Names and e-mail addresses of the Section officers during the period covered:
Ramona L. Perez, President (perez@mail.sdsu.edu)
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Maria Eugenia Brockmann, Student Representative (mauge.brockmann@mail.mcgill.edu)

Status, Activities and Accomplishments this year
1. Most up-to-date membership numbers:
In 2008, from September to October we lost 9% of membership; in 2009 those numbers were not as challenging but we still lost 4.9% of membership going from 731 to 695 members, for a total loss of 36 members. This is a smaller decline than during the previous year, when membership declined from 801 to 730 members. Over the previous year SLACA lost 1 regular member, 44 student members (far more than during the previous year), and 2 international A members (which leaves us with no members in that category). SLACA continued to see an increase in international B membership, from 44 to 55 members. The 3.7% decline during the previous year does, however, represent a recovery from a low of 687 members in April-May 2009. To compare, between October 2008-October 2009 total AAA memberships declined 3.4%. Many international members took advantage of the lower fees associated with International B (for members in countries south of the US). We believe that this was a positive sign as we were able to retain many members who might otherwise have cancelled their membership in these tough economic times. Our largest loss in numbers was in the student category.

Membership: 444 regular members, 193 students, 3 Life, 0 International A, 55 International B

Several members asked how they could become life members with SLACA without also having to be life members with the AAA. We will focus on this as an important way to draw in and retain our established scholars. We also know that the International A is incorrect as two members of the Board, Canessa and Ypeiji are European scholars who paid International A and one other European scholar in the membership audience noted her payment through that category. We believe that our greatest stumbling block is the economy. Despite this issue, we were extremely pleased at the large number of attendees at the Business Meeting; the room was too small and many stood, sat on the floor in the aisle, and others listened from just outside the door. In our conversation on membership, those members present expressed their satisfaction with our new spring meetings that are held at the SfAA Meeting, our AN column, and the more up to date website. We continue to have problems with our members outside the US receiving their journals in a timely manner. We intend to look into the option of receiving an electronic version. While we have added a spring student paper prize that is funded through our royalties account with the Whitefords, student paper prizes do not appear to have increased the number of students who
join the Society. The Board of Directors will investigate the option of providing one year of free membership to any student who refers another student to the Society. We will also encourage panel organizers to include graduate students on their panels and will give them priority in our panel ranking. We will also investigate the possibility of providing small travel grants to first time graduate student participants on these panels of up to $100.00.

2. Financial balances for both Section budgets and publication sponsored budgets, if applicable. **General:** SLACA's primary revenue comes from memberships; its primary expense is publication of JLACA. An important asset is the Whiteford Fund, made possible by the generous donation of royalties by the Whitefords, which allows SLACA to partially reimburse travel by international board members (including one student) to the AAA to ensure participation by international members and, an award to a student in Applied Anthropology.

Overall, SLACA is in better condition than a year ago.

**Assets:** SLACA net assets on October 31, 2009, were $71,510.78, which compares favorably to $43,606.13 on September 30, 2008. The Whiteford Fund's assets were $9,293.99, compared to $9,952.48 on September 30, 2008.

**Revenues:** SLACA's net assets on January 1, 2009, were $44,418.38, which compares favorably to January 1, 2008, when net assets were $15,396.25. The difference results almost completely from eliminating the high payments for AnthroSource as a result of the switch to WB. SLACA revenues from memberships through October 31, 2009, were $19,899.80, which is higher than the revenues of $17,818.27 from September 30, 2008. (The difference is due partly to reporting for 13 months; SLACA lost members but had raised some fees, resulting in overall stable revenue.)

For the Whiteford Fund, revenue through October 30, 2009 was $1065.61, compared to September 30, 2008 revenue of $1,056.98.

**Membership:** SLACA continues to have 5 membership categories: regular, student, life, international A (non-US, developed countries), and international B (non-US, developing countries, including Mexico, and all Central America and South America). Section membership includes a subscription to JLACA. Institutions that want to subscribe to JLACA (but not to AAA) subscribe directly to WB, which receives that income. SLACA made no changes to membership fees during 2009 (in 2008, SLACA raised fees for the "regular" membership category to $45 USD, and created the "international b" category at $25 USD, but kept student memberships at $20 USD).

