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Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.
Number of Members: 246

List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.
This is the total number of members as of September 30, 2014. It is down from our total in 2013 of 283. Our high in January of 2014 was 284. As discussed at the meeting in December, most section memberships are down this year as a result of the AAA's efforts to clean its membership records. We also anticipate that the cost of membership for some is becoming more challenging given the decline in university budgets, particular in public colleges and universities. Members must strategically choose when to join professional organizations.

Finances:

Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).
Financial Balance: 75,913.72

Publication Sponsored budgets.
$75,913.72 was our projected budget for December 31, 2014. Our assets as of Sept. 30, 2014 totaled $82,343.32. The difference reflects the costs allocated for conference expenses and the ABA website. These are the numbers that we presented to the ABA during our general body meeting in December 2014.

List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.
Membership provides the most significant source of revenue for the ABA. As the membership has experienced ebbs and flows, so has our bottom line. That said, we are managing our resources well and have used them to invest in technology, support our mentoring efforts and expand our outreach at the AAAs.

Sessions:

List the titles of your Section's AAA meeting invited sessions, co-sponsored sessions, and any special events your Section sponsored or in which it participated.

Session Type: Invited
Session: Producing Anthropology? Through Community Engagement

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with Association for Feminist Anthropology
Session: Intersectionality and Anthropology: Theory, Methods, and Praxis

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: Citizenship Otherwise: More Lessons From the Savage Slot

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: Sorrow As Artifact: Black Radical Mothering in Times of Terror

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: Performing Identity and Culture

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: Intersectionality and Anthropology: Theory, Methods, and Praxis

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: Racializing Mobilities: Diasporic Blackness in Motion

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: Legacies of Race and Space

Session Type: Special Events
Session: Ways of Knowing: The Struggle to Produce Anthropologists of Color, An ABA Works in Progress Session

Session Type: Special Events
Session: Politics and the Performing Arts in Washington, DC

Awards

List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.

Award: Johnnetta B. Cole Student Travel Award
Date: 12/05/2014
Recipient: Corliss Heath
Affiliation: University of South Florida
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: At the Crossroads of Progress and Peril: HIV in Black Communities
Award: John L. Gwaltney Award  
Date: 12/05/2014  
Recipient: Reighan Gillam  
Affiliation: University of Michigan  
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Learning to Transgress

Award: ABA Legacy Scholar Award  
Date: 12/05/2014  
Recipient: Prof. Anselme Remy  
Affiliation: Universite d'Etat d'Haiti  
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Legacy Scholar

Meetings

Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?
Yes

If granted, who/what was it/they used for?
We requested a meeting registration waiver. It was used for Prof. Anselme Remy, an anthropologist who lives and works in Haiti. He was one of the founders of the ABA and we were able to invite him back to receive our ABA Legacy Award, which was presented to him on Friday evening. Thank you for the support. The waiver was indeed helpful.

List spring meeting activities
Incomplete

Mentorship:

Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following (e.g., special activities, funding, awards, guidance/advising on professional matters, etc.)
Undergraduate and/or graduate students.
Written by Riche' Barnes for ABA:

History

The ABA Works-in-Progress has been in operation for the last five years. It was started in 2008 at the 107th Meetings of the American Anthropological Association in San Francisco by Riché Daniel Barnes and Kevin Michael Foster and the first session was in 2009. There was a general sense that anthropologists of color, were often having difficulty finding people within their graduate programs to sufficiently mentor them, not just to complete the degree but to help them with publications and grants. The original mission was to match “junior” scholars who needed feedback on works-in-progress with “senior” scholars whose work was loosely related. The senior scholars would be sent 7-10 pages of a “work” the junior scholar had “in progress” read and provide feedback, and then meet at the Works-in-Progress Session during the annual meeting of the AAA. A special event time was set aside through the AAA organizers and junior and senior scholars who were matched came to the session, as well as those who had general questions.
Present

Since that time, the session has grown to include a meet and greet discussion during the scheduled event time as well as scheduled meetings between the matched junior and senior scholars. We usually get 10-14 junior scholars and 7-10 senior scholars. I match the scholars based on similar research interests and/or geographical locations.

