Status, activities and accomplishments in 2009

1. Membership:
   Our average membership in 2009 was 223. The highest number of members reported for the year was in February (232) and the lowest was in April (218). In November, the number of members was 222. The fact that our membership numbers hover around the low threshold for AAA sections is of course of concern to us, and both the board and SAW membership have taken steps in 2009 to address this. The economic crisis has obviously made handling various dues payments a hardship for a number of underemployed and unemployed anthropologists, along with employed ones, so at our SAW business meeting in Santa Fe in the spring we discussed new membership rates, which we voted on at the December 2009 board and business meetings. The new rates are: Professional ($30), Student ($5), Associate ($25), Retired ($15), International A ($15), and International B ($5). We are heavily oriented toward student members, and hope that the lower student membership rate will be helpful.

2. Financial balances: The budget for our section was at $11,500 going into the AAA meetings, and after the disbursement of awards and travel reimbursements related to the meetings, the final balance for the 2009 SAW budget was $10, 203. The 2009 budget for our journal, the *Anthropology of Work Review* was set at zero (given the new format of allocations). The editor received $250 in travel reimbursement from the general SAW budget in order to attend AAA editorial meetings.

3. SAW events at the 2009 AAA meetings:
   We cosponsored with CASTAC (a committee of the General Anthropology Division) a very well-attended double session, The End/s of the Anthropology of Technoscience: Celebrating 10 Years of the Diana Forsythe Prize, which had to be moved to a larger venue. We cosponsored with the National Association of Student Anthropologists the session Anthropology of Disaster Capitalism, and with the Central States Anthropological Society we cosponsored the session Class and Identity. SAW also sponsored two roundtables: (1) Green Jobs and the Obama Energy Plan: Can Environmentalists and Social Justice Activists Build a Joint Agenda, and (2) Balancing Children and the Academy from Grad School to Tenure. The latter was organized by the student representatives on our board, and the room was packed with graduate students and new faculty members interested in this topic. We held our board and business meetings on Thursday and Friday evenings of the AAA meetings.

4. Spring meetings:
   For the first time, the SAW held a spring meeting, jointly with the SfAA meetings. These were in Santa Fe, NM, in March. The SAW sponsored two sessions: (1) Shifting Ground: What Work Means in Changing Global Contexts, and (2) Global Comparisons with Santa Fe’s Living Wage. We held a SAW business meeting, but waited to make final decisions on new policies until we met
at the AAAs in December. The joint meeting was beneficial, and we plan to try this with other organizations occasionally.

5. **Mentorship efforts:**
   As noted above, the SAW has strong student participation and leadership, with two student seats on the executive board. We have a formal mentorship program that was begun by student board members, matching students with volunteer professional mentors in the organization. We also sponsor formal mentoring events, like the SAW roundtable on balancing children and the academy at the AAAs. We do a lot of mentorship work through our journal, which is committed to publishing student work. See also #7 below.

6. **Additional outreach efforts:**
   We work closely with other sections, as noted above in our cosponsorship of sessions, and we worked in 2009 to plan events for the 2010 AAA meetings involving community activists in New Orleans and cosponsored with an even wider group of sections, e.g., the 2010 SANA-ABA-ALLA-SOLGA-AFA-SLACA-SAW Joint Reception.

7. **Awards presented in 2009:**
   We initiated a new SAW award in 2009, the June Nash Student Travel Award. This monetary award will be given each year to all students whose abstracts for the AAA meetings are submitted through the SAW for review and accepted for the program. This is to help students get to the meetings to present their work professionally and interact with other scholars. The award is presented at our SAW business meeting, so the students can learn more about the work of sections in the AAA. In 2009, Nash awards were presented to Tara Eaton, Csilla Kalocsai, and Jennifer Trivedi.

8. **Section communications:**
   This was a year of much change, with strong student support, of our use of media to communicate with members. We launched a SAW wiki, linked to our AAA website, and at the AAA meetings we had volunteers come forward to revise and manage our website and list-serves. We use all of these means of communication with SAW members actively.

9. **Changes in governance:**
   Changes in the by-laws we voted on in 2008 went into effect in 2009, so we have set terms for several board seats that had less definite terms in the past. This is working well. We also now have a formal president-elect, president, and past president sitting on the board at any given time, for example, to assist with institutional memory and the flow of ongoing work in the organization.

**Future plans for the next 3-5 years**

1. We do plan to increase and broaden our national and international membership through the changed dues structure and our ongoing commitment to translating international scholarship on the anthropology of work for our journal, as well as our long-term commitment to involving activists and scholars from other disciplines in our AAA sessions and to communicating with local workers as we organize our events.
2. Michael Chibnik, the current editor of the *Anthropology of Work Review*, has just worked with Wiley-Blackwell to redesign the journal in a more professional style, and we have committed to hiring a professional copy editor with SAW funds. The journal continues to be a site for engagement for scholars in and beyond the AAA interested in the anthropology of work.

3. We will be initiating a SAW film prize, and will be working with the Society for Visual Anthropology to recruit submissions and award that prize at the SVA meetings.

Chief concerns

We wonder what the future will hold for the publication and budget of our journal and organization, given changes that may come in 2012, and hope that there will continue to be strong communication between the AAA office, Wiley-Blackwell, and all sections (including the smaller ones) regarding publication decisions and revenue sharing. We are pleased with the current level of communication between these entities.

We hope that the AAA will work with us, and other small sections, on creative solutions to the challenges with membership numbers in these times, as with the lower rates for joining multiple sections.