1. Accomplishments

Membership
As of October 2008, the SAR had a total of 642 members, down by 12 from October 2007. Still, since our membership has been increasing steadily from a total of 559 in November 2004, 558 in November 2005, and 618 in November 2006, this likely does not represent more than a minor fluctuation.

Finances
The SAR is in a healthy financial position, with assets of $34,964 (up from $31,487 a year ago) as of October 2008. Expenses from the AAA annual meeting have not yet been deducted from this amount, and it obviously does not reflect the costs we will incur in the course of the 2009 freestanding SAR meeting. But since the response to the call for papers has been enthusiastic, we will likely stay within our budget for 2009.

Elections
In the Spring 2008 elections, Margaret Wiener (U of North Carolina) was elected incoming president, and Ana Mariella Bacigalupo (SUNY Buffalo) was elected for a two year terms as a member of the Executive Board. Melissa Caldwell (U of California, Santa Cruz) and Pamela Klassen (U of Toronto) were re-elected to the Executive Board for a second two year term, and Ellen Schattschneider (Brandeis) was re-elected for a second term as Secretary. Elizabeth Pérez (Chicago) was elected as SAR’s Student Representative.

AAA Annual Meeting
The SAR sponsored a total of 15 sessions at the 2008 AAA meetings in San Francisco. These included four Invited Sessions that SAR co-sponsored with AfAA, APLA, MES, and SUNTA. All sessions were well attended, as were the Business Meeting and Cash Bar reception on Saturday, December 1. Our Program Committee consisted of Aisha Khan (NYU), Pamela Klassen (Toronto), Karen Richman (Notre Dame), and Stephan Palmié (Chicago), and was expertly chaired for the second time by Melissa Caldwell (UC, Santa Cruz). The Business Meeting was the occasion for the second presentation of the Clifford Geertz Prize in the Anthropology of Religion, which seeks to encourage excellence by recognizing an outstanding recent book in the field. The 2008 Winner of the Geertz Prize was Matthew Engelke’s *A Problem of Presence: Beyond Scripture in an African Church* (University of California Press, 2007). Honorable Mention was awarded to Thomas Gibson’s *Islamic Narrative and Authority in Southeast Asia: From the 16th to the 21st Century* (Palgrave, 2007)
Somewhat to our own surprise the number of submissions remained almost as high as in the Prize’s inaugural year. Over 30 outstanding books were considered by the committee for the 2008 prize. The wide range of topics and theoretical perspectives represented by these books reflect the excitement and high quality of current work in the anthropology of religion. We are grateful to the members of the Prize Committee, Ellen Badone (McMaster), Adeline Masquelier (Tulane), Daniel Martin Varisco (Hofstra), Stephan Palmié (Chicago), and its chair Andrew Buckser (Purdue) for their time and commitment.

**Spring Meeting**
Our biennial spring meeting will be held jointly with the Society for Psychological Anthropology at Asilomar, CA, March 27-29. The meeting theme is “Moments of Crisis: Decision, Transformation, Catharsis, Critique”. Aisha Khan (NYU) is serving as SAR’s Program Chair, joined by SPA’s Rebecca Lester (Washington University). This year we took particular care to encourage sessions and workshops addressing student concerns. We are particularly pleased that Vincent Crapanzano (CUNY) has agreed to deliver the Roy A. Rappaport Distinguished Lecture in the Anthropology of Religion.

**Internal Communications**
Our listserve address is sar@weber.ucsd.edu and Jon Bialecki (Reed College) moderates the listserve and updates the SAR website which is now accessible at the www.aaanet.org address in a redesigned and more legible format. We are grateful that Jon has agreed to continue as Communications Manager for the SAR for one more year.

**Outreach**
We have maintained our close relations with the American Academy of Religion and are holding our Spring 2009 meetings at Asilomar jointly with the Society for Psychological Anthropology.

2. **Future Plans**
In 2008, Laurel Kendall (American Museum of Natural History) took over the editorship of SAR’s book series “Contemporary Anthropology of Religion”, which is published by Palgrave-Macmillan. The past year saw the publication of the last two books edited by Bob Hefner, Gladys Ganiel’s *Evangelicalism and Conflict in Northern Ireland* and Brian M. Howell’s *Christianity in the Local Context: Southern Baptists in the Philippines*. The first book under Laurel’s editorship, Thomas Pearson’s *Missions and Conversions: creating the Montagnard-Dega Refugee Community* is now in press. Another notable achievement was the bestowal of an honorable mention for SAR’s Clifford Geertz Prize to a book in the series, Thomas Gibson’s *Islamic Narrative and Authority in Southeast Asia*. Under Laurel’s leadership, we successfully negotiated a contract renewal for the series with Palgrave, and we are glad to report that the series is expanding. Laurel has invited 9 manuscripts for consideration, and is actively working with Palgrave to ensure good communications between authors and the Press.