National Association of Student Anthropologists

2007 Annual Report
Prepared by Jason E. Miller, NASA President

NASA has enjoyed a busy year as a section of the American Anthropological Association. In preparation for its 21st anniversary, NASA formed a 20/20 Vision Committee which began a process of cleaning by-laws and charting a dynamic mission and vision for the section. The work of this committee resulted in bylaw changes that will be sent to the membership, the creation of an on-line e-journal and an ongoing conversation about a new mission, vision and long term goals for the section. NASA was also actively involved in the creation of the emergent Student Representatives Council within the AAA governance structure and will continue to support that group in its endeavors in what ever capacity needed.

Membership and Finances:
According to the September 2007 figures, NASA membership currently stands at 798 compared to 883 in 2006. This number is within the general trends of membership numbers for the section. However, NASA is striving to reach out to more students as one of it’s goals in 2008. As of November 30, 2007, NASA’s net assets stand at $9,161.62, an increase of over $1000 from the same time 2006. NASA's primary expenditures continue to be travel and award monies, including the Carrie Hunter Tate Awards and the Travel Awards, used largely to offset the cost of annual meeting attendance for members. NASA, in accordance with our bylaws, offers travel monies to all incoming and outgoing officers who: a) attend the annual meeting, and b) certify that their trip hasn't been provided via another source of travel monies (i.e. university grants, other travel awards, etc.). Travel reimbursement and student Travel Award monies saw less than budgeted expenditures this year due not awarding the Carrie Hunter-Tate Award. NASA modified its dues structure to a flat rate of $5.00 in order to enhance program offerings and relieve budget tensions.

AAA Meeting Activities
NASA enjoyed another active year with strong representation at the 106th meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

Sessions
The NASA Program Co-Chairs and Committee organized one of the largest and most diverse number of activities for the AAA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. NASA sponsored or co-sponsored six sessions at the annual meeting including paper, poster and roundtable sessions. Session topics included ethics and visual based-research, ethnoarchaeology, student domestic and transnational activism, graduate student socialization, poverty, politics and popular culture and a session of general cutting edge student research. The NASA Program Co-chairs were Marcy Hessling and Rory McCarthy.

Workshops
Marcy Hessling was once again the principle organizer for the seventh annual NASA/AAA Mentor Workshop, which continues to be a successful way of pairing students with faculty from a variety of fields. The workshop was attended by 35 students and 9 faculty this year. The workshop was free this year, a change from previous years.
Other Activities
NASA offered the annual “Student Orientation to the AAAs” which was presented in a new format and was attended by approximately 30 students. The orientation offered an interactive presentation about the history of the AAA and NASA, the structure of the annual meeting and tips for making the most of the meeting (i.e. tips for talking with senior anthropologists, tips for getting around DC and tips for submitting papers for next year’s meeting). The orientation was created and given by NASA President-elect Jason Miller and Undergraduate Representative Marcy Hessling.

NASA published the first “Student Guide to the AAAs” a print document which featured information of interest to students including maps of the local DC area and tips from local students as to low-cost things to do while in DC. The Guide also included student related program content such as a summary of student focused session that were not sponsored by NASA and those that were. 100 brochures were printed and all were distributed. The guide was produced by NASA President-elect Jason Miller.

Finally, NASA hosted a 21st Anniversary Party which was attended by about 30 students. The party began at the host hotel and moved to a local eatery at the conclusion to continue conversation and networking.

Awards
This year NASA awarded its $100 Graduate Travel Awards to Molly Hurley-Depret, CUNY Graduate Center and Carla Klehm, University of Texas at Austin. NASA did not receive any applications from undergraduate students for the travel award. In addition, NASA did not award the Carrie Hunter-Tate Award in 2007.

Communications and Outreach Efforts
NASA continues to struggle with communication and transition between officers. Due to the sometimes transitory nature of students, NASA struggles with continuity and transitions. During 2007 our Secretary/Treasurer was engaged in dissertation fieldwork and became unavailable for communication. Subsequently he resigned his position leaving us without access to needed materials and without submitting reports or our budget. To that end, our new officers have tried very hard to ensure a smoother transition to our current officers and this continues to be a focus of our institutional memory and structure.

Anthropology News
In addition to the above information, NASA offers a monthly column in Anthropology News edited in 2007 by Melinda Bernardo. The column contains information of interest to student anthropologists as well as information about NASA, its calls for papers, awards and other programs. The column serves as a major source of recruitment and communication with members.

NASA Opportunities List
NASA also operates a listserv with over 1,000 members. This listserv is utilized to post information of interest to student anthropologists as well as to communicate with members.
NASA has been in discussion over the last several years with the AAA about combining forces and having one student listserv that would reach all students thus superseding the need for the NASA Opportunities List. These conversations are ongoing, but hopefully a decision will be made within the 2007-2008 year as to the future of this list.

**NASA Website and NASA e-Journal**

For many years NASA has also operated a website with information important to our membership. The website is maintained by our web development committee, chaired by Mel Marsh. This site contains contact information for our officers as well as information on joining NASA, NASA activities and NASA calls for participation in various capacities. Additionally, NASA is in the process of launching a peer-reviewed e-Journal as part of our website. The first issue of the journal will launch in Fall 2008.

**Future Activities**

1. Increase membership to more accurately reflect the number of students within AAA
2. Create an online NASA E-journal/newsletter as a forum for student research and work
3. Continue to evaluate our mission and goals.
4. Work to achieve financial sustainability while maintaining NASA’s high membership value / Offer expanded membership participation/benefits
5. More effective officer transition
6. Continued emphasis on communicating opportunities to members,
7. Institutionalization of the Student Representative Forum within the AAA and effective communication of student perspectives on current issues of AAA leadership.

**2006-2007 NASA Officers**

President: Karen Kapusta-Pofahl
President-elect: Jason E. Miller
Secretary-Treasure: Frank Mannix
AN Editor: Melinda Bernardo
Undergraduate Reps: Marcy Hessling
Graduate Reps: Sandhya Ganapathy

Robert Miller
Naomi Parekh