In this report, I will first provide a general overview of the activities of the General Anthropology Division (GAD) during 2009, to be followed with brief summaries of the individual activities of the four interest groups affiliated with GAD: (1) the Committee on Teaching Anthropology (CoTA), (2) The Federation of Small Anthropology Programs, (FoSAP) (3) The Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology and Computing (CASTAC), and (4) The History of Anthropology committee (HAC).

General Overview

Based on decisions taken at the Board Meetings at the 2008 Annual Meetings, GAD moved quickly in 2009 to realize some new initiatives. Perhaps the first action was to prepare our ballot for the spring AAA election: we elected Chris Furlow as President-Elect and Scott Lukas as a new Member at Large. We also put up for the vote of the GAD membership a series of By-laws revisions approved at the 2008 meetings. The key changes, all of which passed, involved inserting clauses allowing electronic voting and creating the new Executive Board position of Communications Officer, who is responsible both for the GAD column in Anthropology News and for management of the new GAD website and listservs (one for the Board, the other for the general membership), which were set up early in 2009. Communications Officer Luke Eric Lassiter is the webmaster, and he is assisted by a graduate assistant, Katie Santiago, who is paid from GAD funds. Ms. Santiago has done excellent work keeping the website up to date, and she also wrote a new instructional manual for the graduate assistant who succeeds her in this position. As noted earlier, the Communications Officer also supervises GAD columns for Anthropology News. The 2009 columns were varied, and included original essays by past and current GAD presidents, announcements for GAD-sponsored scholarly prizes, and
announcements about GAD-sponsored events at the 2009 annual meetings. The listservs and website have been a benefit to GAD members, and have made it much easier for officers and membership to communicate easily and efficiently on important matters.

After the 2009 AAA elections were past, our Secretary-Treasurer submitted her resignation, and so we appointed an interim Secretary-Treasurer, Richard Furlow, who has served us well throughout the year. We will be nominating a candidate for the permanent office of Secretary-Treasurer in the 2010 AAA election.

Our fund balance is healthy, and the Board decided several years ago to use some of those funds to reward scholarship that addresses the intersection of more than one anthropological subfield. This year we revived the GAD Prize for Exemplary Cross-Field Scholarship, using our new media to announce the prize and to ask for submissions. A committee composed of the present and past GAD presidents and one outside reviewer (Dr. William Beeman) read fifteen nominated papers, and ultimately decided to make awards retroactively for 2008 (when the award had not been given) as well as for 2009. We also decided to award honorable mentions in addition to the main awards. The awards were then presented to the winners at the beginning of the GAD business meeting in Philadelphia. Winners for 2009 were Michael Fischer (recipient) and Kevin Birth (Honorable Mention); winners for 2008 were Ronald Eglash et al. (recipient) and Naomi Quinn (Honorable Mention). Winners were awarded $1000 and honorable mentions $250.

GAD voted two years ago to contribute financial support to the endowment responsible for the Helen Forsythe Prize, annually awarded by the Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology and Computing (CASTAC), a GAD interest group, and the Society for the Anthropology of Work (SAW). Our support of the Helen Forsythe Prize highlights GAD’s view that the anthropology of science, technology, and medicine is central to the “general anthropology” of the twenty-first century, and it has also given our section a higher profile among anthropologists
involved in such research. Chris Furlow, GAD’s current President-Elect and former chair of CASTAC, has taken on the responsibility of supervising the selection processes connected with both the GAD Prize and the Forsythe Prize, with which he has been involved for many years. Now that information about both these prizes is posted on our website and can be communicated electronically to our members and to the AAA membership at large, we believe that awareness of these prizes (and of GAD’s backing of such cutting-edge scholarship) will only increase.

Finally, GAD also made additional important contributions to the 2009 AAA meetings program. Overall GAD also sponsored 25 regular sessions and 6 invited sessions. Moreover, one of our invited sessions, “The Relativity of Relativities,” was promoted to the status of Executive Session by the AAA Executive Board.

