Submitted By:
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- Jessica Hardin (Graduate student rep (outgoing)) - hardin@pacificu.edu
- Andrew Hernann (Graduate student rep (incoming)) - AHernann@gc.cuny.edu

Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.
Number of Members: 1291

List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.
I have drawn the membership count from Ed Liebow's message this fall, announcing the membership database update. The spreadsheet attached to that message shows AES with 1488 members in August, 2013, and 1291 members in August, 2014 -- but the message itself suggests that the decline in numbers may be an artifact of the update. The decline was in every category except joint (which increased from 11 to 13); the largest decline was in the student category. We note an increase in membership from August to September, 2013 -- yielding a "peak" at 1503. We will know more at this time next year, once we can measure changes from the improved baseline AAA has provided.

Finances:

Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).
Financial Balance: 356910

Publication Sponsored budgets.
My most recent quarterly statement is from September, 2014.

AE: budgeted expenses for 2014: $151,944 ($80,841 actual expenses YTD-September.)
AES: net assets $356,910 (YTD - September)
AES: revenues $69,303 (YTD - September); annual budgeted $89,682.

List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.
Our financial objective for the spring conference is to at least break even. The conference is an important feature of our ongoing efforts to attract and retain membership.

For AE, some higher expense lines in the 2015 budget reflect the editorial transition and the transition in the senior copy editor's office. Our sustainability target is to maintain revenues/expenses closer to the 2014 budget.

As was the case last year, our decline in revenues reflects the strategic publication fund assessment. Downloads continue at record levels for our journal.

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: Special Events  
Session: TEACHING INTRO: STRATEGIES FOR REACHING OUR LARGEST PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Session Type: Special Events  
Session: Publishing In Anthopology: Tips On Academic Writing And Peer Review

Session Type: Special Events  
Session: Writing Violence.

Session Type: Special Events  
Session: BRIDGING THE GAP: ON ANTHROPOLOGY AND ISLAMIC STUDIES

Session Type: Other  
Session: AES Board Meeting (not in program)

Session Type: Other  
Session: AES Business Meeting

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with APLA  
Session: ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO LAW, GENDER, AND HUMAN RIGHTS: PAPERS IN HONOR OF SALLY ENGLE MERRY

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with APLA  
Session: THE "COEFFICIENT OF WEIRDNESS": PARANOIA, CONSPIRACY, AND THE UNINTELLIGIBLE IN RATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with SAW  
Session: LABOR, LAW, AND CULTURES OF MOBILIZATION: (CO)PRODUCING ANTHROPOLOGICAL NARRATIVES OF STRUGGLE AND INEQUALITY

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with SMA  
Session: "CARE"FUL CONSIDERATION: EXAMINING NOTIONS OF CARE WITHIN AND TOWARD ETHNOGRAPHY

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with AAA Executive Committee
Session: PRODUCING AND ENVISIONING THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF TOURISM (PART II): ON PRESENT AND FUTURE TRAVEL OF HOSTS, GUESTS, AND ANTHROPOLOGISTS OF TOURISM

Session Type: Invited
Session: ETHNOGRAPHY AND ITS PUBLICS

Session Type: Invited
Session: Global Knowledge I

Session Type: Other
Session: AES sessions (inclusive of all types, including one poster session) = 62

Awards

List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.

Award: Elsie Clews Parsons Prize
Date: 04/11/2014
Recipient: Alexa Hagerty
Affiliation: Stanford University
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: "Speak Softly to the Dead"

Award: Senior Book Prize
Date: 12/06/2014
Recipient: Tine Gammeltoft
Affiliation: University of Copenhagen
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Haunting Images

Award: Senior Book Prize (honorable mention)
Date: 12/06/2014
Recipient: Anne Allison
Affiliation: Duke University
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Precarious Japan

Meetings

Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?
No

If granted, who/what was it/they used for?
not applicable

List spring meeting activities
From Sam Martinez, 2014 spring meeting organizer:

The 2014 spring meeting of the American Ethnological Society was organized in conjunction with the Society for Visual Anthropology (SVA), and took place at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 9-12 April. Organized by AES Councilor, Samuel Martínez, in collaboration with SVA board members, Jenny Chio, Kate Hennessy and Jonathan Marion, the conference theme was “In/Visibility: Projects, Media, Politics.” Over 300 participants registered for the conference. Featuring 244 presentations based on volunteered
submissions, in 50 panels/roundtables, a special innovation of the 2014 AES/SVA conference were the “Media Makers Sessions,” in which filmmakers and visual ethnographers and artists were each allotted 30 minutes to display short samples of their work and then engage the attendees through spoken reflections and Q&A. The opening plenary speaker was John Jackson, Jr., who spoke on the theme, “From Thin Descriptions to Thin Identities: Toward an Anthropology of the Unseen.” The keynote address, “Crippling the Camera: ‘f##k inner beauty!’,” was given by Faye Ginsburg. And the closing plenary speaker was Michael Herzfeld, who titled his talk, “Invisible, Inchoate, and Intimate: A Brief History of Cultural Manipulation from Crypto-Colonialism to the Global Hierarchy of Value.” There were plenary film screenings and discussions of _Leviathan_, by Véréna Paravel and Lucien Castaing-Taylor, and Edward Curtis’s _The Head Hunters_ (fully restored with original music, discovered by Aaron Glass). Additionally, a pre-conference tour of the visual anthropology and Africana collections at Harvard’s Peabody Museum was led by Ilisa Barbash, Diana Loren and Chris Steiner; Ariella Azoulay led a pre-conference discussion of her book, _Civil Imagination: A Political Ontology of Photography_; and workshops for graduate students were led by Jonathan Marion, Faye Ginsburg, Kate Hennessy, and Aaron Glass.

