In 2007 SOLGA and its members continued to take an active part in, and made significant contributions to, the work of the AAA and the field of anthropology. Our membership fluctuated but remained at roughly the same level as in previous years; prior to the annual meeting in December, the membership stood at 221—up slightly from 218 in late 2007. Meanwhile, the balance of funds in our accounts is reporting more than 10K in surplus.

Elections and Officers
SOLGA is co-chaired by two persons of differing gender identities who are each elected in alternating years. Having been appointed as Co-Chair in December 2006, Martin F. Manalansan IV (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) completed his first year as co-chair. Mary L. Gray (Indiana U) completed her two year term and Gracia Clark (Indiana University) was elected by the membership to succeed her.

2007 Board Members
Outgoing Co-Chair: Mary L. Gray (mlg@indiana.edu)
Incoming Co-Chair: Gracia Clark (gelark@indiana.edu)
Co-Chair: Martin F. Manalansan IV (manalans@uiuc.edu)
Treasurer: Karen Kelsky (kelsky@uiuc.edu)
Secretary: Marcia Ochoa (marcia8a@ucsc.edu)
Communications Director: Lorraine Herbst (herbst@syr.edu)
Anthropology News Editor/Website Manager: David Houston (dlrh@uvm.edu)
Benedict Prize Chair: Deb Amory (deborah.amory@esc.edu)
Payne Prize Co-Chair: Ann Kakaliouras (akakali@whittier.edu)
Previous Co-Chair: Rudolf Gaudio (rudolf.gaudio@purchase.edu)
Program Co-Editor: Margot Weiss (margot.weiss@duke.edu)
Program Co-Editor: Naisargi Dave (naisargi.dave@utoronto.ca)
Student Board Member: Theodore K. "Ted" Gideonse (tgideons@ucsd.edu)

Annual Meeting Program
SOLGA participation in the annual meeting continues to thrive. The SOLGA Program Committee—Naisargi N. Dave (U Michigan) and Margot Weiss (College of William and Mary)—put together the program for the 2007 Annual Meetings in D.C.

SOLGA sponsored and/or reviewed the following panels.

- Invited and Sponsored: “Mentoring LGBTQ Students: Marketing Your (Queer) Self Successfully for Employment Inside and Outside Academe.” Chaired by Ellen Lewin (U of Iowa) and Bill Leap (American U.)
- Invited: The Racial Construction of Sexual Orientation and the Sexual Construction of Race
Invited and Co-sponsored with AFA: The Age of Resent—Sex, Politics and Panics
Invited and Co-sponsored with AFA: Commodified Romance and Intimate Selves
Reviewed: Queer Belonging, Sexual Citizenship
Reviewed: Language and the Negotiation of Sexual Identities

For 2008, Margot and Naisargi will continue on as program chairs and will help w/ the recruitment for the proposed presidential session on trans, SFBA events, high table/policy work as appropriate for this year's meeting theme. They will examine the feasibility of special events (talks, tours, etc.) that would increase SOLGA's visibility and make sense for theme/location. The Program Committee will continue to work with AFA and ABA on co-sponsoring panels, but try to expand this and work with area sections (e.g. East Asian Anthropology) so we can cosponsor more and get SOLGA’S name out to more scholars might not be aware of the organization.

Prize Competitions
SOLGA sponsors two annual prize competitions. The **Ruth Benedict Prize** is awarded annually for an outstanding anthropological monograph on a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered topic. (The Benedict prize for an outstanding anthology is awarded every two or three years.) This year's prize committee consisted of Deb Amory (Empire State College), Mary Weismantel (Northwestern U), Scott Morgensen (Macalester C.) and Lorraine Herbst (Syracuse U). They awarded three prizes.

In the category of edited volume, the 2007 Ruth Benedict Prize winners are Saskia Wieringa (Utrecht), Evelyn Blackwood (Purdue U.), and Abha Bhaiya (Independent Scholar), for their work, Women’s Sexualities in a Globalizing Asia (Palgrave Press).

In the category of single-authored monograph, there are two 2007 Ruth Benedict Prize winners: David Valentine (U of Minnesota), for Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category (Duke University Press), and Gloria Wekker (Utrecht), for The Politics of Passion: Women’s Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora (Columbia University Press).

The **Kenneth Payne Student Paper Prize** is a cash grant awarded for a student paper of exceptional merit. The Payne Committee consisting of Ann Kakaliouras (Whittier College), Christa Craven (Wooster College) and Tom Boellstorff (UC Irvine) awarded three prizes: Ryan Richard Thorson (Harvard University) was awarded the Undergraduate Thesis Prize while Chris Tan and John Song-pae Cho (both from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) were awarded the Payne Prize for the best graduate essay.

