Section Annual Report: Society for Linguistic Anthropology  
1/2008-12/2009  
Submitted by J. Errington

Section officers:
Outgoing President     Joseph Errington (j.errington@yale.edu)
Incoming President      Kathryn Woolard (kwoolard@ucsd.edu)
Editor, Journal of Linguistic Anthropology  Paul Manning, Miyako Inoue (jlaeditor@gmail.com)
Outgoing Digital Content Editor  Kerim Friedman (kerim.friedman@oxus.net)
Incoming Digital Content Editor  Leila Monaghan (Leila.monaghan@gmail.com)
Section program editor    Kira Hall (Kira.Hall@Colorado.EDU)
Secretary-Treasurer      Angela Reyes (arruye@hunter.cuny.edu)
Chair, Nominations Committee  Paul Garrett (pgarrett@temple.edu)
Editor, AN column     James Stanlaw  (stanlaw@ilstu.edu)
Members  at large      Janina Fenigsen (outgoing)
                        Jillian Cavanaugh (jcavanaugh@brooklyn.cuny.edu)
                        Paul Garrett

Status, activities, and accomplishments

1. Membership numbers as of September 2009:  667
   Our stable membership suggests that we have identified our natural constituencies.

2. Net assets for Section:  $63,978 as of 9/30/09, $96,000 projected as of 1/1/10
   Income paid by Wiley-Blackwell for the Journal of Linguistic Anthropology represents an important
   new revenue stream; other costs and revenue sources remain largely stable.   The Executive Board
   has taken steps to allow a small part of the balance available for support of the section’s journal.
   (See “concerns and issues” below.)

3. AAA invited sessions:
   The Ends of Amazonian Language and Culture (cosponsored with SLACA)
   Beyond Macro and Micro in the Linguistic Anthropology of Education (cosponsored with SAE)
   The Ends of Prosody: Ways of Speaking as Ideological Means and Ends
   The Ends of Enregisterment: Shifting Linguistic Indexes of Identity and Place
   Ethnography and Language Policy – New Means, New Ends, New Times
   (Presidential Symposium, cosponsored with Council on Anthropology and Education)

4. Not applicable

5. Not applicable

6. Outreach efforts
   --The Committee on Language and Racism, chaired by Laura Graham, continues to work to make
   bring language issues into the AAA’s “race matters” project.  It also lobbies for revisions to
   language-related questions included in the upcoming US census.

   -- The new, multifunctional SLA website at http://www.linguisticanthropology.org/ now makes the
   SLA accessible well beyond its own membership
7. Student essay prizes:
   Undergraduate: Ruairidh Falconer
   “Santiago Atitlán: globalization and bilingual development
   Graduate: Benjamin Smith
   “Of marbles and (little) men: bad luck, Aymara boyhood, and masculine identification”

8. Section internal communications are now greatly facilitated by the newly redesigned website (see 6 above).

9. Changes in governance structure
   SLA officers are deliberating on the best way to give the Committee on Language and Racism representation on the executive board.

Future plans or activities in the next 3-5 years
1. Not applicable
2. We will continue to develop the blogging and posting capabilities of the SLA website.
3. The SLA Executive Board will continue to discuss and solicit ideas for using its budget surplus.
4. See 6 above. In addition to the “race matters” initiative, members of the SLA are investigating the possibility of developing a parallel “language matters” initiative.

Chief concerns and issues

The SLA executive committee discussed our journal’s future and our search for a new editor, which led to questions likely confronting other sections regarding the future of the AAA relation with Wiley-Blackwell. It seems clear that the SLA (and perhaps other sections) are increasingly obliged to find ways to replace the support universities are increasingly withdrawing for their faculty who take on editorial work for journals like the JLA. Given our uncertainty about longer term revenue streams, over the next three or four years, we are correspondingly uncertain about the level of support the SLA can responsibly offer to candidates for editor for the duration of their term. If other sections are dealing with versions of this same problem, it might be usefully taken up by the Section Assembly, or perhaps the Executive Board.

In addition, it would help to know how the online reviewing system now in place for many AAA publications is functioning, and whether the JLA could usefully make use of it.