Submitted By:
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Board Members:
  ● Anita Spring (President) - aspring@ufl.edu
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  ● Erica Fontana (Electronic Editor) - efontana@ucsd.edu
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  ● Bennetta Jules-Rosette (Co-chair: Undergraduate and Graduate Student Paper) -
    bjulesro@ucsd.edu
  ● JR Osborn (Co-chair: Undergraduate and Graduate Student Paper) -
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  ● Maria Cattell (Elliott P. Skinner Book Award Committee Member) - mgcattell@aol.com
  ● Kristin Hedges (Program Committee Co-chair) - khedges@email.arizona.edu

Membership:
  Provide the most recent membership numbers.
  Number of Members: 277

List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.
  1. AfAA passed a motion that it create a pre-drafted statement to send to chairs of AfAA
     panels to ask them to encourage their panelists to join the AfAA (a criterion, in a way, for
     being part of the AfAA panel).

  2. Based on AfAA Board member discussions, Anita Spring appointed Bennetta
     Jules-Rosette as the Membership Chair.

  3. A motion to reactivate the student member as a member of Board was passed.

  4. Members suggested contacting departments and African Studies Programs to sponsor
     students. This would be an e-mail asking them to sponsor students, remind them of the
     undergraduate and graduate student paper awards presented at AAA, and becoming
     members of AfAA. Also, faculty should sponsor students.

  5. Regarding numbers in the section, there was a sharp drop across all sections due to
     implementing a new software which removed the no-longer-members from the count.
     Apparently the old program didn't do that automatically. So, it's not a reflection on our
     section's appeal in particular.
Finances:

Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).

Financial Balance: 39,834

Publication Sponsored budgets.

1. The fund balance as of September 30 was $39,834." Between the prizes and the expenses for the reception, we may have spent $10,000.

List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.

1. There was a bequest to the section from the will of Nancy "Penny" Schwartz. As of October, AfAA’s revenues were $10,020, including $7,085 from membership dues and the bequest.

2. The section discussed the notion of having an AAA quasi-endowment for $10,000. As soon as the AAA will allow it, the section would like to move in terms of having this endowment.

3. Stipends for student paper awards discussed and financial aspects as follows:
   a. Graduate student award winner: Receives $500 and certificate
   b. Graduate student honorable mention: Receives certificate
   c. Undergraduate award winner: Receives $100 and certificate (if they attend, we pay the registration and AfAA reimburses up to $300 for travel expenses).
   d. Undergraduate award winner Honorable mention: Receives certificate

4. AfAA will notify the winners' institutions (faculty and dean) and ask them to support the student winner's participation at the annual meeting.

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 Co-Sponsored with Association for Political and Legal Anthropology
Session: WHEN PASTORAL TERRITORIES BECOME 'PROPERTY': SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OUTCOMES OF FORMALIZING MAASAI LAND HOLDINGS IN EASTERN AFRICA

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with Association for Political and Legal Anthropology
Session: DIGITAL DIASPORAS: AFRICAN MIGRANTS, MEDIATED COMMUNICATION, AND TRANSNATIONAL IDENTITIES

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with AAA Executive Program Committee
Session: AFRICA ON AND OFF THE GRID

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: TRANSCULTURAL SITES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE
Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: RELIGION, POWER AND CULTURE CHANGE ACROSS AFRICA  

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: SINGING THE GENDERED PUBLIC IN AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA  

Session Type: Invited  
Session: GENDER, AGE AND IDENTITY IN AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA  

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: SOCIAL CONNECTIVITY AND SOCIAL NETWORKING IN 21ST CENTURY AFRICA  

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: NATURAL RESOURCES, POWER AND SOCIAL POLICY IN AFRICAN CONTEXTS  

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: ANTHROPOLOGISTS AND THE GLOBAL LAND GRAB IN EASTERN AFRICA: RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY  

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: MEMORIES, STORIES, AND OBJECTS OF HOME AMONG REFUGEES  

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: SOCIAL CONNECTIVITY AND SOCIAL NETWORKING IN 21ST CENTURY AFRICA  

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: AFRICAN HOMOSEXUALITIES: "ANTI-GAY" LEGISLATION AND NEW SEXUAL PUBLICS  

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: INTERSECTIONALITY  

Session Type: Special Events  
Session: AfAA Reception: Smithsonian National Museum of African Art December 4, 2014. Included a welcome from the Museum director, anthropologist Dr. Johnnette Cole, Distinguished Lecture by Dr. Steven Feld, presentation of awards for the Elliot P. Skinner Book Award, and undergraduate and graduate papers awards.  

Session Type: Special Events  
Session: Distinguished Lecture: Professor Steven Feld, The Audible Entanglements of Africanist Anthropology and Jazz Studies, AfAA reception at NMfAA  

Session Type: Special Events
Session: AfAA Board Meeting: Held in conjunction with the AfAA Reception.

Awards

List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.

Award: Elliot P. Skinner Book Award  
Date: 12/04/2014  
Recipient: Jemima Pierre  
Affiliation: UCLA  
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: The Predicament of Blackness: Postcolonial Ghana and the Politics of Race

Award: Bennetta Jules-Rosette Graduate Essay Award  
Date: 12/04/2014  
Recipient: Uwa Oduwa  
Affiliation: Georgetown University  
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Rethinking Study Abroad: Academic Exchange in Developing Nations and the Case for Nigeria

Award: Nancy "Penny" Schwartz Undergraduate Essay Award  
Date: 12/04/2014  
Recipient: Alexis Coopersmith  
Affiliation: UC San Diego  

Award: Honorable Mention Undergraduate Essay Award  
Date: 12/04/2014  
Recipient: Sarah Razyl Lansky  
Affiliation: Macalester College  
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: My Brother Before Me: The Role and Experience of Local Humanitarian Aid Workers In Eastern Cameroon

Award: Elliot P. Skinner Book Award, Honorable Mention  
Date: 12/04/2014  
Recipient: Wyatt MacGaffey  
Affiliation: retired  
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Chiefs, Priests, and Praise Singers

Meetings

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

If granted, who/what was it/they used for?  
Incomplete

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.**

1. The AfAA sees the awarding of the undergraduate and graduate student papers as a way to mentor students in anthropology.

