
Written by Mary Strong, president of the SVA

The Section Association

The SA and the AAA have been formulating a way in which the Sections can have voting representation on the AAA Executive Board. This process hopefully will help us to avoid the dangerous financial situation in which the smaller Sections, such as our own, suffered as a result of a less than helpful contractual arrangement with The University of California Press. This will also aid us by eliminating problematic decisions taken without adequate membership consultation.

The 2008 annual AAA meetings in San Francisco

We would ask the AAA conference organizers to help us to recognize workshop participants who have paid their fee and registered formally either previous to the meetings or on-site. A small paper receipt of some sort would be helpful, for example. Our workshop organizers felt that many people simply walked in to their sessions who were neither registered nor had paid their fees.

Some of our session participants have voiced a desire to have appropriate computer connections for MacIntosh as well as IBM users. Visually oriented people, such as those in our membership, often prefer MacIntosh computers.

Mailing lists for publications and contact lists for listservs

We request that the AAA look into methods for updating Section membership lists so that our publications do arrive in members’ mail boxes in timely fashion.

Along similar lines, we are seeing that our listserv does not reach all members, and we would like to find out why this is so in conjunction with the AAA central offices.

The SVA in 2008

Two issues stand out as SVA looks back on the year 2008: our financial situation and the continuing vibrancy and creativity that characterizes our small organization.
1. The financial situation

We are in the process of adjusting in tandem with our publisher Wiley Blackwell to a new and productive partnership. We are happy to see so far that our journal, VAR, will probably no longer drain our organization’s finances to a dangerously low level as in the recent past. In addition, we have derived or retained additional funds by taking the following steps:

* Increase in member dues
* Increase in film Festival submission fees
* Offering visual training workshops at the AAA meetings
* Agreeing to an almost total ban on the spending of Section funds such that Board members have had to cover most SVA costs from their personal finances.

Given the national/global economic situation and the likelihood of lower income and rising costs in many areas, we plan to proceed with caution. Our aim is save 50% or more of our present treasury balance to insure against an uncertain future.

2. The SVA is a vibrant and creative organization

Though we are one of the smaller Sections, we engage in a large number of ongoing and new activities.

A. Among ongoing projects are:

* Our annual Film Festival,
* Our Visual Research Conference,
* The print and electronic journal VAR,
* The regular AN column,
* Our impressive Program of sessions in the AAA meetings,
* Heavy presence in the AAA poster sessions,
* Visual technology and interactive media workshops we offer for all AAA members.
* We give recognition in the form of awards to encourage academic and creative productions of those working in the areas of film, photography, and interactive media.

B. New projects-in- progress include:

* Organizing an ongoing photography and still image exhibit requested by the AAA for its headquarters;
* A prize for poster presentations;
*Promotion of new research in visual anthropology;
*Inclusion of graphic, plastic, and performance arts to a greater degree in our future activities;
*A mentoring program to join senior professionals with beginners and students;
*International outreach reach to develop working relationships with extra-national individuals and organizations working in our field;
*More active inclusion of minority and Indigenous students and professionals into our activities;
* A new SVA web site with updated features;
* A review and updating of all our activities with a view toward increased transparency, efficiency, and timeliness;

We look forward to the opportunities presented us during the year 2009 to continue and improve upon our present efforts.

Thank you for your attention.

Contact Information for SVA Board of Directors
Effective December 2008

List 1 Elected Members

Mary Strong, President- 2009
780 East 4th Street, 2nd floor
Brooklyn, NY 11218
718-436-8491
rdomiurb@aol.com

Karl G. Heider, President-elect, Nominations, VAR Editorial Board
Department of Anthropology
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
803-799-1201 (home)
heiderk@sc.edu

(Cohort whose terms end in 2012 Below)

Alice Apley, Film Festival Committee
8 Otis Place
Roslindale, MA 02131
617-327-4893 (home)
617-388-1096 (cell)
alice@kino-eye.com
Kimberly Dukes, Treasurer’s Assistant
846 Powers St.
Baltimore, MD 21211
Kimberly.dukes@gmail.com

Jonathan Marion, Nominations, Special Projects
362 Camino Carta
San Marcos, CA 92078
858-344-7409
jsmarion@gmail.com

Nancy Marie Mithlo, Programs Co-editor
Department of Art History and American Indian Studies Program
University of Wisconsin – Madison
Room 220 Conrad A. Elvehjem Building
800 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53706
608-265-8694
mithlo@wisc.edu

Howard Morphy, Special Projects, VAR editorial board
Research School of Humanities
Australian National University
Canberra
ACT 0200
Australia
61-2-61253395
0422-006290 (cell)
howard.morphy@anu.edu.au

[Cohort whose terms end in 2009 below]

John Bishop, Film Festival Committee
Media-generation
2825 SE Harrison St.
Portland, OR 97214
503-233-4047
John@media-generation.com
jbishop@usla.edu

Liam Buckley, Listserv, VAR Co-editor
Sociology and Anthro.
James Madison University
MSC 7501
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
List 2: Ex-Officio Members and designees

Peter Biella- Film Festival Committee, ex-officio
Dept of Anthropology
SCI 377
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Ave
San Francisco, CA 94132
415-405-0536 (office)
510-526-6671 (home)
biella@sfsu.edu

Pamela Blakely, Secretary, ex-officio
Social Sciences Division
Reading Area Community College
10 S. 2nd Street
Reading, PA 19603
610-568-5323 (cell)
800-626-1665 (office)
pblakely@racc.edu

Thomas D. Blakely, Visual Research Conference, ex-officio
Penn State University
Tulpehocken Road
PO Box 7009
Reading, PA 19610-6009
tdb5@psu.edu (and copy to tdblakely@aol.com)
610-568-5320 (cell, preferred for phone/text message)
610-927-0709 (home/fax)

Craig Campbell, Web Manager
9832 85th Avenue
Edmonton AB
CANADA T6E 2J6
780-439-7117 (home)
780-492-2223 (office)
craig.campbell@ualberta.ca

Miguel Diaz Barriga
Dept. of Anthropology
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, PA 19081
510-328-8108
mdiazba1@swarthmore.edu

Wendy B. Dickinson, Ph.D., AN Committee
Faculty, Liberal Arts
Ringling College of Art and Design
941-359-7521
wdickins@ringling.edu

Joyce Hammond, Film Festival Submissions Manager
Dept. of Anthropology
Carol Hermer, Film Festival Coordinator
2214 E. Crescent Dr.
Seattle, WA 98112
206-568-1700
chermer@pipeline.com

Laura Lewis, VAR Co-editor
Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology
James Madison University
MSC 7501
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
540-568-7856
540-568-6112 (fax)
Lewis2La@jmu.edu

Stephanie Takaragawa, Treasurer, ex-officio
Chapman University
Dept. of Sociology
One University Drive
Orange, CA 92866
310-592-8407
stephanie.takagarawa@gmail.com

Anne Zeller-Visual Research Conference committee
Department of Anthropology
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1
Canada
519-745-4644 (home)
azeller@uwaterloo.ca