SUNTA 2008 President’s Report
Submitted by David Haines

The SUNTA Board (prior to new officer induction at the 2008 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)  Jayne Howell  jhowell@csulb.edu
Councillors
(2005-2008) Russell Leigh Sharman  rsharman@brooklyn.cuny.edu
(2006-2009) Lisa Maya Knauer  lnkauer@umassd.edu
(2007-2010) Gautam Ghosh  gghosh@sas.upenn.edu
(2007-2009) Molly Hurley Depret  mollyhurleydepret@gmail.com

Committee chairs (elected by the board)

Anthony Leeds Award Chair
Robert Rotenberg  rrotne@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.edu

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)
Anna Ochoa O’Leary  olearya@u.arizona.edu

Changes

SUNTA welcomed two new officers this year, Don Nonini as president-elect and Jeff Maskovsky as councilor. Thanks go to outgoing officers Susan Greenbaum (now the past president) and Russell Leigh Sharman (past councilor). Deborah Pellow (current president-elect) assumed the presidency and David Haines (current president) became the new past-presidency. Anna O’Leary
continued on the board as chair of CORI; Karen Curtis and Susan Greenbaum continued as co-chairs of the Poverty and Homelessness Working Group.

Status, Activities, and Accomplishments

During 2008, SUNTA:

- Experienced an improving financial basis because of the advantages of the new publications contract with Wiley Blackwell.
- Maintained its membership at about 700 members (stabilizing what had been a slight decline).
- Had some 27 sessions at the annual AAA meeting in San Francisco, including the following invited sessions:
  - Urban Subjects of Value: Ethnography in the Neoliberalizing City. Organized by Julian Brash and Jeff Maskovsky and co-sponsored with SANA.
  - Dress, Performance and Social Action. Organized by Karen Tranberg Hansen and co-sponsored with AfAA.
  - The Anthropologist as Social Critic: Working Towards a More Engaged Anthropology. Organized by Sally Merry and Setha Low and co-sponsored with the AAA Executive Program Committee.
  - Erotic Mobilities: Subjectivity and Affect Engaged in Women’s Cross-Border Exchanges with Men. Organized by Susan Frohlick and Ara Wilson and co-sponsored with AFA.
  - Temples, Mosques and Churches: Spaces for Civic Engagement among “New” Immigrants in North America. Organized by Deborah Reed-Danahay and Caroline Brettell and co-sponsored with SAR.
  - Dialogue across the Disciplines: Locating Labor: Anthropologists Engage Service Worker Struggles. Organized by Deborah Pellow and co-sponsored with SAW.
- Continued its emphasis on teaching with another teaching-relate workshop at the San Francisco AAA meeting (thanks to Bob Rotenberg)
- Awarded the Leeds Prize to:
- Awarded its graduate student paper prize to:
  - Hadam Weiss (University of Chicago)
  - . . . and provided an honorable mention to Jeremey Walton (University of Chicago)
- Awarded its undergraduate student paper prize to:
  - Chris Parisano, “Junked Landscapes and Gypsies: Morality, Exchange, and the Production of Urban Space in Willets Point, Queens” (Queens College)
  - . . . and provided an honorable mention to Kathleen Stanard, “The Bowery Mission: The Intricacies of Christian Faith and Homeless Men.”
- Awarded its new prize of partial travel support to the best student-organized panel at the AAA meetings to:
  - Catherine Fennell and Rocio Magana, organizers (both of the University of Chicago), Ethnographies of the Record: The Codes of Inclusion (with participation of Khiara Bridges, Alvaro Jamin, Caroline McLoughlin, Maryna
Bazylevych, Sandhya Ganapathy, Kristin Skrabut, Sohini Kar, and Callie Maidhof).

- Continued to publish the section's journal, *City & Society*, a semi-annual cross-disciplinary voice on the urban experience—increasingly important as the world’s population is now fifty percent urban and increasing.
- Continued its list-serve (urbanth-l), which remains a valuable source of information and exchange for SUNTA members and for an even larger number of non-SUNTA members.
- Continued to provide a home for the Committee on Refugees & Immigrants and the Task Force on Poverty and Homelessness.
- Maintained its independent web site at www.sunta.org.
- Updated and reprinted its brochure to highlight SUNTA activities and awards.
- Developed a plan for dues reduction.

Future plans and activities

Over the next twelve months, SUNTA will:

- Probably move its list-serve to the AAA sponsored system.
- Conduct its usual 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 2010 (perhaps with SANA and AFA).
- Continue to review its dues structure, with the possible aim of further 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.
- Possibly further reducing dues.
- 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 AnthroSource have abated. This is an enormous relief.
- Extent of panel rejections for the San Francisco meeting was disturbing.