Anthropology and Environment Section

Annual Section Report,
from Janis B. Alcorn, A&E President (2007-2009)

Status, Activities and Accomplishments this past year of 2009

This was another busy year for the A&E Section. Membership stayed fairly constant, averaging 540 members.

Financial account was positive - starting the year with $19,829.35 and closing at the end of November (before AAA November meeting costs had cleared) with $27,596.27.

A&E sponsored twenty-seven sessions at the 2009 Annual AAA meeting in Philadelphia, with thanks to A&E Program Chair Ben Colombi. The AAA accepted all of the sessions submitted by A&E. Panels covered research on indigenous homelands, renewable energy, political ecology, climate change, conservation, environmental justice, landscapes, animal rights, gender relations, and activism. A&E held another superb social this year at Fergie’s bar and restaurant.

A&E co-sponsored three Invited Sessions: Sustainability as Myth & Practice in the Global City; Energy’s Endgame: Anthropology’s Engagement with Energy/Climate/Culture Change; and Quantitative Environmental Analysis in Environmental Anthropology.

Next year’s AAA meeting theme “Circulation” should be a productive frame for building A&E panels, workshops, public policy forums and high table discussions. Please consider organizing sessions that experiment with ways to communicate and engage with colleagues.

A&E gave out seven Awards this year. All awards are described with guidelines on our EANTH website (www.eanth.org).


Carlos Garcia-Quijano won the Junior Scholar Award for best journal article by a young anthropologist. His article "Managing Complexity: Ecological Knowledge
and Success in Puerto Rican Small-Scale Fisheries" was published in Human Organization 68(1): 1-17.

Five graduate students were selected to present their papers on the Rappaport Graduate Student panel which was managed by Board member Lisa Gezon -- Nikhil Anand, Jessica Barnes, Lesley L. Daspit, Maria Alejandra Perez, and James Stinson. Nikhil Anand of Stanford University, won the Rappaport prize for his paper, "On Good Water, Social Systems and Their Leaky State.

Ten proposals were submitted for the Small Grants Awards for Collaborative Problem Solving program this year. The competition was stiff, and the winners were: Tracie Heidt, for a short film to spread solutions to the environmental problems of drought, deforestation and famine in East Africa; Gina Drew for Rainwater Harvesting for Sustainable Livelihoods in Garhwal, Himalaya, and Keri Brondo and Kathryn Hicks for Environmental Justice Workshops in Southwest Memphis.

During 2009, A&E Board reviewed all the A&E awards programs, and subsequently discussed and accepted the following recommendations during the Board Meeting. The Rappaport Award Panel will continue on an annual basis; the Junior Scholar Award and the Julian Steward Award will be offered in alternate years; and the A&E Small Grants Awards funding will be increased to $4000 per year. The Lourdes Arizpe Award was established through an agreement with AAA in 2005, on the condition that the Arizpe Award would cease to exist if $10,000 had not been raised for its endowment by 2010. As of January 2010, there is no funding in the endowment, and unless a donor gives at least $10,000 to AAA for this prize endowment in the next few months, this award will be dropped in 2010.

Future Plans or activities in the next 3-5 years

The A&E Board is proud of A&E achievements in 2009 and we look forward to another round of fine nominations for awards, submissions for the Rappaport panel, the small grants competition and and board positions in 2010.

Members participate in our active EANTH listserv managed by Adam Henne. We seek more material and photos be sent to Sean Downey (sdowney@mail.arizona.edu) webmaster for our website www.eanth.org.

The A&E Board extends many thanks to outgoing members Carla Gueron-Montero and Adam Henne, and welcomes new members Lisa Cliggett as Senior at large board member, Laura Ogden as Junior at large board member, Dana Powell as Student member, and Glenn Davis Stone as President Elect. Paige
West took up her responsibilities as the new President of A&E Section, after the A&E annual Section Business Meeting on 4 December 2009.

Please send your articles to Terre Satterfield, our AN column editor.

**Chief Concerns and Issues not previously noted:**

We continue to be concerned that the "greening AAA" initiative continue to move forward as quickly and completely as possible, in order to reduce AAA’s carbon footprint in light of the urgent need for all offices and organizations to take decisive action to stop and reverse Global Climate Change.