SOLGA/AQA 2010 Annual Report

Officers (as of January 2011):
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  David Valentine  valen076@umn.edu

Membership levels and leadership
SOLGA membership levels have remained steady in the mid 200s. We are hoping that the “rebranding” of SOLGA to AQA will broaden its appeal to a younger generation of queer scholars and bring in more members.

We are continuing to be concerned about how to groom junior members for leadership positions within our section. We’ve had very good success in using the Program Committee and various prize committees for this, but we continually seek strong candidates for our leadership positions.

Finances:
Net assets have gained slightly year over year from $15,800 in November 2008 to $17,966.01 in October 2010. This does not take into account funds spent at the 2010 AAA meetings.

Revenues remained stable as expected and we are not spending as much of our allocated budget. We need to have a serious budget reexamination to perhaps make our budgets more realistic viz a viz our spending levels.

The Payne Prize endowment also remained stable, rising from $8,710 in November 2008 to $12,096.15 in October 2010. We are managing to meet the shortfall in the portfolio income by holding an annual silent raffle at the AAA meetings, however recent e-mails from the AAA Comptroller make it sound as though we may not be able to continue this. More about this serious issue below.
AQA sessions and events at AAA 2010:

***THURSDAY 11/18/2007***
Panel: MATERIAL DISCOURSE: GENDERING AND SEXING THROUGH LANGUAGE, SPACE, AND THE BODY
1:45 PM-3:30 PM
ROOM: Bayside C, Fourth Floor, Sheraton

Panel: CIRCULATING SEXUAL IDENTITIES
4:00 PM-5:45 PM
ROOM: La Galerie 1, Second Floor, Marriott

***FRIDAY 11/19/2007***
Invited Session: THE MOTHER (CAMP) OF US ALL: LGBT ANTHROPOLOGY HONORS ESTHER NEWTON
1:45 PM-5:30 PM
ROOM: Grand Ballroom A, Fifth Floor, Sheraton
Co-Sponsored with AFA

SOLGA BUSINESS MEETING
6:15 PM-8:15 PM
ROOM: Riverview, 41st Floor, Marriott

SOLGA CASH BAR AND RECEPTION
8:00 PM-9:30 PM
ROOM: Riverview, 41st Floor, Marriott

***SATURDAY 11/20/2007***
Panel: QUEER CONFIGURATIONS OF RACE & NATION
1:45 PM-3:30 PM
Studio 7, Second Floor, Marriott

JOINT RECEPTION: SLACA, ALLA, ABA, AFA, SAW, SANA, SOLGA
5:00 PM-7:00 PM
ROOM: Offsite, First Floor, Sheraton

***SUNDAY 11/21/2007***
Panel: QUEER ALLIANCES
10:15 AM-12:00 PM
ROOM: Gallier A, Fourth Floor, Sheraton

Awards presented:
There are two 2010 Ruth Benedict Prize winners for published books

    Gould, Deborah B.

Lewin, Ellen

Benedict Prize winner in the edited collection category:

Murray, David A. B. (Ed.)

The 2010 Payne Prize winner for a student paper is to Zethu Matebeni for her essay “It’s all about 50/50: Sex, intimacy and pleasure in black lesbian relationships in Johannesburg.” Matebeni is currently a Doctoral Fellow at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WIZER).

Review letter:

Internal communications: David Houston remains the editor of the AAA Newsletter column and welcomes contributions from others. AQA also maintains a listserv very active on organizational, advocacy and intellectual subjects. The web editor, Ted Gideonse has revamped the AQA website considerably at our new home at: http://queeranthro.org/.

Name and Bylaws change:
We are very excited about the name change to Association for Queer Anthropology and the corresponding bylaws changes. We hope this will reinvigorate our section and bring in a new generation of queer scholars

Future plans and activities:
Membership Drive: Although our membership numbers are holding steadily at around 250 members, we would like to hold a membership drive in order to increase our membership and visibility within the association, especially targeting younger scholars who might find our new “queer anthropology” rubric more appealing that our previous moniker.

Family Project: Drawing on the success of the AAA’s RACE project, we would like to begin planning around a similar long-term project based on anthropological understandings of “Family.” We realize that the RACE project took many years of planning by a dedicated core group as well as numerous internal and external collaborations and look forward to conversations with other members of the association to make this happen.

Points we would like to raise within AAA:
To Section Assembly:
We would like more ways of programmed interaction with other minority section chairs at the Annual Meeting. It would be great if we could have some time before the Section Assembly to caucus with the other minority chairs.

To Executive Board:

To AAA Staff:
AQA has held silent auctions at the AAAs every year for the past decade to help fund the Payne Prize for best student paper. We receive free books and DVDs from AQA/SOLGA Members and their publishers and hold a silent auction at our business meeting. We have also sold T-shirts at our business meetings, also with the proceeds going to the Payne Prize.

We were recently told by the AAA Comptroller, Suzanne Mattingly, that these fundraising efforts might conflict with the AAA non-profit status even though the funds are going directly into a AAA held account. Suzanne would like us to only hold fundraising events at the AAA Booth at the AAA Exhibit Hall.

This is unworkable from our perspective as: 1) The Section Business Meeting is the ideal time when all of our section members are in one place and receptive for a fundraising appeal; and 2) Not all our members go to the book exhibit and we cannot staff a booth there for the entire four days.

We would ask the AAA to modify their fundraising restrictions so that our Section Treasurer is empowered to act as the recipient of donated funds through our fundraising efforts – and through him, to the AAA. We hope that the AAA can work out a procedure that will enable us to continue our vital fundraising efforts while working within the tax code restrictions.