Association of Latina and Latino Anthropologists  
(ALLA)  
Annual Report 2009  
Submitted by Carmen A. Ferradás, President

Section Officers 2008-2009  
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AN Section Editor:  
Luis Plascencia

Activities, Accomplishments, Status of the section

1. Membership  Membership of ALLA fluctuates between 165 and 190 members. In November 2009 a total of 165 members renewed their membership, this includes 99 regular members and 66 students. This number is a little lower than last year’s 179 members. As in 2009 the AAA meetings were in December, we estimate that a number of our members renewed their membership at that time, which would have probably raised our totals to our annual averages.  

   We have been working to increase our membership for the last three years. To that effect, we have included a student representative in the Executive Board. This student has been coordinating mentoring sessions. Unfortunately, in the last meetings, the mentoring session was scheduled at the same time as our business meeting and this overlap could not be solved. This overlap negatively affected our goals of integrating students to the section activities. A few students, however, actively participated in the meeting and proposed ALLA specific mentoring activities. ALLA will be providing mentoring services to students. A group of faculty members offered their help in this initiative which will be available through ALLA’s webpage. We already have a list of ALLA’s Faculty who volunteered to this effect.

2. Finances  ALLA’s budget has increased slightly with membership dues. Expenses mainly cover the participation of the student representative and president in the meetings, and the prizes for the book awards. In November 2009 ALLA had a balance of 19,179.27
dollars. We have been keeping costs low. We have been discussing the hiring of an expert in the design of web pages to help us design our new ALLA page.

3. Meeting Activities:
Anahí Viladrich and Carmen A. Ferradás were Program coordinators for the AAA Meetings in Philadelphia. The number of proposed sessions submitted for invited status increased in comparison to previous years. We were able to co-sponsor four invited sessions. Our invited sessions covered very diverse topics as the titles suggest: “Latin@ Expressive Culture: About the Coming of Age of a Culture that is Always Embedded in Politics” (co-sponsored with CSAS), “The End/s of E-Race-Ure in New “Latino” Destinations: Transnational Migration, Racialized Identities, and the Transformation of “Middle America” (co-sponsored with CSAS), “Globalization from Below: New Technologies for Migrant Remittances, Microfinance and Transnational Community Development” (co-sponsored with SLACA), and “Ethnographic and Theoretical Perspectives on Resistance and Activism at Borderscapes” (co-sponsored with the SANA). Other ALLA reviewed sessions examined very timely topics. For example, the session “Latinos/as Killing, Dying, and Apprehending for the United States” examined the significant presence of Latinos/as in a militarized United States. The panel explored the implications of the strong Latino/a participation in the Armed Forces. Other sessions explored the complexities of struggles at borderscapes, the challenges of translating anthropological research into advocacy, and the complexities of multiple Latino/a and Latin American identities.

Our Executive Board Meeting was on Thursday 12/3 at 12:15, and the Business meeting was on Friday 12/4 at 12:15. More than 30 members attended our business meeting. We also co-sponsored a reception with other sections on Saturday 12/5.

4. Other Meetings: ALLA does not organize other conferences.

5. Mentorship: Besides maintaining a graduate student position at the Executive board and sponsoring mentoring sessions, ALLA facilitates networking and informal advising of graduate students. We also mentor ALLA Junior faculty.

6. Outreach: ALLA maintains close ties with other sections through co-sponsoring sessions, and organizing joint receptions. We have been discussing the possibility of organizing a conference with other sections such as SANA and ABA. We also work actively in outreach outside the association through inviting community leaders, politicians, and advocacy groups to discuss policy issues regarding Latinas/os. We are also planning to include links in our Web-Page to provide information on our membership’s expertise in public policy related issues.

7. Awards: During the business meetings we presented ALLA awards. Alejandro Lugo and Leo Chavez were co awardees this year for the books: Fragmented Lives, Assembled Parts: Culture, Capitalism and Conquest at the U.S.-Mexico Border (University of Texas Press, 2008) and The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation (Stanford University Press). Jacqueline María Hagan obtained an Honorable Mention for

8. Communications: ALLA’s Web-Page has been deactivated and we are now working on a new page to be hosted by the AAA. We have also started a new listserve and we hope that when some glitches are corrected we will be able to establish a better communication with our members. A few graduate students have offered their help in redesigning our Web-Page. One of them participated in the webmasters’ meeting and will be working with the president and Executive Board in the new page.

ALLA’s AN Editor has done an excellent job in maintaining our Column and received contributions for all the issues. Luis Plascencia will continue in charge of the column in collaboration with Anahí Viladrich.

9. Governance: We have appointed a special committee to review our bylaws. We need to change our election procedures to adapt them to the electronic age and to changes that occurred in the AAA structure in recent years. We are planning to discuss the proposed changes in the next AAA meetings.

Future Plans and Activities

Our immediate goals are to regularize the section’s communications through improving our listserve and getting a new webpage. We also need to urgently revise and approve the section’s the bylaws. We are having discussions regarding a publication of our section. We would like to have an electronic journal with some interactive components. We would like to use the electronic format to contribute to the section’s outreach, particularly through providing access to information on ALLA’s resources regarding knowledge useful to policy makers, and providing a data base of members’ expertise.

Concerns: One of our major concerns, is getting reliable information on our current membership. Many members complain that they are not included in our electronic communications. We hope that we will be getting more accurate members lists with the new software systems.