Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition
Annual Report 2009

Submitted by Janet Chrzan, President
On Behalf of the SAFN Executive Board

Accomplishments for 2009

The Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition accomplished a number of important goals in 2009. The notable milestones include:

- Membership is now above the new minimum for section status, at 252 members.
- We set in motion arrangements to participate in a joint meeting in June 2010 with the Association for the Study of Food and Society and the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society. This meeting has been a joint ASFS/AFHVS endeavor for many years, and SAFN now joins with them for a three-way food culture and nutrition meeting. We hope that participation in this outside meeting increases membership as well as that of the AAA. Andrea Wiley and Mark Jenike are handling the program requirements of the joint meeting.
- Publication of our column in Anthropology News has been consistent and of high quality under our editor, Rachel Black. We have successfully recruited and trained two new editors, Alyson Young and Kenneth Maes, who will share the responsibility starting in February 2010.
- Our listserv (SAFN-list) is active, and used primarily to disseminate information about publications of interest, breaking news issues, calls for papers and meeting notices, and other appropriate professional information.
- We had robust participation in the 2009 Annual Meetings in Philadelphia, in large part thanks to the hard work of our Program Chair, Barbara Piperata. We had two invited sessions and 4 submitted. All of the SAFN sponsored sessions had strong attendance and participation. In addition the business of the section was conducted at the annual meeting of the Executive Board, and the Business Meeting.
- We have designed and printed 2000 postcards to advertise SAFN and the benefits of membership. They were successfully distributed at the AAA meeting and have been farmed out to members to share with other groups and academic departments.
- We hosted a keynote Distinguished Lecture by Dr. Ellen Messer held at a catered reception in the Reading Terminal Market after the Business meeting. Dr. Messer was joined by Carey Morgan, the Director of the Greater Philadelphia Hunger Coalition, who provided a short talk on hunger in the Philadelphia area. The lecture was well-attended and generated many questions and a robust discussion.
- We held a well-attended reception after Dr. Milton’s talk. The reception was catered by the Reading Terminal Market catering company and featured iconic local foods from the Market, including an ‘all-you-can-eat’ ice cream bar from Bassett’s, the oldest ice cream company in the country. Costs for this reception again climbed higher than anticipated, this year because the catering company
charged for a count of all Distinguished Speaker talk visitors rather than for the reception guest number originally contracted. The catering company worked with us to find a head count that was acceptable to both groups, but the overall costs were roughly $800 more than originally anticipated. Given the financial experiences of the last two years for receptions SAFN plans to sharply curtail the reception costs for 2010.

- We had 5 winners of the Christine Wilson Award for excellence in student papers in nutritional anthropology this year. Because the quality of the graduate papers was so high we awarded one prize and four honorable mentions. We had a large number of submissions (12 graduate; 3 undergraduate) and were able to give the prize to truly excellent papers.
- We are in sound financial condition. Our income exceeded our expenditures and we have a healthy fund balance (~$21,000). Our major expenditures are the reception, speaker honoraria and Wilson prizes.
- We have added a Student Representative whose term will begin in January 2010 and will have a two-year term; representative is Neri de Kramer (CUNY).

**Challenges and Future Plans**

- We continue to be concerned about our membership numbers and have instituted a number of outreach activities designed to increase our membership base, including direct outreach (spearheaded by VP Leslie Carlin) as well as more indirect approaches, including joint meetings and use of social media. We are now above the number necessary for continued section status, and anticipate more members in the upcoming year.
- We have created a new post and committee to oversee website updates, media use and outreach. This team is headed by David Beriss and includes Kelly Feltault and Emily Yates-Doerr. They plan to update parts of the website to include a blog that will highlight member research and writing about food culture.
- We will be electing two new board members this year: Vice-President and Treasurer.
- We will be creating the fourth edition of the Food and Nutrition syllabi set (SNAC IV) which is available to members via a password-protected section of the SAFN website.
Officers and Executive Board Members for 2009

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