Society for East Asian Anthropology (SEAA)
Section Annual Report Form

Submitted by Jennifer Robertson, SEAA President and Professor of Anthropology and The History of Art, University of Michigan

I. Please provide, names and e-mail addresses of the Section officers and board members during the period covered:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Robertson, President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jennyrob@umich.edu">jennyrob@umich.edu</a> or <a href="mailto:jrocketson@aol.com">jrocketson@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurel Kendall, Past President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lkendall@amnh.org">lkendall@amnh.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabriella Lukacs, Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:LUKACS@pitt.edu">LUKACS@pitt.edu</a></td>
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<td>Beth Notar, Treasurer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beth.notar@trincoll.edu">beth.notar@trincoll.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlene Makley, Councilor</td>
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<td>Elise Edwards, Councilor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elisemedwards@gmail.com">elisemedwards@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Jesook Song, Councilor</td>
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<td>Tomomi Yamaguchi, Councilor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan McArver, student councilor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xia Zhang, student councilor</td>
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<td>Bridget Love, co-editor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:loveb@ou.edu">loveb@ou.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Anru Lee, co-editor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alee@jjay.cuny.edu">alee@jjay.cuny.edu</a></td>
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Note: As noted below, the incoming president resigned suddenly.

II. Status, Activities and Accomplishments this year

1) Provide the most recent membership numbers and list any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership:

   Number of Members: 511 (up from 465 last November)

   - Factors affecting Membership:

     Positive: New leadership and more information sharing on EASIANTH; attractive new website with many links; very proactive graduate student councilors;

     Negative: From what I can ascertain, 1) lack of interest on the part of some tenured faculty, and 2) AAA-membership expense for graduate students – and also some question about what the AAA, much less SEAA, can do for them.
2) Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets, if applicable). Also list any factors you think are affecting your Section’s finances:

- Publications: (if applicable) _N/A
- Factors affecting Finances: We are in good shape, financially. We are keeping our membership fee low ($10) to facilitate recruitment. We have no interest in establishing a publication (overkill/redundant and unnecessary work and $$$).

3) List the titles of your Section’s AAA meeting invited sessions, co-sponsored sessions, and any special events your Section sponsored or in which it participated. Check with your program chairs if needed: When providing session information please note if these are invited or co-sponsored and if the later please list them.

**Sessions:**

**Wed**
1-0155 12:00-1:45pm NEW CONSUMPTION CULTURE IN JAPAN  session
1-0410 4:00-5:45pm POLITICS OF MIGRATION IN THE AGE OF GLOBAL CULTURAL CIRCULATION: JAPAN AS AN ETHNOGRAPHIC FOCUS  session
1-0685 6:00-7:45pm CIRCUIT BREAKINGS: BEYOND NORMATIVE INTIMACY AND FAMILY IN EAST ASIA  session
1-0685 8:00-9:45pm CIRCULATING THROUGH THE TWO JAPANS  session

**Thu**
2-0050 8:00-9:45pm IN CIRCULATION AND IN CONTESTATION: RE-CONCEPTUALIZING MARGINALITIES AND MAINSTREAMS OF PEOPLE AND PLACE IN JAPAN’S GLOBALIZING CONTEXT  session
2-1010 4:00-5:45pm VOLUNTEERING IN CHINA  session

**Fri**
3-0195 8:00-11:45am ESCAPING JAPAN: INSIDE AND OUTSIDE  session
3-0065 8:00-9:45am TRANSFORMATIONS OF FAMILY, PROPERTY AND PLACE IN CHINA  session
3-0350 10:15-12:00pm MERITS-GO-ROUND?: NGO-NESS AND VOLUNTEERISM IN CHINA, TAIWAN, AND MALAYSIA  session
3-0720 1:45-3:30pm LONGTERM FIELDWORK IN EAST ASIA  Invited Roundtable
3-0735 1:45-3:30pm THE PROMISE AND DILEMMA OF AN EMERGENT MULTICULTURAL JAPAN session

3-0935 4:00-5:45pm CIRCULATING HEALTH: EAST ASIAN INTERACTIONS WITH TRANSNATIONAL MEDICINE session

3-0960 4:00-5:45pm EAST ASIAN CIRCULATION poster session

3-1030 4:00-5:45pm NEW ETHNOGRAPHIES OF WOMEN IN CHINA session

Sat

4-0155 8:00-9:45am FEMINISMS IN GLOBAL AND LOCAL CIRCULATION: THE CASE OF JAPAN, 1970S–PRESENT invited session

4-0405 10:15am-12:00pm CONTEMPORARY HAUNTING: CIRCULATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND MEMORIES BETWEEN THE DEAD, THE LIVING, THE FAMILY AND THE STATE IN THE EAST ASIAN CONTEXT session

