AAA Committee on Practicing, Applied, and Public Interest Anthropology (CoPAPIA)

Annual Report for 2009:

CoPAPIA was very active throughout 2009. We met by phone monthly (with a brief recess during July) and AAA supported a face-to-face, two-day meeting in February at the AAA offices in Arlington; we held a meeting as well in Philadelphia. The Committee continues to be involved in discussions across AAA departments (Publications, Meetings, Membership and Public Affairs), AAA sections and anthropology departments on ways to integrate, support and involve public, practicing and applied anthropologist in the Association.

1. **AN Columns, "Anthropology Works" Shirley Fiske and Niel Tashima, Corresponding Editors**
   
   - February 2009 – "The Politics of Family Planning: An Agenda for President Obama," *AN* 50(2):30 (Barbara Pillsbury)
   - March 2009 – "Going Where No Anthropologist has Gone Before," *AN* 50(3):31 (Robert Hahn)
   - October 2009 -"Why We Love the Recession...Sort Of," *AN* 50(7):31 (Ken C Erikson)
   - November 2009- “Aging Research and Service Settings: Ethnogerontological Work in Practice,” *AN* 50(8): 26 (Madelyn Iris and Rebecca Berman)

   **NOTE:** Kerry Thompson is a past recipient of the AAA Minority Dissertation Fellowship.

2. **M.A. Alumni Career Survey**

   Under the direction of CoPAPIA (Shirley Fiske, Linda Bennett, and Patricia Ensworth), and with support from AAA, Terry Redding of Beta Associates coordinated a survey in 2009 of alums from MA degree programs across all specialties and subfields of anthropology. AAA supplied staff and $5,000 to support the project. The survey had a very healthy response rate and the data has been analyzed. Preliminary results were presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting in both a session and to the Department Chairs and Representatives. A PowerPoint presentation of the preliminary results has been made available to the DSP Department Chairs and is on the AAA web site. A draft final report is now under review by CoPAPIA. Additional articles and presentations are forthcoming.

3. **AAA 2009 meeting session:**
   
   **Session Title:** Advancing Practicing Anthropology: A Forum on Creating Spaces and Places for Practitioners in The AAAA
Organizers: Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh (Denver Museum of Nature & Science), Linda Bennett (U of Memphis), Nathaniel Tashima (LTG Associates, Inc)

Abstract: The Committee on Practicing, Applied, and Public Interest Anthropology (CoPAPIA) is one of the AAA's newest committees. A portion of the charge for CoPAPIA includes: fostering the reciprocal relationship between anthropological theory and practice; establishing liaisons with appropriate Sections; making recommendations for education, training, and professional development; and collaborating with a range of AAA Sections. At the 2008 AAA Annual Meeting, CoPAPIA members met with leaders from a focused number of AAA Sections to begin a conversation about how the committee can effectively partner with Sections. This year 10 Section leaders will share results from the "practicing checklist," a self-review conducted by each Section to review its current practices and to see where it can create more "spaces and places" for practicing anthropologists in the future. The session will continue a dialogue about the AAA's short- and long-term agenda to build an organization that is inclusive of all anthropologists.

Panelists:
Madelaine Adelman
Janet Levy
Vilma Santiago-Irazarry
Kimberly Simmons
Catherine Fowler
Mary Butler
John Trainor
Lenore Manderson
Alaka Wali

4. The American Anthropologist:
CoPAPIA has worked with Tom Boellstorff, American Anthropologist Editor-in-Chief, to raise the visibility of public and practicing anthropology in AA. Tom has appointed multiple applied practitioners to the Editorial Board. "Public Anthropology Reviews" will be published in the American Anthropologist beginning March 2010. Several CoPAPIA members contributed review essays for the new review section.

5. Employer Expo:
Under NAPA’s sponsorship and leadership, the committee participated in planning and co-sponsored a welcoming brunch for the fourth annual Employer Expo. CoPAPIA, the Department of Practicing and Applied Anthropology and CoPAA co-sponsored a wine and cheese reception at the conclusion of the Employer Expo. The Expo attracted a number of new employers and was well-attended by students, faculty, and practicing anthropologists.
6. **Tenure and Promotion Project:**

In collaboration with the Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropology Programs (COPAA, with Sunil Khanna as lead), CoPAPIA is developing a statement to address 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. The 2010 Annual Meeting Session will address this issue. The Committee intends to submit a statement to the Executive Board in 2011.

7. **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
Neil Tashima
Setha Low, ex-officio
Kathleen Terry-Sharp, AAA Staff Liaison
Jona Pounds, AAA Staff Support