SUNTA 2007 President’s Report
Submitted by David Haines

The SUNTA Board (prior to new officer induction at the 2007 Washington AAA meeting)

Officers (elected by the membership)

President (2006-2008) David W. Haines dhaines1@gmu.edu
President-Elect (2006-2008) Deborah Pellow dpellow@maxwell.syr.edu
Past President (2006-2008) Susan Greenbaum greenbau@chuma1.cas.usf.edu
Treasurer (2004-2007) Anne Lewinson alewinson@berry.edu
Secretary (2005-2007) Elzbieta M. Gozdziak emg27@georgetown.edu

Councillors

(2004-2007) Emanuela Guano eguano@gsu.edu
(2005-2008) Russell Leigh Sharman rsharman@brooklyn.cuny.edu
(2006-2009) Lisa Maya Knauer lknauer@umassd.edu
(2005-2007) Julie Adkins drjadkins@aol.com

Committee chairs (elected by the board)

Anthony Leeds Award Chair Robert Rotenberg rrotenbe@depaul.edu
Coordinators, URBANTH-L email list Angela Jancius acjancius@ysu.edu
Ben Vergara bvergara@sfsu.edu
Chair - Website Committee Lem Purcell lpurcell@sunta.org
City & Society
Editor (2005-2008) Petra Kuppinger petra@monm.edu
Associate Editor (2005-2008) Kathleen Bubinas kbubinas@uwc.edu
Editor Emeriti Emily Schultz
Jack Kugelmass
Development Director Kelly Alley alleykd@auburn.

Constituent groups

Poverty and Homelessness Working Group (PHWG)
Karen Curtis kacurtis@udel.edu
Susan Greenbaum greenbau@chuma1.cas.usf.edu
Committee on Refugees and Immigrants (CORI)
Jason Pribilsky pribiljc@whitman.edu

Changes

SUNTA welcomed three new officers at the AAA, Gautam Ghosh as councilor, Jayne Howell as Secretary, and Molly Hurley Depret as student councilor. Thanks go to outgoing officers Julie Adkins, Elzbieta Gozdziak, and Emanuela Guano. Anne Lewinson was reelected as treasurer. Anna O’Leary replaces Jason Pribilsky on the board as chair of CORI; Karen Curtis and Susan Greenbaum continue as co-chairs of the Poverty and Homelessness Working Group.
Status, Activities, and Accomplishments

During 2007, SUNTA:

- Maintained a solid financial basis—with an additional $4,000 in net assets year-to-date, providing some hope.
- Saw a drop in membership from 738 to 695 (October 2006 to October 2007), causing some concern.
- As usual, had about 30 sessions at the annual AAA meeting in Washington, including the following invited sessions:
- Also at the AAA meeting in Washington:
  - Continued the emphasis on teaching with a second year of a workshop aimed at new teachers (organized by former president Bob Rotenberg).
  - Cooperated with AES and SCA on a joint reception.
- Developed a dozen sessions (and a few special events) as part of an alternate spring meeting held in conjunction with the Society for Applied Anthropology in Tampa, Florida.
- Awarded the Leeds Prize to:
- Awarded its graduate student paper prize to:
  - Christa Amouroux for her paper, “Normalizing Christiania: Project Clean Sweep and the Normalization Plan.”
- Initiated a new undergraduate student paper prize that was awarded to:
  - Amanda Carlson (Wellesley) for her paper, “Learning then Living Citizenship.”
  - . . .and with an honorable mention to James Eldridge (University of Oklahoma) for his paper, “Tales from the Margin, Reclaiming the Center: Graffiti, Space and Visibility in Oklahoma City.”
- Voted to initiate a new award for a student-organized panel at the AAA.
  - First award will be for the 2008 AAA meeting in San Francisco.
- Continued to publish the section’s journal, City & Society, a cross-disciplinary voice on the urban experience—increasingly important as the world’s population is now fifty percent urban and increasing.
  - Issue 19(1), was published in June 2007. It includes the 2006 Interlocutor Session, two Leeds Prize acknowledgements, and three individual papers.
  - Issue 19(2) Winter 2006 was produced ahead of schedule and was already out in October. It contains a small guest edited section (Youth Engage the City and Global Culture), and two individual papers.
  - The journal editor also reports progress in expanding the pool of international reviewers.
  - Planning is now underway for a 20th anniversary issue.
Continued its list-serve (urbanth-l), which remains a valuable source of information and exchange for SUNTA members and for a greater number of non-SUNTA members.
  - Subscribers have increased from 1,640 to 1,950 over the past year.
Maintained its independent web site at www.sunta.org.
Developed a brochure to highlight SUNTA activities and awards.
Modified its by-laws to provide for a board-elected chair to manage the Leeds Prize submissions and review.
Regarding the Section Assembly, affirmed its support for:
  - The one-section, one-vote structure.
  - Direct election of SA representatives to the EB.
  - Lowering—at least temporarily—the minimum size required for existing sections.
Continued to provide a framework for the Committee on Refugees & Immigrants (CORI). CORI had a productive meeting at the AAA in Washington.
  - New officers are: Chair, Anna Ochoa O’Leary (University of Arizona); Chair-Elect, Anahí Viladrich (Hunter College/CUNY); Program Chair, Luis Plascencia (Arizona State); and Contributing Editor for AN, Jason Pribilsky (Whitman College).
  - Plans for 2008 include:
    - Increasing CORI’s visibility at the 2008 American Anthropology Association meeting in San Francisco.
    - Honing in on the 107th annual meeting theme “Inclusion, Collaboration & Engagement” (which is especially germane to CORI’s work).
    - Reconsidering the focus and purpose of CORI under the light of post 9/11 developments and invite potential new members and collaborators to join us in the formulation of engaged anthropological, scholar-activist approaches that will target and resist assaults on the rights and dignity of all refugees and immigrants.
Continued to provide a framework for the Poverty and Homelessness Working Group (PHWG).
  - In Washington, PHWG decided on the following activities:
    - Develop a policy brief on a poverty-related topic (using the re-activated AAA Committee on Public Policy format).
    - Develop a policy forum on a poverty-related topic for the 2008 AAA meetings (using the AAA/COPP format).
    - Hold information sessions at the 2008 Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) and Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA) meetings to recruit new members.

Future plans and activities

Over the next twelve months, SUNTA will:

- Move its list-serve to the AAA sponsored system.
- Conduct its annual review for prizes and awards, including the new award for student-organized panel.
- Continue its annual process for the AAA, including its traditional interlocutor session.
- Investigate the possibility of another alternate spring meeting in 2009 (perhaps with SANA and AFA).
- Review its dues structure, with the possible aim of reducing dues.
Review how it organizes board and business meetings at the AAA.

Over the longer term, SUNTA is interested in:

- Expanding its activities on behalf of both undergraduate and graduate students.
- Forming better links with other anthropology sections and associations.
- Finding a way to reduce dues (if possible).
- Rethinking ways to consolidate and perhaps expand membership, including possible other constituent groups (like the current PHWG and CORI).

Other items

- Financial issues relating to Anthro-Source continue to vex the board. Attempts to obtain precise information on costs continued to yield frustration.
- Scheduling at the AAA re-emerged as a problem (after two years of quite positive experiences).
- The drop in membership is of concern.