4-0400 10:15am-12:00pm IDENTITY POLITICS THEN AND NOW IN SOUTH KOREA AND BEYOND session

4-0455 10:15am-12:00pm MODERNITY AND SUBJECTIVITY IN JAPAN session

4-0380 10:15am-12:00pm RETHINKING NATION AND NATIONALITY IN CHINA'S BORDER ZONES session

4-0800 1:45-5:30pm THE RISE OF THE THERAPEUTIC IN CHINA: CIRCULATING NORMS, EXPERTISE, AND THERAPY session

4-0970 4:00-5:45pm FANNING THE FLAMES: WILLIAM KELLY’S CONTRIBUTIONS TO JAPAN ANTHROPOLOGY session

4-1035 4:00-5:45pm MOBILE EMOTIONS: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON CHINESE KINSHIP AND FAMILY invited session

Sun

5-0135 8:00-10:15am CIRCUITS OF BODY, AFFECT, AND COMMODITY IN TRANSNATIONAL EAST ASIA session

5-0210 8:00-10:15am OBSESSION OR CONNOISSEURSHIP? EXPLORING CONSUMERISM IN JAPAN session

5-0450 10:15am-12:00pm CIRCULATING IDENTITIES IN EAST AND WEST CHINA session
The Program Committee, chaired by Tomomi Yamaguchi, received a total of 11 applications (10 panels, 1 roundtable for the status of invited session). The committee chose two invited panels (one on China, one on Japan) and one invited roundtable (transnational). SEAA sponsored 24 volunteered panels (including one roundtable and one poster session) that were evenly scheduled throughout the conference with most panels scheduled for Friday and Saturday.

Other Events:
SEAA Board and Business Meetings/Cash Bar
Graduate Student dinner-meeting

4). List spring meeting activities (if applicable):

Summer conference:

Material Asia: Objects, Technologies and Rethinking Success
A Joint Conference of the Society for East Asian Anthropology (SEAA/AAA) and the Korean Society for Cultural Anthropology
Jeonju, Korea August 1-5, 2011

The conference assumes a broad awareness of the social effect of things in contemporary East Asian life and human responses to new technological and material possibilities: commodifications of all manner of life experiences from cultural performances and tourism to body parts, the transfer of technologies, the robotics industry and employment of robots in everyday life, expanded transnational markets in labor and brides, and the market-driven production of ideally productive, intelligent, and beautiful people. Consumption, including the literal consumption of food has assumed unprecedented forms. Local and regional responses and critiques of these possibilities are varied and often complex.

Participants are encouraged to submit proposals for sessions of 3 to 5 papers and priority will be given to those sessions that bring together presenters working in different parts of the region around a common topic. (Abstracts for papers and sessions due March 1, Registration opens April 1, watch for further information via EASIANTH and at www.aaanet.org/sections/seaa/index.html.)

5) List 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):

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<tr>
<th>Title of Award</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Project/Paper/etc</th>
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<tr>
<td>Francis L. Hsu</td>
<td>21 Nov 2010</td>
<td>Dr. Cathryn</td>
<td>U of Hawaii</td>
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<td>Francis L. Hsu Book Prize Honorable Mention</td>
<td>21 Nov 2010 Dr. Jesook Song U of Toronto</td>
<td><em>South Koreans in the Debt Crisis: The Creation of a Neoliberal Welfare State</em> (Duke University Press, 2009)</td>
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<td>Theodore Bestor Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper</td>
<td>21 Nov 2010 Chun-Yi Sum Boston U</td>
<td>“An Exercise for the People’s Republic: Order and Discipline in the Morning Ritual of a Chinese Primary School”</td>
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6) Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following:

Apart from the graduate student dinner-meeting, no SEAA efforts. We are thinking of creating a “best undergrad paper on East Asia. We also alert students and faculty to the mentoring events sponsored by the AAA.

7). 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:

Apart from collaborating with our East Asian counterparts for summer conferences, no special outreach efforts as a unit. Of course, our new website and EASIANTH listserv does provide information, material, links, syllabi to all who subscribe, and can be considered a form of outreach. Individual members also give public lectures and conduct outreach on their own initiative.
8) Status and use of Section internal communications such as a website, list serve, or newsletter (if applicable): Please list internal communication tools you use and what they are used for.

I initiated and oversaw the creation and design of a new website and hired a web manager (on a monthly retainer) to keep the site updated and to ensure that all links function. The manager also sends out monthly informational updates and requests for news items using our list serve, EASIANTH. Website: [http://www.aaanet.org/sections/seaa/index.html](http://www.aaanet.org/sections/seaa/index.html)

9) Changes in bylaws or governance structure (if applicable):

One unprecedented event: The SEAA incoming president, Aiwha Ong (UC-Berkeley) suddenly resigned after the New Orleans AAA citing lack of fit and other administrative responsibilities. This was most unfortunate and we will be electing an incoming president in the upcoming election to replace her.

III. What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: Membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?

SEAA members have been encouraged to brainstorm on EASIANTH as to initiatives that link their expertise with AAA initiatives, such as climate change, and minority and civil rights issues.

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

The AAA leadership needs to move quickly to a) dispute and dismantle the credibility of the NRC “survey” which was deeply flawed (being wholly “unscientific” and lacking systematicity) from the outset, and b) to rectify the damage caused when administrators, citing NRC rankings, dissolved anthropology projects and even departments.

The AAA leadership might productively address the issue of “balkanization” within the AAA, with an unprecedented number of subfield, topical, areal, ethnic/other identity-based sections. What are the merits of such a proliferation; what are the demerits?