Names and e-mail addresses of the Section officers during the period covered:

President Douglas Hollan (2009-11) dhollan@anthro.ucla.edu
President-Elect Claudia Strauss Claudia_strauss@pitzer.edu
Past President Tanya Luhrmann (2007-09) luhrmann@stanford.edu

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Jean Lave (2006-10) jlave@socrates.berkeley.edu
Steve Leavitt (2006-10) leavitts@union.edu
Jennifer Cole (2007-11) jcole@uchicago.edu
Rebecca Lester (2007-11) rjlester@artsci.wustl.edu

OFFICERS

Secretary-Treasurer Ashley Maynard (2007-2010) amaynard@hawaii.edu
Ethos Editor Janet Dixon Keller ethos-spa@uiuc.edu
Anthropology News Section Editor Jack Friedman (2008-2010) jrfriedman8@gmail.com
SPA Book Series Editor Alex Hinton (2006-10) ahinton@andromeda.rutgers.edu
Electronic Publications Editor Steve Leavitt (2006-10) leavitts@union.edu
Student Board Representative Julia Cassaniti juliac@uchicago.edu

Status, Activities and Accomplishments this year

1. Membership numbers: 564 total: 148 student members (September)

Membership may be increasing as a result of the availability of fellowships for initial fieldwork for graduate students and for conferences: these are the Lemelson Student Fellowship Program and the Lemelson/SPA Conference Fund. Current numbers show a decline from a high of 579 in the winter.

In 2007 the SPA was very fortunate in receiving a grant from one of its Board members, Robert Lemelson, to further the goals of the SPA. The Board approved two initiatives over the next three years: The Lemelson/SPA Conference Fund, and The Lemelson/SPA Student Fellowships: The Lemelson/SPA Fellows. This program is coming to completion in its
first phase. Dr. Lemelson made the third of three contributions of $50,000 to the SPA. Two SPA conferences were been funded for 2009-2010. Several students will also be provided with summer research awards.

The SPA has a book series with Palgrave, now under the editorship of Rebecca Lester. We experienced some difficulties with Palgrave, but after some effort it now appears that the difficulties have diminished and we look forward to a productive partnership.

In the spring of 2009 the SPA held its biennial in Asilomar, Please see below.

2. Financial balances for both Section budgets and publication sponsored budgets, if applicable (for 2008).

Net assets at the beginning of 2009 were $92,948; by September 2009 assets were $117,279. We are currently in good stead financially, and we expect to do well next year.

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

These were the invited sessions:

Evolving Moralities: WHEN THE GOOD AND THE RIGHT NEED TO BE RECONFIGURED
Psychiatric Cross-Roads: the Intersections of Globalizing Psychiatry, Politics, and Social Movements
Meanings in Motion: PERFORMANCE, EMBODIMENT, AND IDENTITY

Other sessions included:

THE POLITICS OF DIAGNOSTIC (ID) ENTITIES IN CULTURE, ILLNESS AND PSYCHIATRY
Motherhood/Personhood: Identity, Intersubjectivity and Power
TECHNOLOGIES OF NORMALCY AND THE MEDICALIZATION OF CONTEMPORARY CHILDHOODS
POLITICAL CHARISMA
TOWARD AN ANTHROpology OF MORALITY
CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY IN THE CONTEXT OF ADOPTION, ORPHANAGES, AND FOSTERAGE
CULTURAL IMAGINARIES: FANTASY IN CULTURE

Because the program was put together using AAA technology, we do not have records of the three panels put together from individually submitted papers.

4. Spring meeting activities (if applicable):

On March 27-9, the Society for Psychological Anthropology met jointly with the Society for the Anthropology of Religion at Asilomar, in northern California. It was a wonderful meeting with over three hundred attendants. The synergy between the two groups was remarkable and intellectually fruitful. For example, we had a session in which scholars who
took an evolutionary psychology approach to religion met with members of the SPA and members of the SAR, and argued back and forth about the implications of the approach. There were many sessions which reached out to members of both societies: sessions on well-being, on the Apostle Paul, on secularism, on conversion, on patriarchy and parenting, on theory of mind, on death and trauma, on spirit possession, and so forth. There were also sessions around topics more specifically of interest to the SPA: on the collapse and reorganization of meaning in psychiatric illness, on empathic listening, on mixed methods, and so forth. Vincent Crapanzano, past president of the SPA, delivered the SAR’s Rappaport lecture, which was entitled “Half-disciplined chaos: thoughts on contingency, fate, destiny, story and trauma.” It was a compelling occasion.

5. Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following:
   - undergraduate and/or graduate students:
   - junior scholars:
   - independent scholars:
   -
   We established the tradition of offering a free drink for the first twenty-five students at the business meeting; we were able to offer a small fellowship to students whose papers were accepted at the upcoming spring conference; we have benefited from the generous Lemelson gift in offering student fellowships and funding for conferences; we continue to reach out to scholars in other disciplines such as psychology and to include them in our panels and conferences.

6. Additional outreach efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to other sections, interest groups, and scholarly societies, government agencies, public education/community engagement, and underrepresented minorities:

   Members actively collaborate with scholars from other fields, particularly psychology and neuroscience. This spring, we held our regular biennial meeting jointly with another section, the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, to the mutual benefit of both.

7. Awards presented this year on behalf of your Section, if applicable (please provide the title of the award, date presented, and full name, affiliation, and title of the project/paper/accomplishment of the awardees):

   Boyer 2008:

   2008 Rebeca Lester, Jesus in our wombs.

   Boyer 2009:


   Stirling:


   and
8. Status and use of Section internal communications such as a website, list serve, or newsletter (if applicable):

The SPA currently has a listserve used judiciously for the announcement of section panels, upcoming conferences and so forth.

9. Changes in bylaws or governance structure (if applicable): None

Future plans or activities in the next 3-5 years

1. Do you have any plans or activities specifically aimed at increasing your membership and/or broadening your membership (i.e., students, independent scholars, scholars of color)? We are continuing to seek ways to engage scholars from other fields. Ethos seems to be healthy and its submission rate and download rate appears to be increasing.

2. Do you have any plans or activities aimed at creating new forms of scholarly communication or changing existing publications/communications? No

3. Any other projects that your Section has underway or discussed with its members: We continue to discuss plans for future conferences.

4. What (if any) collaboration is your Section doing with other Sections, Interest Groups, or outside groups on the projects listed above? Our biennial conference will be held in March 2009 jointly with the Society for the Anthropology of Religion.

Please tell us what your chief concerns and issues are, especially if they are not previously noted:

1. What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the Section Assembly leadership? The Section Assembly has worked hard to make the voice of the sections heard. Our leadership has participated in this process and we are proud of the change in the structure of the AA Executive Board.

2. What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board? We urge them to continue to be mindful of the health of our sections, which are the lifeblood of our organization.

3. What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff? We found in organizing the Biennial that while AAA staff were very helpful when available and were exceptionally nice, they seem to be somewhat disorganized. It seemed clear that it was easier to organize the biennial meeting ourselves rather than use AAA help.