**Interest groups affiliated with GAD**

*Committee on Teaching Anthropology (CoTA)*

John M. Coggeshall, Chair of CoTA, served as invited discussant the first meeting of the newly formed “Anthropology Education Committee (AEC), which reports directly to the AAA executive board. The AEC has been created to form an umbrella organization for the three branches of teaching: K-12 (typically covered by the Council on Anthropology and Education group); community colleges (typically covered by SACC); and four-year universities (covered by the CoTA). This group has addressed ways of getting anthropology into high schools and working-class community colleges, and also such matters as “anthropology standards” for assessment. CoTA has received inquiries about whether the AAA has any standardized tests to measure undergraduate student learning, which may be a focus of a CoTA sponsored AAA session in the future. CoTA continues to support work on classroom management skills and suggestions, various forms of student research, and how to conduct service learning opportunities.
Federation of Small Anthropology Programs, (FoSAP)

FoSAP is entering its 18th year as an advocate for anthropology (primarily academic) in small programs. Since its inception, under the umbrella of GAD, FoSAP has regularly developed paper sessions for the AAA annual meetings. In 2008 the FoSAP invited session was entitled: “The Return of General Anthropology: Big Thinking in Small Programs,” and dealt with a number of theoretical and pedagogical topics. In 2009, FoSAP sponsored a session more specifically focused on small programs: “Heterogeneous Academic Relations: Issues of Departmental Combinations, social Class, and the Appropriation of Anthropology By Other Disciplines.” These two sessions represent the particular contributions of FoSAP—addressing what it means both to be anthropologists who wrestle with research in disciplinary topics and to be teachers who deal with the institutional challenges that typically confront small programs that are often in combined departments. FoSAP made an effort in 2009 to attend regional meetings, such as the Central States anthropology meetings.

FoSAP has its own listserv, whose 429 members actively communicate with one another on a range of topics. FoSAP also publishes its own journal, Anthro-at-large, and the membership continues to debate whether to move the journal to AnthroSource, and whether it should be produced in electronic form only.

Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology and Computing (CASTAC)

2009 was a year of celebration for CASTAC as it marked ten years of the Diana Forsythe Prize with an invited double session at the AAA meetings, co-sponsored by GAD and the Society for the Anthropology of Work (SAW). All ten recipients of the Forsythe Prize were involved, including the 2009 recipient, Emily Martin, who won for her book Bipolar Expeditions. Representatives of CASTAC, GAD, SAW, and Bern
Shen, Helen Forsythe’s widower and key supporter of the Prize, also participated. Interest in the Forsythe Prize, and the prestige associated with winning it, continue to grow. Several academic publishers regularly submit nominations, and they advertise on their websites, in their catalogs, and at their booths at academic conferences when one of their books is selected as a Forsythe Prize recipient. Each year, more publishers submit nominations and ask to be notified when the next Call for Nominations is distributed.

In addition to the 2009 AAA session celebrating the Forsythe Prize, CASTAC worked with the Society for Medical Anthropology’s Science, Technology, and Medicine Interest Group to organize an invited double session at the 2008 AAA meetings co-sponsored by GAD and SMA. The session was extremely successful and was standing room only for the entire time.

CASTAC membership remains steady with a slight increase in the number of subscribers to its listserv (approximately 135 members). Chris Furlow, who has served as CASTAC representative on the GAD Board, stepped down to assume the position of President-elect of GAD at the 2009 AAA meetings. He has been replaced by new CASTAC co-chairs Rachel Prentice and Jenny Cool.

**History of Anthropology Committee (HAC).**

With the help of GAD, AAA and an enthusiastic group of researchers, the History of Anthropology Committee was able to fill two double sessions and a workshop for the 2009 Philadelphia meetings. Their proposal for an Executive Session on “The Relativity of Relativities” was approved by the Program Committee of AAA. The organizers, Andrew and Harriet Lyons, will be inquiring about possibilities of publication. The annual Stocking Symposium in the History of Anthropology also attracted some very strong paper proposals. The teaching workshop addressed a number of questions: what should be emphasized in history of anthropology courses: just a list of major theorists and paradigms; the history of fieldwork and
ethnographic writing along with the history of theory; the social relations and cultural movements that provided a context for the development of anthropology. History of theory courses are part of most curricula, but HAC has received reports that many programs are abandoning them.

The History of Anthropology listserv is maintained at just under 80 members. As Andrew and Harriet Lyons, the co-representatives of HAC on the GAD Board approach retirement, HAC will be discussing the question of electing their successor.

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In sum, GAD has experienced an eventful and productive year. We fully expect our new (and newly reenergized) initiatives to continue to bear fruit in the year to come.

Respectfully submitted,

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