**Expenditures:** Nearly all SLACA expenditures are for the journal, JLACA; other expenditures are for awards, travel by one board representative to the AAA Section Assembly, meeting food and space (at AAA and as of 2009, SfAA), postage, and storage of old JLACA issues.

**JLACA:** SLACA publishing revenue through October 31, 2009 was nearly 50% higher than budgeted ($15,004.86 compared to $9,991.00), so SLACA is projected to retain a higher percentage of dues subsidies, contributing to SLACA assets.

SLACA budgeted publishing expenses for JLACA for 2009 at $11,500; expenditures through October 2009 have been $6,817.41. This amount does not reflect expenses for the second half of 2009, which were advanced to JLACA but have not yet been fully spent or itemized. Starting in 2009, SLACA also budgeted $2,500 for international travel by JLACA's editor to international meetings to seek article submissions and promote the journal; this also will be expensed in 2009.
As Board members struggle to fund their own travel to the annual Meeting, the Board voted to increase the number of reimbursements for travel for committee members who are under/unemployed and for those coming from outside the US.

3. List your Section’s AAA meeting invited sessions, co-sponsored sessions, and any special events your Section sponsored or in which it participated:

SLACA had great response to our call for invited sessions as well as general submissions. We received eight proposals for invited sessions. We were able to schedule five of the eight sessions by co-sponsoring with ALLA, SAE, AES, APLA and SLA. We were two weeks ahead of the regular deadline and will aim for four weeks to allow for greater collaboration with other sections. We continued with our Conversations Across the Americas special event but it was cancelled the day before the Meetings as the international participants suffered a robbery and lost their passports and visas; thus they were unable to enter the US.

Individual paper proposals were organized into five sessions and a total of 13 sessions were proposed in addition to the five invited sessions. Of the 18 sessions put forward, 14 were accepted; a total of 19 sessions were sponsored or co-sponsored by SLACA.

Three poster proposals were put together into one poster session. We will look toward creating a poster prize to encourage more poster sessions in 2010.

Sessions included:

- Religion, Politics and Identities in Motion: Ethnohistoric, Media Studies, and Anthropological Scholarship on Performative Mesoamerican Rituals. (0-024);
- (Post)Colonial Language Ideologies in the Americas: Production, Reception, Decentering (0-041);
- Engaging the State: Ethnographic Perspectives from Latin America (0-080);
- Ethnographies and Histories: Oral History and Contemporary Representations of Puerto Ricans (0-081);
- The shifting borders of Mexican Anthropology (0-126);
- Anthropology, the University and the Corporate Economy: Focus on Mexamerican Universities. (0-144);
- Conversations across the Americas: Beyond the written text, a conceptual music perspective (1-086);
- Globalization from Below: New technologies for migrant remittances, microfinance and transnational community development (1-123). INVITED W/ ALLA;
- Amazon Town: Seven Decades of Research and Engagement - To what end? (1-156);
- Fifty years of Revolution: ethnographic perspectives of contemporary Cuba (2-034);
- The End/s of Area Studies: Latin Americans in Europe (2-141) INVITED W/ SAE;
- Dilemmas and Contradictions of a Latin American Welfare State: Costa Rica and the Turn of the 21st Century (2-121);
- From DN(A) to (Z)iploc: Latin America Through Posters (2-125);
- The New Bolivian Constitution as an arena of Political, Legal and Cultural Struggle (2-143);
- The Ends of Amazonian Language and Culture? (3-074) INVITED W/ SLA;
- The end of citizenship in Latin America? The body as a new site of political struggle (3-072) INVITED W/ APLA;
- Gender, Sexuality and Public Life: Cases from Latin America (0-152);
- An Anthropology of Critical Engagement: Honoring Antonio, Lauria-Perricelli (3-140) INVITED W/ AES;
- Ownership, wellbeing and history in Amazonia (0-157);
- RECEPTION CASHBAR (SPONSORED BY SANA, AFA, SUNTA, ABA, ALLA, SLACA, SOLGA) (3-180);

Indigenous Identity and Civic Activism in Latin America (4-012);
Performance, Practice and Politics in Latin America (4-078)

Spring meeting activities (if applicable):
The implementation of a spring meeting with the SfAA opened up more opportunity for our members to present under the rubric of SLACA as well as SfAA; we hoped this would help new scholars who struggle to justify their applied work to their universities in that their paper or session is refereed by SLACA. Submitting papers under SLACA for the SfAA Annual Meeting also allows our members to only pay the conference registration fee. We had approximately 50 members participate. We also held a reception that was a smashing success and we packed the room with more than 100 attendees. We were thrilled with the turnout and the opportunity to have Michael and Scott Whiteford present the first Whiteford Student Paper Prizes in Applied Anthropology to Mauricio Magaña (US) and Cynthia X. Ingar (LA). Mauricio, as the prize within the US, received $250.00 and Cynthia, our Latin American prize winner, received $350.00.

3. Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings):
Mentoring by SLACA has focused on including our graduate student representative in the activities and decisions of the SLACA Board and to the establishment of two paper prizes each year. This has been a difficult area for us as our membership at the established scholar level has not been inclined to offer their time to students that are not at their schools. As a Society that is deeply embedded in a region that is considered underrepresented in anthropology, we have sought a diverse Board that includes members from Latin America as well as Canada and Europe. We have a specific councilor position that is teamed with a graduate student representative to maintain watch on human rights issues throughout Latin America and provide access to this information through our listserve. The reduction in space for the AN column has prevented us from a more dynamic essay process but will seek to find other venues for scholars working in troubled areas to provide up to date information. We have used our listserve to support various agencies and organizations in announcing their events and encouraging our membership to participate.

SLACA currently has two graduate student based awards: The Roseberry Nash Award that is presented at the annual Meeting and the Whiteford Graduate Student Prize in Applied Anthropology. This last year the Roseberry Nash Award was presented to Ellen Sharp and her essay, Se Soluciona Todo: A State of Exception in Rural Guatemala, was published in the AN column in March 2009. The Whiteford Prizes were awarded to Mauricio Magana for the US prize and Cynthia X. Ingar for a student in Latin America at the spring Meeting of SLACA at the annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, which we co-sponsor.

We maintain a website that is managed by our student representative, a listserve that is moderated by one of our councilors, and remain active in publishing in our AN column that is edited by one of our councilors.

4. Future plans or activities in the next 3-5 years
In addition to the spring meetings, the board also considered several other possibilities. We are working toward improving our website to include links to important news sites throughout Latin America. We are also considering a link to a site that would house syllabi on the anthropology of Latin America. It has also been proposed that we solicit our emeritus faculty to aid in mentoring emerging scholars and our graduate students. In an effort to encourage established scholars to become a part of SLACA, we created a new speaker series that would be similar to the Conversations Across the Americas in the sense that it would be held each spring and would feature a SLACA member that represented the values and mission of the Society. In that spirit, we formulated the criteria to reflect members that had contributed to the communities with whom they worked, the discipline of anthropology, and the mentoring of subsequent generations of scholars. While the Journal is doing well, with increasing submissions from Latin America and Europe and a roughly 28% acceptance ratio, we look to continue improving the journal. We will structure it to have 5 papers on region/topic per issue along with shorter reports related to activism reports. We have also asked to offer our membership the option of receiving the journal electronically.

SLACA initiated the joint reception at the annual Meeting, originally teaming with ALLA many years ago, as we recognized that many of our members were also ALLA members. The cost of
conducting the reception effectively has increased and we expanded it to include several other organizations. This has been hugely successful and the joint reception in New Orleans will be one of our best to date. This kind of activity encourages membership across the societies and reduces costs for us, especially the smaller ones.

5. Please tell us what your chief concerns and issues are, especially if they are not previously noted:
The SA is addressing the many issues that affect SLACA as well as other sections on fee structures, collaborative mentoring, and meeting arrangements. For SLACA, the flexibility for foreign scholars to attend and participate in the Meetings is an opportunity not only for them but also for all of us as we work to broaden our impact and collaborations across disciplines and organizations. The more we can do to encourage this kind of participation, and provide fee reductions and travel offsets, the greater our own capital will grow. We encourage these discussions to continue. While the request for funding from the Sections for salary stability among the AAA staff was made in good faith and an open heart, it was not fair and equitable considering the employment issues that our membership is experiencing. The EB has to look towards its own costs in locating funding for its staff. This is especially salient considering the phenomenal loss that arose from the contract with UC and that was shouldered by the Sections. The loan to avoid bankruptcy was a huge embarrassment for the AAA despite the belief that this was somehow gracious to the Sections; it exhibited poor decision making in the original contract negotiations that was then the burden of its membership.