Accomplishments for 2008

Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition accomplished a number of important goals in 2008. The notable milestones include:

- **Our new website** was launched in December 2007. It is up and running (www.nutritionalanthro.org) and beautiful! We invested over $3000 in creating the site, which has a members-only syllabi set, book reviews, compilation of food/nutrition websites, current news, calls for papers and conference announcements, information on funding and graduate training programs, several discussion fora, a member expertise database, among many other features. The website gives us greater public visibility and provides tangible benefits to our members. However, we discovered some bugs in the website this year – including inappropriate membership in the fora, and long silences from our web manager, which resulted in a static site, and parts that were unused/usable. We spent some money this year working with a new web developer to make alterations to the site that allow us greater control over revisions to content and a more interactive means by which people can engage with the site ($473 to web developer + $180 for a software license). This process is just about complete and the overhauls are ready to go live.

- **Membership** has been gradually moving upwards, and we are now approaching the new minimum for section status (see more about this under Challenges)

- Publication of our column in *Anthropology News* has been consistent and of high quality under new editor, Rachel Black.

- Our listserv (SAFN-list) is active, and used primarily to disseminate information about publications of interest, breaking news issues, calls for papers and meeting notices, and other appropriate professional information. It has relocated to University of Illinois, Chicago and we are experimenting with a non-moderated format

- We had robust **participation in the 2008 Annual Meetings** in San Francisco, in large part thanks to the hard work of our program Chair, Barbara Piperata. We had two invited sessions and 7 submitted sessions – our most extensive presence ever! All of the SAFN sponsored sessions had strong attendance and participation. In addition the business of the section was conducted at the annual meeting of the Executive Board, and the Business Meeting.

- We hosted a keynote **Distinguished Lecture** by Dr. Katharine Milton (UC Berkeley) that was held at the conclusion of the Business meeting. The lecture was well-attended and lively.

- We held a well-attended **reception** before Dr. Milton’s talk. Unfortunately the Hilton’s understanding of our plans (bringing in our own wine and paying a
modest corkage fee and having a cheese sampling) was at odds with our understanding, and we are still struggling to resolve this issue. As it stands, our expenses for the reception will be much more than we planned, and we are rethinking our reception venue, given the exorbitant cost of hotel food and drink.

- We had 4 winners of the **Christine Wilson Award** for excellence in student papers in nutritional anthropology this year: two graduate students and one undergraduate prize that was split between the two coauthors. We had a large number of submissions (14 graduate; 1 undergraduate) this year and were able to give the prize to truly excellent papers.

- We are in **sound financial condition**. Our income exceeded our expenditures and we have a healthy fund balance (~17,000$). Our major expenditures are the reception, the website revisions, and the prizes; we did spend some money on the website revisions.

- Several SAFN members are key members of the **AAA Task Force on the World Food Crisis**, and SAFN took the lead (along with C&A) on the formation of the task force.

### Challenges and Future Plans

- The most significant challenge that our section faces is that of low membership numbers. We are below the new minimum for section status, but the trend is positive. We currently have 210 members (149 regular, 60 students, and 1 lifer). This represents increases in both regular members and student members. So, we are approaching the new minimum, and we are taking steps to enlarge our membership. This year we did a membership drive among lapsed members and among individuals presenting at the annual meetings whose work was on food or nutrition. We continue to forge alliances with other AAA units and societies (e.g. Association for the Study of Food and Society [ASFS]). Culture and Agriculture has contributed to our reception costs and helped sponsor the distinguished lecture; we continue to talk with them about future collaborations.

- We have also spoken with ASFS leadership about the possibility of having a separate SAFN meeting that occurs with ASFS’s annual summer meeting. Given the overlapping memberships of SAFN and these units, these seem like productive alliances to foster. The possibility of a SAFN meeting separate from the AAA meetings, and with another scholarly food group, is another opportunity to build our membership and have our research gain new audiences.

### Comments to AAA Executive Board and Long-Range Planning Committee

- Even with the new bylaws that lowered the section membership floor, we are still below the minimum section size. We are working hard to increase our membership, and the recent trend is quite definitely upward. We have been a vibrant, active section, with numerous sessions at the annual meetings (indeed our program chair reviews many more sessions than would be predicted for our size),
for over 30 years. We hope that the AAA EB will work with us to enhance our membership and support our endeavors.

Officers and Executive Board Members for 2009

Janet Chrzan, President-elect  
email: jchrzan@sas.upenn.edu

Andrea Wiley, Past-President  
email: wileya@indiana.edu

Leslie Carlin, Vice President  
Email: l.carlin@bsms.ac.uk

Joan Gross, Treasurer/Secretary  
jgross@orst.edu

Barbara Piperata, Chair, Program Committee  
email: piperata.1@osu.edu

David Beriss, Chair, Nominations Committee  
Email: dberiss@uno.edu

Crystal Patil, Chair, Awards Committee  
email: cpatil@uic.edu

Rachel Black, Editor, Anthropology News  
Email: reblack@gmail.com