2. Bennetta Jules-Rosette Graduate Essay Award

**Winner:** Uwa Oduwa (Georgetown University) "Rethinking Study Abroad: Academic Exchange in Developing Nations and the Case for Nigeria"

Uwa’s Master’s Thesis is an insightful examination of study-abroad programs and their assessment by educational professionals. The thesis focuses on programs hosted in Nigeria and draws upon a wide range of scholarship: from Africanist and diasporic studies to network theory, cosmopolitanism, and education research. Uwa synthesized survey data with a contextual study of Nigerian higher education to conclude that raising the prominence of Africa-based faculty also increases student and educational exchanges. The study offers great promise for expanding the role of African centers of higher education within academic and global networks.

**Nancy "Penny" Schwartz Undergraduate Essay Award**

**Winner:** Alexis Coopersmith (UC San Diego) "Pathways to Power: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Wangari Maathai, and the African Woman’s Pursuit of Political Power”

Alexis’ honors thesis is an impressive work of anthropological, sociological, and political analysis. She develops an innovative grounded-theory approach for the study of women’s political power and methodically applies her theory to the life stories of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Wangari Maathai. The thesis offers new models of social change applicable to Africanist anthropology, feminist and gender studies, political sociology, and beyond. The strength of the thesis resulted in Alexis being offered an internship with a UN task force. She is currently working with a the UN in Malawi, collecting ethnographic data, and putting her theories to practice. Alexis's thesis also won awards from the African and African American Studies Research Center (AAASRC) and the Department of Sociology at UCSD.

**Honorable Mention:** Sarah Razyl Lansky (Macalester College) " My Brother Before Me: The Role and Experience of Local Humanitarian Aid Workers In Eastern Cameroon”

Sarah Lansky’s piece contains a strong and extensive fieldwork component, including interviews and participant observation of humanitarian workers in Cameroon. The thesis shines an ethnographic lens upon humanitarian work, and the ways in which aid workers shape global flows, international relations, refugee cultures, and migration. Sarah also explores how local agents of humanitarian organizations contribute to building the African middle class.

**Early career scholars.**
Elliot P. Skinner Book Award

1. The winner this year of the Elliott P. Skinner Book Award, that carries a $1000 stipend, was Jemima Pierre, a young scholar and author of the winning book for this award *The Predicament of Blackness: Postcolonial Ghana and the Politics of Race* University of Chicago Press, 2013.

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.

AfAA passed a motion that it create a pre-drafted statement to send to chairs of AfAA panels to ask them to encourage their panelists to join the AfAA.

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.

1. The website for the AfAA was completely updated and revised by our webmaster Erica Fontana.

2. Notifications of the undergraduate and graduate student papers awards were listed.

3. Notification of the Elliott P. Skinner Book Award contest was posted.

4. The website provided the list of board members, as well as news about the section.

5. The listserv was used to communicate information about the annual meeting, the reception at the meeting, and the board and business meetings.

Governance:

Changes in bylaws or governance structure.

1. We have two suggestions for additional International Liaisons and we will ask them to submit their materials.

Francesca Declich from the University of Urbino in Italy attended the board meeting and is willing to serve. She works in Mozambique and many other places in Africa and is in charge of two ethnological centers.

Another suggestion was Andrew Spiegel.

AfAA wants to have a liaison from Africa, but it may be a scholar residing in the US who attends the AAA regularly.

2. AfAA wants to re-activate having a student member and will be recruiting for candidates to submit for the election.
3. The board requested that we have a membership chair, and former president Bennetta Jules-Rosette said she would take this on. Hence with the permission of the board, the chair, Anita Spring appointed her to this position.

4. AfAA is looking for a new contributing editor, especially when the current person becomes President of AfAA in 2017.

Initiatives:

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

1. The AfAA was able to hold its reception at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art on the Mall in Washington DC. The space was donated by the director Dr. Johnnetta Cole who is an anthropologist. She had attended our meeting and reception in the previous AAA meeting in Chicago and offered the space. This is the first instance of such an occurrence and was a total value of $8,500. The AfAA had to pay for security as the entire museum and its exhibits were open to the AfAA members and their guests.

2. The AfAA continued its procedure of having a distinguished lecture as part of the reception. Dr. Stephen Feld to give his distinguished lecture as part of reception. He received an unprecedented standing ovation for his presentation!

3. About 110 people attended this event.

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 at this time.

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

Some AAA members often have very specific causes, and some seem too self-interested, and perhaps harmful to the organization. Support for minority rights vis-a-vis the police was okay, but sanctions against ALL anthropologists in one country (Israel was a case in point) seemed too much.

Section presidents and members feel the need to be supportive. Can such motions be vetted by the Ex. Board, so we just don't feel the need to vote "yes" on everything (or thought to be unsupportive colleagues if we don't)?

Also, they seem to take up a lot of time at the Section Board meeting, and perhaps should be prepared in advance, and not presented for the first time at the meeting.

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

Please provide information at regular intervals about AAA websites, listservs, and any other electronic modes to section presidents, webmasters, and electronic editors.

Please have a better mechanism to deal with off-site receptions at the annual meetings.

Many thanks for all that the staff do!!