ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ANTHROPOLOGISTS
2007 Annual Report Submitted by Dana-Ain Davis, President

STATUS, ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Overview
The ABA Executive Board includes: Dana-Ain Davis, President; Kim Simmons, Vice President and Program Chair; Kevin Foster, Past President and At-Large Member; Cheryl Mwaria, Secretary/Treasurer; Marla Frederick, At-Large Member; Raymond Codrington, At-Large Member; Micah Gilmer and Karen Williams Student Representatives; Vernon Williams, General Editor; John Jackson and Deborah Thomas, Co-Editors, Transforming Anthropology. In addition Elizabeth Chin serves as AN editor and Marilyn Thomas-Houston is the webpage designer.

During 2007 ABA embarked on two projects:
The Vera Green Award, chaired by Sabiyha Prince,
The Gwaltney Fund Project, chaired by Leith Mullings

Membership and Dues
Based on the October 30, 2007 AAA report, ABA has 315 members which is up 9.4% from last October (2006). For the first time in 10 years, ABA increased the dues rate for regular members to $40 from $30. The student membership rate remained the same.

Communication with Members
ABA members are kept informed of developments through the ABA listserv which in 2007 was hosted by the University of Texas at Austin through the work of past-president Kevin Foster. A major communication upgrade was in the works through 2007 with the implementation of the ABA website. This mock-up of the site was presented to the membership at the general meeting and can be found at the website:
www.associationofblackanthropologists.org

The website has several general information pages as well as a “News” page that will inform members about upcoming events and announcements.

Finances
The October 30, 2007 Statement of Net Asses showed that ABA had Net Assets of $22,714.86.

The 2008 budget anticipates revenues of $8,720.00 based on increased regular membership fees (up to $40 from $30). We expect to have expenditures that now include $400 in travel money for the program chair, $1,600 for conference expenses, $100 for phone, postage, photocopying and office supplies each; $200 consultants; $500 websites; and publication revenue of $4,638 (based on our apportioned revenue distribution from Wiley Blackwell).

Elections
The 2007 Spring elections for a Secretary-Treasurer resulted in the nomination of Willie McKether from Toledo University. We did not have any by-law changes.

AAA Annual Meetings

The AAA meetings in Washington featured the following panels:

1. Speculating Black, Speculating Queer: Toward a Black Clear Anthropology
2. Performing and Practicing Diaspora: Blackness in Contemporary Perspective
4. A Workshop: Naming It: Critical Pedagogies on Race, Racism, and Whiteness
6. Invited Session: Race and Inequality in the Afro-Latin Diaspora: Resistance and Intersectionality (with SLACA)
7. Invited Session with AES: Racial Passing and Performance in the 21st Century
8. Invited Session: Anti-Affirmative Action Campaigns and the Shifting Terrain of Civil Rights and Diversity Politics (with ALLA)
9. The Illusion of Inclusion: The Politics of Difference (Race?) in Education

During the meetings, ABA awarded the first Vera Green Publication Award to Aimee Cox. The Committee composed of Sabiyha Prince, Gina Sanchez, Tracy Fisher and Rachel Watkins and Lynn Bolles, unanimously voted to give the award to Dr. Cox. The award is given in honor of Vera Green, first president of ABA to a junior scholar whose work links the discipline in a practical application.

Further, ABA held its reception in conjunction with SANA, AFA, ALLA, SLACA and SOLGA.

Finally, during 2007, ABA sought to revitalize the Gwaltney Fund is an unrestricted Prize Fund established as a scholarship fund in 1999 that honors the life and intellectual legacy of John L. Gwaltney, author of Drylongso, who died on August 29th, 1998. This scholarship is for research and/or writing that reflects the theoretical and methodological legacy of native anthropology as demonstrated in Gwaltney’s work and will be awarded to assist young scholars (defined as ABD or those who have not held the position of Assistant Professor for more than two years), who are current ABA members at the time of application. The prize will ranges between $500 and $1,500 per year.

The original amount of the Gwaltney Fund was $2,500 and as of last year we had a balance of $3,551.42 as a result of interest income. The original stipulation was for ABA to raise enough money to create a $10,000 endowment. During 2007 a fundraising campaign brought the total up to $5,881.62. At the meetings additional funds were raised (through pledges and actual contributions) so that the total is approximately $8,500.
**ABA Website:**
The web site was designed by Marilyn Thomas-Houston with assistance from General Editor, Vernon Williams and President Dana-Ain Davis. The website was a incredible amount of work owing to the fact that we needed permission for some of the images used. I am pleased to report that the major hurdle of receiving permission from the Romare Bearden Foundation for the opening page was received and the website is up and running. Content for the website will be coordinated by Elizabeth Chin and Vernon Williams who will maintain contact with the designer.

**Transforming Anthropology**
Our journal, TA is available through AnthroSource. While we thought that we might reduce the cost of producing the journal by sending hard copies to regular members and electronic copies to student members, in the end the cost-effectiveness was minimal.

The major transition at TA was that Lee Baker turned over the operation of the publication to co-editors, John Jackson and Deborah Thomas. That transition was seamless and the journal continues to be published on schedule. It is anticipated that some design changes will take place in the future.

**FUTURE PLANS**
ABA wants to increase its membership and Riche Daniel Barnes is now the Membership Chair. She will be working with the Student Representatives to develop a campaign reaching out to faculty asking them to recruit student members.

Riche Daniel Barnes and Kevin Foster have developed a mentoring project that will begin at the 2008 meetings. This project will involve matching 2-3 students with an ABA mentor who will meet to discuss students’ projects at an agreed upon time at the meetings.

During 2008, ABA will develop a Legacy Awards that is being chaired by Janis Hutchinson. In its first year, several senior academics that have made contributions to the discipline and the association will be honored with a Legacy Award. In subsequent years, the board will nominate individuals to be honored.

**OTHER ITEMS**
One of the members’ concerns has to do with the ever-persistent threat of by-law changes that could shift ABA’s status depending on the number of members that we have. The Executive Board in particular expressed tremendous concern about these issues and has supported the President in attempting to develop an alternative to these proposals.