**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.**

AES activities involve several formats: Regular graduate student/mentoring workshops at the AAA annual meeting and during the spring AES meeting; a seat on the board for a graduate student representative (a full member of the board, and charged with liaising with grad students on mentoring needs and other matters); recognition of graduate student work through the Elsie Clews Parsons Prize and its feedback process; the Sharon Stephens Prize for a first book. AE is by its very nature a site of mentorship through the editorial process, but also through ancillary projects such as the editor's role as organizer/host or participant in AAA or AES sessions on publication.

The graduate student workshops associated with the AAA annual meeting and the AES spring conference are our main mentoring effort. Each workshop involves one or two faculty members facilitating discussion in a small-group setting on a topic proposed by graduate students through the graduate student representative. We have sometimes been in a position to offer modest subventions to graduate students who participate in the workshops.

We have not developed mentoring activities specifically for undergraduates.

**Early career scholars.**

Please see paragraph above. We note in particular the Sharon Stephens Prize and publications-related sessions at the annual meetings. Some early career scholars attend the graduate student workshops.

**Independent scholars.**

Please see the general paragraph, above. All of our activities are open to independent scholars.

**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.

AES section collaborations in 2014 consisted primarily of the following activities:

* formal affiliation with the History of Anthropology Interest Group;
* joint spring meeting with the Society for Visual Anthropology in April, 2014;
* co-sponsorships of sessions at the AAA annual meeting.

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.

Internal communications within the AES Board are through a listserv (google groups); a listserv for members, if managed appropriately, would improve our communications with membership. Our section communications are mainly to promote interest in the AAA annual meeting, the AES spring meeting, and our various prizes; AE's communications feature upcoming articles, virtual issues, and current issues. Section communications with members rely on the monthly AN column, the messaging services of AAA, the AES website (shared with AE), and social media (Facebook and Twitter).

Governance:

Changes in bylaws or governance structure.

The AES Board consists of the president, the president-elect, secretary, treasurer, journal editor, graduate student representative, and five councilors. Councilors rotate through a series of responsibilities. The main responsibilities involve section programming for the AAA annual meeting, the book prizes, and organization of the AES annual spring meeting (an 18-month process).

Governance highlights this year include:

* revision of the Bylaws. A subcommittee of the Board (Daniel Goldstein, Hugh Gusterson, Caitrin Lynch and Carol Greenhouse) made a thorough review of the existing Bylaws, assisted by AAA staff. The proposed revisions were approved unanimously by the Board on December 4, 2014, and have now been passed on to AAA. If the ballot initiative is successful, this will be the first Bylaws revision since 1991. Changes are of two sorts: updates to align AES Bylaws with current AAA organization and administrative practice (including modern communications technology); and revision of the composition of the board (adding a section editor and eliminating one councilor, as well as regularizing the membership of the Graduate Student Representative). Along with clarification of responsibilities, terms of office, and means of selection (appointment/selection). In revising the board's structure, we have maintained the balance of appointed and elected members. We look forward to working with Kim Baker to place the Bylaws on the spring ballot.

* selection of a new AE editor. This was an 18-month process, led by a search committee (Ken Guest, Hugh Gusterson, Sally Merry and Carol Greenhouse); the committee's recommendation was approved unanimously by the Board. The editorial transition will take
place in July, 2015.

*nominations. A subcommittee of the Board (Hugh Gusterson, Jessica Hardin, Ritty Lukose and Carol Greenhouse) composed slates for the upcoming elections of councilor (one seat) and president-elect.

*In process: an internal AES archive for section leadership and Board members, to assure continuity of knowledge as individuals cycle in and out of their Board posts. Examples of documents for the archive include: the 5-year sustainability plan filed with POWG earlier this year, the editorial search committee report of its procedures, the Bylaws, and the minutes of past Board meetings.

Initiatives:

What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?

Our initiatives are aimed at supporting the section through a positive synergy of membership and readership. The annual meeting of the AAA and the annual spring meeting of AES are key to sustaining membership. The journal is key to readership. These are linked endeavors, essentially aimed at fostering a diverse intellectual community, actively engaged with AES, AAA and other scholarly organizations. The in-coming editor of AE, Niko Besnier, is the first editor to be based outside of the United States, and we welcome the opportunity for fuller international partnership.

With the re-establishment of a section editor's position on the Board, we hope to be in a position to broaden our outreach to members through communications.

The next AES spring meeting (organized by Elizabeth Dunn) will take place in San Diego, CA, in March, 2015.

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.

Two thoughts for the Section Assembly -- (1) a longer session at the annual meeting, so as to have more time for the full agenda and/or more time for discussion, and (2) an archive of Section Assembly minutes posted to the governance site, especialy so that incoming leadership can find their place in longer term issues.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board? Please be specific.

Our leadership group is very grateful to AAA staff for their availability, expertise, and time, throughout the year.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff? Please be specific.

We'd be grateful for a larger "allowance" of membership e-mails, especially now that the glitch in the "blast" service has been fixed.