The SOLGAN
Lorraine Herbst (Syracuse U) has joined the board as the new Communications Director. Part of her task is to look into various media to convey information and
maintain links between and among SOLGA members and other sections in the AAA. She will carry on the work accomplished by William Leap (American U) who was elected in 2006 to head a work group charged with transitioning the SOLGAN from its current format to a more dynamic forum for scholarly and intellectual exchange among and beyond the member base. Leap led a roundtable discussion at this year’s meetings taking up the issue of SOLGA’s future directions for publication, including its possible transformation into a joint publishing effort with other allied sections of the AAA. During this reformulation stage, the SOLGAN will no longer be issued as a paper-based newsletter. Leap has provided an update of the work group’s recommendation with specific action items that still needs to fleshed out and discussed in the 2008 business meeting.

SOLG@online
David Houston (U Vermont) continues to maintain SOLGA's website. Currently, SOLG@online hosts the SOLGA Mentoring File (see below) and provides information on SOLGA’s history, its bylaws, current officers, the minutes of past business meetings, prize announcements and winners, links to websites of interest, and other information and resources useful to SOLGA’s current and prospective members. David has been working on the website redesign. He’s worked up a draft site based on WordPress blogging software. The entire membership will have the opportunity to contribute content to SOLGA’s website.

Mentor File
SOLGA maintains a Mentoring File that aims to provide a LGBTQ scholarly mentoring network for undergraduate and graduate students. In 2007 Diana Pash (UCLA) managed the Mentoring File, which is available on our website at http://homepage.mac.com/ctgrant/solga/Mentors/mentormain.html. Ted Gideonse (UCSD) will take over from Diana this year. The Mentor File was used at the 2007 meetings to facilitate the special workshop organized by Ellen Lewin and Bill Leap (see program section above). They brought together noted senior scholars and graduate students to discuss LGBT/queer scholarship in the field and as career path.

Listserv
Our section listserv (SOLGA-L@american.edu) was maintained by Michelle Carnes (American U) in 2007. Bill Leap (American U.) will take over from Michelle this year. Members and other allies may subscribe by going to http://homepage.mac.com/ctgrant/solga/listserv.html.

AN column
Thanks to the unflagging energies of David Houston (U Vermont) as Contributing Editor, in 2007 SOLGA's monthly AN column not only conveyed important information relevant to SOLGA's activities within the AAA; it also drew insightful and provocative connections between a number of national controversies and the work we do as anthropologists of sexuality.
SOLGA’s Name and “Brand”

A lively listserv discussion in October and November of 2007 around minority status and marginalization led to a creation of a committee to look into the organization’s name. Several members have expressed that the name, despite the more expansive mission statement, does not herald or uphold, other identities beyond “gay” and “lesbian.” Other members, some of whom identify as the “older” generation, asserted the political efficacy and the historical weight of “gay” and “lesbian.” More than just a debate about names, this event perhaps signals generational shifts as well as pivotal re-significations of identity categories and increasing complexities of alternative sexual and gender politics and cultures.

The committee will be looking into different ways the organization represents itself to the public and to its membership. By doing so, they need to confront the very institutional foundations of the SOLGA and map out its future path. Therefore, the SOLGA board and membership consider this event and process as a much needed institutional self-reflection. The discussion at the 2007 business meeting in Washington D.C. was productive and in many ways, hopeful. This development comprises the most important singular event or process that will affect SOLGA in years to come. In this light, the committee members below, are given the task of coming up not just with a name but with a new sense of being and a transformed mission as an organization. The working committee will present their recommendations at the 2008 meeting.

SOLGA “Brand” Working Committee

Bill Leap wlm@american.edu
Brooke Bocast brooke.bocast@temple.edu
Jenny Davis jennifer.davis@colorado.edu
Madeline Adkins adkins@umail.ucsb.edu
Elijah Edelman elijah.edelman@american.edu
Valentina Pagliai orisha4@yahoo.com
Shaka McGlotten shaka.mcglotten@purchase.edu
Rima Turner rgt23@cornell.edu
Ricky Martin rjmartinjr@gmail.com
Fae Goodman fae.goodman@gmail.com
Michelle Marzullo marzullo@american.edu
Scott Morgensen morgensen@macalester.edu
David Valentine valen076@umn.edu