**SOLGA 2008 Annual Report**

Prepared by Gracia Clark, co-chair

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**Membership as of Nov 2008: 253**

Members again discussed several strategies for increasing membership, although it had risen from 229 in 2007. A discount for multiple section memberships and a provision for affiliation of non-anthropologists or other marginal AAA members would help.

**Finances:**

Net assets rose from 12,000 in 2007 to 15,800 in November 2008. Some of this sum represents annual meeting expenses not billed by November. Revenues remained stable as expected. The effects of the change in publications and website revenue and expenses was confusing, but appears to have cancelled itself out overall.

The Payne Prize endowment also remained stable, rising from 8,650 to 87104 by November 2008. Revenues were enough to cover the 2008 prize of $400, but fall short of the planned $500 for 2009. Meeting the anticipated drop in investment income will require some success in fundraising.

The SOLGAN newsletter is distributed electronically, so it remains revenue neutral.

**SOLGA sessions and events at AAA 2008:**

- Wednesday, 11/19: *Intimate State(s): Engaging with the “Family” of Neoliberalism;*
- Thursday, 11/20:
  - *The Problem of Global Translation: Female/Queer Masculinities in a Same-Sex World;*
  - *Anthropology and Transgender: Rethinking Inclusion, Collaboration and Engagement;*
  - *Global Queer Activisms and the Politics of "Inclusion"; SOLGA poster session;*
- Friday, 11/21: *The Movement of Queer Affect;*
- *Naming and Sexual Politics: Queer Identities in a Global World;*
- Joint Reception: CAE, ABA, AFA, ALLA, SLACA, SOLGA, SANA;
- Sat, 11/22: *Hair, Pubic and Beyond;* SOLGA Business Meeting and Cash Bar;
- Sun, 11/23: *Queer Routes And Critical Regionalities Within And Beyond ‘Asia’*

**Awards presented:**

There are two 2008 Ruth Benedict Prize winners in the category of single-authored monograph:
- Mark Padilla, for his ethnography *Caribbean Pleasure Industry: Tourism, Sexuality, and AIDS in the Dominican Republic,* and
- Barbara L. Voss, for her book *The Archaeology of Ethnogenesis: Race and Sexuality in Colonial San Francisco.*
The 2008 Payne Prize winner is Jennifer L. Chase, of the University of California, Irvine for her paper *The Bird Carried Across: Traditional Families, Modern Sex, and Belonging in Germany*.

**Internal communications:** The David Houston has been the webmaster and the editor of the AAA Newsletter column. SOLGA also maintains a listserv, very active on organizational, advocacy and intellectual subjects. The newsletter SOLGAN is distributed via email.

**Bylaws changes:**
A large committee has been working on redrafting our mission statement, name and co-chair nomination bylaws to reflect updated understandings of gender identity and expression. Their report to the business meeting was accepted but further revisions were requested after discussion on the listserv and before putting the proposed bylaws changes to a full electronic vote of the membership next year.

**Future plans and activities:**
1. Reviving the student mentoring roundtable at next annual meeting, along with NASA.
2. Initiating a recurring public policy forum to prioritize LGBT issues for advocacy and research, starting with Lavender Languages, SANA/AES and AAA meetings in 2009.
3. Expanding public policy input and commentary by AAA in general, SOLGA and their members on matters relating to family, kinship and community among other LGBT concerns.
4. Forming a working group to develop a public education project on family and kinship, analogous to the Race Project in scope, if not necessarily in format.
5. Convincing AAA to take a more public stand on key LGBT issues, such as gay marriage, hate crimes, universal health coverage and ENDA.

**Points we would like to raise within AAA:**

**To Section Assembly:**
We strongly urge SA to continue and extend more flexible formats for presentations at annual meetings, such as high table discussions and roundtables. These should have the same status for participants as presenting a standard 15-minute paper.

**To Executive Board:**
We request the Executive Board to issue a statement in response to California Proposition 8 and similar constitutional amendments prohibiting gay marital and partnership rights, similar to their 2004 letter about “defense of marriage” laws in Virgina. This explained how such measures work to create a cultural environment conducive to hate crimes and overt discrimination. We would like to develop new membership categories, in collaboration with other sections, that encourage persons who work outside academia or in other departments to join. These could include discounts on section fees for members joining several AAA sections, and discounted AAA membership for those not interested in attending meetings or receiving AAA publications.

**To AAA Staff:**
We have approached David Dozier to explain how AAA was involved in preparing a briefing paper on race for the incoming Obama administration. We would like to discuss strategies to introduce our expertise also at that high a level, in order to break down widespread stereotypes about family and community that affect LGBT persons.