New This Year

This year, 2014, we implemented for the first time, a roundtable discussion that we did in partnership with a group of scholars who discussed some of the issues important to gaining and maintaining mentorship as graduate students, junior faculty, and beyond. The Roundtable included Riché Daniel Barnes, A Lynn Bolles, Sonya Maria Johnson, Nicole Truesdell, Fayana Richards, and Jennifer Esperanza. Each participant spoke about a particular aspect of their involvement with mentoring graduate students and junior faculty. There were undergraduates, post-docs, full professors, and applied anthropologists present and engaged in the discussion. There were about twenty people in attendance. Much of the question and answer period focused on publications and the job market.

This Year

I decided to place the one-to-one mentoring session on hold this year to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. We went forward with the informal mentoring session. There were three senior faculty present (Lynn Bolles, Pem Buck, and Jafari Sinclair). There were approximately thirty early career, post-docs, and graduate students. Primary topics and questions included publishing, navigating the job market, and mentoring. Some of the discussion revolved around where to take a job with concerns about being near elderly parents or having support for young families. There seems to be a real need for mentoring for men and for navigating jobs as young black professionals. An impromptu group was formed around writing the dissertation. I also distributed a survey that sought to investigate topics for future roundtables and ways the mentoring program can be more helpful to participants. Some long-time attendees said it is the highlight of their time at the AAAs, other’s saw it as a wonderful way to connect with people across research interests and location in the academy.

Planning

Moving forward several participants volunteered to be on the ABA Mentoring Program Committee (Riché Daniel Barnes, Sonya Maria Johnson, Nicole Truesdell, and Tayo Jolaosho). We will be analyzing the data from the survey to determine what programming we should do in the future. One suggestion that resonated for a lot of people was having a pre-conference workshop for publishing and the job market, or at the minimum having a double-session event. Many complained that the current time-slot for the session did not provide enough time to cover all of the topics needed.

We would like to continue the roundtable “topic” format, continue to have the meet and
greet where students and scholars can have informal conversations, and the one-on-one “works-in-progress” mentoring sessions. Feedback suggests we were right to disaggregate the mentoring one-to-one from the general meet and greet because people were getting confused as to whether or not they could come to the meet and greet if they did not have a project to share.

I plan to send the survey to past participants in the one-to-one mentoring sessions to evaluate that portion of the program. Some of the people in attendance at the session had participated in the one-to-ones but the majority had not. Once I collect data from that group, I will determine how to move forward with that portion of the program.

**Early career scholars.**
See Above

**Independent scholars.**
Not Applicable.

**Outreach:**

Additional outreach efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to other sections, interest groups, and scholarly societies, government agencies, public education/community engagement, and underrepresented minorities.

The AAA meetings this year were quite unique given the public outrage over the incidents in Ferguson. The ABA worked with the AAA in coordinating a AAA response to Ferguson. In addition to members participating in the die-in at the meetings and helping to draft a statement for the section assembly, the ABA drafted and released its own statement which was sent out to the public. The ABA continues to work with the AAA to develop a more sustained and instructive response to racialized police violence in the US.

**Communications:**

Status and use of Section internal communications such as a website, list serve, or newsletter (if applicable): Please list internal communication tools you use and what they are used for.

Listserv - Used to communicate call for papers, job/post doc announcements, mentorship opportunities, ABA awards opportunities/deadlines

Website - Hosts information about the ABA (History, officers, by-laws). It also includes award opportunities/deadlines, AAA call for papers, Transforming Anthropology submission information.

FB Page - Posts information similar to the Listserv, in addition to current/interesting anthropology news.

Twitter Account - Live tweet ABA sessions during the AAA meetings

**Governance:**

Changes in bylaws or governance structure.

Not applicable

**Initiatives:**
What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?
We are continuing to develop our ABA Mapping project, which lists the names, research interests and research locations of ABA members. Currently we have over 50 ABA members signed up for the mapping project. During our annual meeting, we showed the site to the members and the response was enthusiastic. We are working on cleaning up the site and preparing to make announcements about it as a resource.
http://www.mappingblackanthropology.com/members/

Ask AAA:
Please tell us what your chief concerns and issues are, especially if they are not previously noted.
What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the Section Assembly Executive Committee (SAEC)? Please be specific.
Not applicable
What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board? Please be specific.
Not applicable.
What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff? Please be specific.
Not applicable.