I. Names and Email Addresses of Section Officers (during 2010)

President: Peter N. Peregrine (peter.n.peregrine@lawrence.edu)
President-Elect: Carol R. Ember (carol.ember@yale.edu)
Past-President: John B. Gatewood (jbg1@lehigh.edu)
Treasurer: Murray J. Leaf (mjleaf@utdallas.edu)
Secretary: Peter Collings (collings@ufl.edu)
Senior Board Members: William W. Dressler (wdressle@tenhoor.as.ua.edu)
Margo-Lea Hurwicz (hurwicz@umsl.edu)
Deborah Winslow (dwinslow@nsf.gov)
Student Board Members: Eric P. Kightley (kightly@ufl.edu)
Christina N. Pomianek (cn304@mizzou.edu)
Webmaster: Michael D. Fischer (m.d.fischer@ukc.ac.uk)
AN Contributing Editor: Stephen M. Lyon (s.m.lyon@durham.ac.uk)

II. Status, Activities, and Accomplishments

1. Membership numbers.

SAS was granted provisional status as a section in 2007, and reached the section minimum of 225 members in May of 2008. Since that time our numbers have held relatively steady at around 240 members (reaching a high of 311 in July of 2008, and a low of 230 in March of 2010).

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We think that we should be a larger section (when we were an interest group we had over 500 members), and we are working towards building membership through invitations to those individuals who were in the interest group but have not joined SAS, and invitations to members in other sections (EAS, for example) that might have an interest in SAS.

One of the problems we face is that members cannot add section memberships easily except when they renew membership. It would be helpful if the AAA created a mechanism so that members could update section membership on-line during the year if they so choose.

2. Financial balances.

SAS’s net assets at the beginning of 2010 were $4854.45. As of November 30, 2010 we had revenues of $5748.86 and expenditures (for student prizes and travel subsidies) of $1600.00, leaving us with a balance of $9003.31. Thus we are in a solid financial state.
3. SAS sessions and events at the 2010 AAA Annual Meetings.

Carol Ember (SAS, President-Elect) served as the section’s program chair for the 2010 Annual Meetings in New Orleans. Committee members were Margo-Lea Hurwicz, Jeremy Koster, Robert Schrauf, and Meredith Jackson

Invited Sessions:
- Circulating Kinship: Kinship Systems in Practice from the Four Fields. (Victor deMunck, organizer; six presenters)
- Food, Health, and Culture: Anthropological Perspectives (Sarah Szurek and Christina Pomianek, organizers; fourteen presenters)
- Applications and Extensions of the Cultural Consensus Model (Margo-Lea Hurwicz, organizer; five presenters)
- Circulation, Exchange, and Redistribution of Resources, People, and Power (Carol R. Ember, organizer; fourteen presenters), co-sponsored with the Society for Evolutionary Anthrology.

Workshops:
- Text Analysis: Systematic Methods for Analyzing Qualitative Data
- Introduction to Social Network Analysis
- Field Methods in Ethnoecology
- Cultural Consensus Theory

4. Spring meeting activities.

For the sixth consecutive year, the Society for Anthropological Science held joint winter meetings with the Society for Cross-Cultural Research, an interdisciplinary organization. The SASci portion of the 2010 program – organized by Benjamin Blount – consisted of 11 paper sessions with 49 presenters and 2 keynote addresses.

5. Awards presented on behalf of SAS.

2010 SAS Student Paper Prize:
Thomas Flamson and H. Clark Barrett (UCLA), *Encrypted Humor and Social Networks in Rural Brazil*

2010 SAS Travel Subsidy Award:
Kateryna Maltseva (UConn), *Social Support, Perceived Consensus and Circulation of Prosocial Ideas*

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1 The “Society for Anthropological Sciences” has two legal identities: (a) SAS, a section of the AAA, and (b) SASci, an independent and international non-profit organization. All members of SAS are automatically members of SASci, but SASci’s membership also includes dozens of people who are not members of the AAA, such as European anthropologists. Technically, the joint spring meetings are between SASci and SCCR; hence, both revenues and expenditures for those meetings are strictly separate from SAS’s AAA-administered budget.
6. Mentorship efforts.

