Association for Political and Legal Anthropology, Madeline Adelman
Association of Black Anthropologists, Kimberly Simmons
Association of Latina and Latino Anthropologists, Vilma Santiago-Irizarry

Discussants: Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh and Niel Tashima

3. **Recommendations for changes in structure for annual meetings of the AAA:**

- Looking forward to the 2009 AAA meetings, a new category would be added to the current meeting structure: a **forum**. Presenters in a forum would give a brief (10 minute) overview on the forum topic, and half of the time of the session would be devoted to discussion among panelists and the audience. Forum presenters would still be able to submit a proposal to present a paper in a regular session and to serve as a discussant.

- Forum presenters could register for a single day at the meetings, to accommodate non-academically based practitioners who cannot attend the entire meeting.

- Poster sessions would be more centrally located, expanded, advertised, and valued within the meeting structure.

4. **The American Anthropologist:**
CoPAPIA began working with Tom Boellstorff, *American Anthropologist* Editor-in-Chief, to address two key PAWG recommendations: (1) Recruiting more practicing anthropologists to the editorial board of *American Anthropologist* and formally establishing a policy of naming an associate editor for the journal in practicing and applied anthropology, and (2) Encouraging editors of *American Anthropologist* to solicit research reports from government agencies and private firms for review in the review section of the journal, perhaps as a separate section comparable to the film review section. Although prior to our discussion, Barbara Rose Johnston was named the journal’s Associate Practicing Editor, after an initial email, Tom appointed multiple applied practitioners to the Editorial Board. Additionally, we began discussions about including so-called “gray literature” reports in the journal’s Book Review Section. After some months of positive dialogue, Tom agreed to establish an entirely new section – equivalent to the Visual Anthropology Review Section – tentatively titled the Practicing Review Section to be edited by a Practicing Anthropology Review Editor. This section and the new editorship will be formally introduced to the *American Anthropologist* Editorial Board at the 2008 annual meeting in San Francisco.

### 5. CoPAPIA Review of Proposed Amendments to Code of Ethics:

CoPAPIA was one of four groups within the AAA that was asked by the EB to review proposed changes to the Code of Ethics. At the 2007 Business Meeting of the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, a resolution introduced by Terry Turner was passed by the membership. This resolution sought to have the AAA Executive Board restore sections 1.g, 2.a, 3.a and 6 of the 1971 version of the AAA Code of Ethics. In response, the AAA Executive Board (EB) requested that the AAA Committee on Ethics draft a revised version of the ethics code that incorporates the principles of the Turner motion while stipulating principles that identify when the ethical conduct of anthropology does and does not require specific forms of the public circulation of knowledge. The Ethics Committee, supplemented with six invited guests, submitted a report to the AAA Executive Board on the Revision of the AAA Ethics Code on June 16, 2008. After reviewing the Committee on Ethics report, the EB prepared a draft Proposal to Amend the Code of Ethics. This document was sent to the Committee on Ethics; Intelligence Commission; Committee on Practicing, Applied and Public Interest Anthropology; and the Network of Concerned Anthropologists for review and comment.

CoPAPIA reviewed this document and submitted a written response to the EB on July 31. In this response, CoPAPIA noted the sections of 1971 Code of Ethics under consideration were problematical because of their use of sexist language, and because the nature of anthropological research—particularly with the growth of applied, practicing, and public interest anthropology—has dramatically shifted over the last 37 years. CoPAPIA agreed that the AAA must address the ethical dilemmas posed by clandestine research while acknowledging that many anthropological practitioners are not working mainly within an academic framework and also that refraining from public dissemination of research results may be necessary at times to protect the well-being of peoples and cultural heritages. CoPAPIA made four specific recommendations for improving the wording of the changes in the Code of Ethics. These
recommended changes were incorporated into the final proposal, which the EB has been sent out to the membership for a vote after the annual meeting.

6. **Employer Expo:**

Under NAPA’s sponsorship and leadership, the committee participated in planning and co-sponsored a welcoming brunch and reception for the third annual Employer Expo.

7. **Tenure and Promotion Project:**

In collaboration with the Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropology Programs (COPAA, with Sunil Khanna as lead), CoPAPIA is addressing the issue of tenure and promotion guidelines and process as it affects academically-based anthropologists working in the areas of applied, practicing, and public interest anthropology in the tenure and promotion process.

8. **M.A. Alumni Career Survey:**

Plans are underway to conduct a survey in 2009 of alums from MA programs with an emphasis on applied anthropology. Supported by the AAA and conducted by committee members in cooperation with NAPA, Local Practitioner Organizations (LPOs), and the Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropology Programs (COPAA) member departments, the survey will assess the career trajectories of MA alums and their reflections on their graduate program experience as it prepared them for their anthropological careers.

9. **Extending the Reach of Anthropology:**

Committee has discussed how anthropology as a discipline could have a greater impact on social issues at home and abroad and how the visibility of anthropology and the talents of anthropologists could be better recognized. As we work with other Sections of the AAA, this will be addressed.

**Committee members:**
Linda Bennett, Chair
Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh
Patricia Ensworth
T. J. Ferguson
Shirley Fiske
Robert Hahn
Sue Squires (2007-08)
Niel Tashima
Setha Low, ex-officio
Kathleen Terry-Sharp, AAA Staff Liaison
Jona Pounds, AAA Staff Support