1. Status, Activities, and Accomplishments

- **Membership Numbers** have remained relatively stable during the year with a high of 543 members in February, 2008. However, our membership for November, 2008 had fallen to 496 members. Of these 289 were regular members and 207 were student members. The student membership has remained constant, while the reduction in membership is mostly in regular members. This year we increased our regular membership dues from $10 to $20. We need to evaluate whether this is causing the reduction in membership numbers.

- **Financial Balances** for 2007 were reported by Dr. Karen Rosenberg, incoming Secretary-Treasurer for Dr. Douglas Crews, BAS Secretary-Treasurer. As of September 30, 2008 net assets for the General Fund were $21,228 (2007, $21, 877) and the W.W. Howells Endowment was $23,668. (2007, $23,244). In 2007 we increased section dues to $20 for regular members and retained the $5 dues for student members. We also asked members to donate $15 to the Howells fund in honor of the fifteenth anniversary of the Howells award.

- A continuing concern remains the amount of the endowment for the W.W. Howells award. We will continue to ask for contributions to this fund. Food for the Executive Committee lunch, Student Reception and evening Reception with bar service continue to represent our major expenditure for the year. These costs continue to escalate. Reimbursement for Executive Committee Members attendance at the annual meeting was retained at a maximum of $300.

AAA Meeting Highlights

- **2008 W.W. Howells Book Prize** was awarded to Dr. Carel van Schaik for his book “Among Orangutans”.
- **2008 Distinguished Lecture** was presented by Dr. Dean Falk. The title of the lecture was “A Tale of Two Discoveries: Taung (1925) and Hobbit (2004). Dr. Falk was not listed in the program and the Chair spent considerable time and effort placing notice of the talk around the meeting. We hope next year that the recipient of the distinguished lecture prize will be listed in the program.
- **2008 Student Prize** was presented to Scherry Momin for her paper “Polymorphic associations in programmed death 1 receptor in Type-1 Diabetes in the Mapuche population.
- Dr. David Himmelgreen, **Program Chair** and Dr. Debra Martin, incoming Program Chair, assisted in organizing the BAS sponsored and co-sponsored session. This year we had a total of 49 papers and
posters. This represents a 44% increase over 2007. We thank the session organizers and participants:

- Using the Past to Understand the Future: Bioarchaeology and Forensics
- What Goes on in the Minds of Biological Anthropologists?: A Symposium in Honor of Kenneth Kennedy
- Inclusion, Collaboration, Engagement: Advancing the biocultural perspective in anthropological inquiry
- Growth, development and life history: Research from the field and the lab
- Matters of Life and Death: Towards a Physical Anthropology of Inclusion, Collaboration and Engagement
- Reframing Biocultural Research: Integrating Symbolic and Materialist Approaches
- The Many Threads of Engagement in Biological Anthropology

Please note the last two sessions were at exactly the same time.

Of particular concern to us is that one session that was accepted by the BAS program committee was not accepted by the AAA. The session organizers were told by the AAA that the session was not ranked highly enough by BAS to be included in the program. This was not true and is a cause for considerable concern at a time when we are trying to increase our program offerings.

e. The Reception followed the distinguished lecture. While we requested that we be returned to Thursday evening, we were still scheduled for Friday evening. We believe this is having a very serious adverse effect on attendance at our meeting and reception. When our meeting was scheduled for Thursday we routinely had over 120 people. On Friday nights we get about 50. We would very much like to either return to Thursday or schedule our business meeting and lecture for an earlier 5 or 5:30 slot.

f. The BAS website remains operational. Dr. Jim Bindon is looking for a replacement Webmaster.

g. We sent several messages to members via the listserv that AAA maintains. This seems a very good and useful way to inform members of upcoming events.

h. Dr. Virginia Vitzthum continues to edit the AN BAS columns.

i. Dr. Sarah Stinson currently chairs the W.W. Howells Book prize committee.

2. Important action points

A. We need to find a better time for our distinguished lecture and reception. This is of high priority for our section.

B. We need to make sure our programming recommendations are followed.
C. We welcome Drs. Karen Strier, Karen Rosenberg, Kathleen MacKinnon, Debra Martin and Ms. Kristen Klingaman to the executive committee of the BAS. We sincerely thank Dr. Doug Crew for his years of service as Secretary-Treasurer.

Our executive committee members and terms of office are: (terms end after the meeting in the years listed below)

- Darna Dufour (Chair) 2010
- Karen Strier (Chair elect) 2010
- Trudy Turner (Past Chair) 2009
- Karen Rosenberg (Secretary/Treasurer) 2011
- Debra Martin (Program Chair) 2010
- Nina Jablonski 2009
- Kathleen MacKinnon 2010
- Kristin Klingaman (student member) 2010
- Virginia Vitzhum (AN editor)
- Sara Stinson (WW Howells prize)
- Jim Bindon (Webmaster)

3. Future plans or activities

- In this year’s election we will have candidates for position of Member-at-Large
- BAS members were also nominated to run for AAA wide offices
- We will continue to maintain communication with our members via the listserv and encourage our members to present papers at the annual meeting.
- The Past Chair will work on amending the By-laws to reflect current activities and practice. We will also complete a handbook for executive committee members and officers.

4. Future concerns

Our major concern is membership and our ability to offer our members enough programming to encourage them to attend the meetings. We will work with the AAA program committee to ensure that our programs are spaced evenly during the meetings...

With thanks to the Executive committee (Drs. Dufour, Bindon, Crews, Himmelgreen, Vitzthum, Strier, Martin, Jablonski, Stinson).

Respectfully submitted,
Trudy R. Turner, BAS Chair