SAS’s principal mentoring efforts are the “methodological” workshops we routinely sponsor at professional meetings. For instance, SAS-sponsored workshops at the AAA Meetings in New Orleans constituted more than 10% of all the workshops given there.

The majority of these workshops are funded by NSF and offered in several venues each year, the principal audience being anthropology graduate students, but also professionals who want to broaden their data collection and analysis repertoires. (For further information, see the following “Methods Mall” websites: http://www.qualquant.net/training/scrm.htm, and http://www.qualquant.net/training/.)

7. Additional outreach efforts.

The joint winter meetings with SCCR (see #4, above) are an outreach effort in the sense of helping to reaffirm the central role of anthropology in cross-cultural research. Although SCCR was originally founded by anthropologists, over the decades that organization’s membership has become increasingly dominated by cross-cultural psychologists and education researchers. Thus, by holding joint meetings with SCCR, SASci is bolstering the “anthropological content” of those interdisciplinary meetings and reaching a number of psychologists, educators, and sociologists interested in cross-cultural work.

8. Status and use of Section internal communications.

Michael Fischer (University of Kent, U.K.) maintains the SAS/SASci website [http://anthrosciences.org/] and the Anthro-Sciences listserv [anthro-sciences@jiscmail.ac.uk].

SAS has published a monthly column in AN. Stephen Lyon (Durham University, U.K.) is the contributing editor.

This year we updated an e-mail list generated through the Anthro-Sciences listserv, and now have roughly 700 contacts. However, we do not know how many of these individuals are AAA members, and, thus, potential members of SAS. A list of our “lapsed” members, including those who were members of the SAS Interest Group before it became a section, would be very helpful.

III. Section Initiatives

First, we have been attempting to recruit new members through email and through the SAS/SASci website. We have asked other sections to send out email invitations to membership on our behalf, and so far the Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges and the Evolutionary Anthropology Society have done so. It is too soon to know if these invitations have had an impact.

Second, we hope to promote our ongoing Anthro-Wikid project [http://anthrosciences.org/wikid/index.php/SASci_Wikid], by inviting members to add autobiographical entries with
research interests and bibliographical information. We think this will allow people with similar interests to connect, and should help students to connect with scholars in their areas of interest.

Finally, we have partnered with the National Council for the Social Studies to help secondary school social science teachers incorporate anthropology into their courses. We have already arranged cooperation between a San Diego private school and a group of anthropologists in the area, and we hope to foster similar forms of cooperation elsewhere in the United States.

**Chief Concerns and Issues**

As I write the furor over the removal of the word “science” from the mission statement in the Long-Range Plan is just beginning to subside. As President of the Society for Anthropological Sciences I felt I had to strenuously object to this change, but I was amazed at the number of members who also objected and the intensity of their feelings. Clearly a nerve was struck among at least one group of AAA members. It surprised me that the Executive Board did not anticipate this reaction, and now, with some time to reflect, I have to say that it concerns me. The Board needs to represent the membership, and it needs to have a good sense of the membership’s interests and concerns. There have been a number of situations over the past few years (e.g. the Chagnon investigation, the moving of the San Francisco meetings) where Board actions created an uproar that should have been anticipated. I don’t have an answer for this problem, but it does appear that we need to work to ensure the Board and the membership have clear and continuous lines of communication.

The other aspect of the mission statement controversy that concerns me is the number of communications I had with biological anthropologists and archaeologists who said they left the AAA in the last decade or so because it became clear to them that only cultural anthropologists were welcome. If we look at the Section membership numbers, it does appear that the membership of the AAA is overwhelmingly interested in cultural anthropology. I fear that the AAA is on its way to becoming the American Cultural Anthropology Association, and I think that would be a significant loss to the discipline of anthropology. Again, I have no answer for this problem, but I suggest that the Board needs to be particularly sensitive to actions that might be perceived as further positioning the AAA as an organization focused primarily on cultural anthropology.

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Peter N. Peregrine  
President, SAS (during 2010)  
January 11, 2011