Section Annual Report Form

Briefly provide the information requested on the form below. If the question does not apply to your Section, please note that it is “not applicable” instead of leaving it blank.

_________________________________________________________________

Please try to keep the responses to questions below as succinct as possible

Society for Linguistic Anthropology, report on 2010

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President: Kathryn Woolard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kwoolard@ucsd.edu">kwoolard@ucsd.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-elect: Norma Mendoza-Denton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nmd@u.arizona.edu">nmd@u.arizona.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary-Treasurer: Angela Reyes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:arreye@hunter.cuny.edu">arreye@hunter.cuny.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member-at-large: Paul Garrett</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pgarrett@temple.edu">pgarrett@temple.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member-at-large: Jillian Cavanaugh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jcavanaugh@brooklyn.cuny.edu">Jcavanaugh@brooklyn.cuny.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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_682  (May 2010)______________________

   Factors affecting Membership:
   SLA membership has increased slightly since December 2009 and is roughly the same as it was in 2000, suggesting we have identified our natural constituencies.

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:
Financial Balance: __$127,303.86____

Publications: (if applicable) _$10,482.96___________

Factors affecting Finances:

Journal income and membership dues are the significant factors in our finances. Beginning 2010, we made a commitment to give significant financial support ($10,000 annually) to the journal editor to support course release.

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: (All Invited)
    1) Louisiana Language Activism and Practice
    2) Intersubjectivity: Cultural Limits, Extensions, and Construals
    3) Materialization: Gesture and Embodiment in the Semiotics of Emergence

    Other Events:
    NA

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

    1) NA

    2)

    3)
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):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Award</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Project/Paper/etc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sapir Book Prize</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>William F. Hanks</td>
<td>UCB</td>
<td>Converting Words: Maya in the Age of the Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sapir Prize Honorable Mention</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Niko Besnier</td>
<td>University of Amsterdam</td>
<td>Gossip and the Everyday Production of Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sapir Prize Honorable Mention for a First Book</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Bernard Bate</td>
<td>Yale</td>
<td>Tamil Oratory and the Dravidian Aesthetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Essay Prize</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Nicholas Harkness</td>
<td>University of Chicago</td>
<td>“Vowel Harmony Redux: A Binary Structure of Attribution in Korean and Its Ideological Framings.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Student Essay Prize</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Jade Sewa De La Paz</td>
<td>Brooklyn College (CUNY)</td>
<td>“OMG, Guess What?!”: The Indispensability of Gossip in Community Building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6) Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following:

1) Undergraduate and/or graduate students:

- Mentorship occurs in the context of our scholarly sessions, section meeting, and - importantly – our cash bar reception. Formally, we recognize both graduate and undergraduate students with an annual essay prize.
- In 2010, we secured both a registration waiver and a travel award to enable a graduate student from Mexico to participate in the meeting.
• The Executive Board appointed a Graduate Student Representative to the AAA who is making an effort to solicit and represent SLA graduate students’ concerns.
• We developed a “Tool Kit” site on our website, offering recommendations on audio and video recording and analysis equipment for the fieldworker. This site is particularly aimed at the novice fieldwork and grantwriter.

2) Early career scholars:
   In addition to the informal mentorship and toolkit described in #1, in 2010 we paid special attention to early career scholars in the context of our book prize competition, awarding a special honorable mention for a first book by an author.

3) Independent scholars:
   • See informal mentorship described in #1.
   • In 2010, our #1 invited panel included independent scholars from the state of Louisiana, for whom we secured registration waivers to enable their participation.

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:

   • As mentioned above, our first invited panel was a specific outreach effort to enable engagement with Louisiana activist communities.

   • In 2010, SLA created a new standing committee on Language and Social Justice, which addresses public issues, particularly as they affect underrepresented minorities. The committee continues to engage with the U.S. Census Bureau over the problematic category of “linguistically isolated” in census reports, and is working with mass media on invidious uses of the labels “dialect” vs. “language” in reporting on ethnolinguistic minorities, among other public media issues.

   • We continue to develop our multifunctional SLA website at [http://www.linguisticanthropology.org/](http://www.linguisticanthropology.org/) to make the SLA accessible well beyond its own membership and engage with public debate around language issues.

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

   • Website: [http://www.linguisticanthropology.org/](http://www.linguisticanthropology.org/)
   • 2 listservs: Linganth for informal communication and exchange, and SLA-announce for official SLA business and announcements.
9) Changes in bylaws or governance structure (if applicable):
   NA

III What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: Membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?
   • Development of our journal’s publishing capacity with the newly approved addition of online-only supplemental pages.
   • Motivated by the increased number of outstanding submissions for our biennial book prize, we will move it to an annual competition and monetary prize.
   • Further development of our website, including redesign of the site to better distinguish its different functions, as well as development and curation of a syllabus collection and other resources on the model of our Toolkit site.

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

   What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the Section Assembly leadership?
   • Like many sections, we are keen to settle and be informed about the question of the next publishing contract. We appreciate the SA’s efforts on this topic.
   • We look forward to the new program organizing technology and hope that it will cure the perennial problem of panels with similar foci on language being scheduled in the same slot and participating individuals sometimes being scheduled against themselves.

   What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board?
   • The same.

   What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff?
We are very grateful for the helpful staff support we receive. We have just a few concerns:

- We have a continuing serious problem with the assignment of rooms for our business meeting. In 2009 we were in a room that was much too small, affecting the conduct of business, since many people were left in the corridor and unable to participate. I enlarged the estimate for attendance for 2010 and also made several specific requests that our attendance estimate be taken seriously. Yet we found in 2010 that the room we were assigned was half the size of the last one, and entirely inadequate! Only through the ingenuity of some of our members were we able to do business, after opening a movable wall to double our space (the remedy itself a disruption to a very tight schedule). It’s understandably difficult to estimate room size for scholarly sessions, but that is simply not true of business meetings. Our estimates have been consistently on target, but they have been consistently ignored.

- In this technological age, it seems a professional meeting ought to be able to count on internet services in both scholarly and business sessions. Some of our presenters were handicapped by the lack of internet services, as were our business and executive meetings, where we could neither skype in a disabled officer nor view our website as we addressed issues about its format. (I’m not addressing the rates charged for access in sleeping rooms.) AAA should attempt to contract with meeting venues that provide WiFi.

- Might this annual report be further streamlined to save everyone busy work. The only source of membership numbers and financial balances that SLA has is from AAA, so it doesn’t make sense to be reporting those back. I believe AAA also already has the records of section officers, though I suppose redundancy might be useful there.