I. Section Officers

**Position:** Past President  
**Name:** JoAllyn Archambault (Standing Rock Sioux)  
**Email:** ARCHAMBJ@si.edu

**Position:** President  
**Name:** Valerie Lambert (Choctaw Nation)  
**Email:** vlambert@unc.edu

**Position:** President-Elect  
**Name:** Jason Younker (Coquille Tribe)  
**Email:** jtygla@rit.edu

**Position:** Interim Secretary/Treasurer  
**Name:** Richard Meyers (Oglala Sioux Tribe)  
**Email:** richard.meyers@bia.gov

**Position:** Student Representative  
**Name:** Candessa Morgan (Cherokee Nation)  
**Email:** candessa@ou.edu

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:** 306

**Factors affecting Membership:**

During the past year, we have increased our membership by 73 people: from 233 to 306. There are several factors we believe help explain this. The top three are as follows:

1. We have been developing and offering programs that are appealing to current and prospective members. These include 1) a standing-room-only public event we organized to honor and celebrate the work of American Indian anthropologist Joe Medicine Crow; 2) a very popular formal AIA mentoring program we developed in which indigenous students and junior faculty members are assigned to and work closely with indigenous mentors; and 3) the priority we have long placed on providing support, including financial support, to American Indian and other indigenous students.

2. We have increased the visibility of American Indian anthropologists by, among other things, offering an all-Indian panel at every AAA meeting.

3. We have kept our dues low ($5 for students, $10 for other members).
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:** 1

**Publications: (if applicable)**

Not applicable. We have, however, had discussions about whether to publish a journal.

**Factors affecting Finances:**

Our decision to keep membership costs low negatively affects our finances. Even so, we prefer to keep membership costs low.

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, volunteered or co-sponsored.

**Session Type:** Invited  
**Session:** AMERICAN INDIAN ANTHROPOLOGISTS ON LAND, SOVEREIGNTY, CITIZENSHIP, FRAUDS, AND OTHER CRITICAL ISSUES IN INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY

**Other Events:**

AIA Board Meeting  
AIA Business Meeting  
AIA Cash Bar for Indian Anthropologists and Friends

4) * Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?  

**Requested Grant:** No  

If granted, who/what was it/they used for? (if applicable)

Not applicable

5) List spring meeting activities (if applicable):

Not applicable

6) 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):

Award Title:  
Date:  
Recipient:  
Affiliation:  
Project/Paper/etc:

7) * Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following (e.g., special activities, funding, awards, guidance/advising on professional matters, etc.):

Undergraduate and/or graduate students

In November 2010, we completed the development of a formal mentoring program to supplement a 40-year-old informal mentoring program that Indian anthropologists had developed. We developed a written application process through which indigenous undergraduates and early career scholars may request and receive a mentor. Undergraduate participation in this formal program has been much higher than expected and has been growing every year. Graduate-student participation is very high; graduate students make up the bulk of the formal mentees in this program. In one case, a graduate student is formally mentoring an undergraduate student. Membership in the AIA and/or a status as indigenous are not required for participation in our formal mentoring program. We have several mentees and mentors who are not indigenous.

In addition, countless undergraduates and graduate students continue to be informally mentored by our members. The majority of our mentoring activity is, in fact, informally provided rather than a part of our formal, structured mentoring program.

Early career scholars:

Early career scholars are very well-represented as mentees in our formal mentoring program. We understand the early-career period to be particularly difficult. We hope and expect that the targeted mentoring of this population will increase the numbers of early career scholars who survive this period and eventually become senior anthropologists and role models for incoming early career scholars.

The 2011 AIA invited panel, organized by the AIA leadership, was divided evenly between panelists who were at the early career stage (three) and panelists who were advanced graduate students (three). Discussants were two prominent senior anthropologists: JoAllyn Archambault and Garrick Bailey. In this way the AIA helped raise the visibility of and promote the advancement of American Indian graduate students (at the dissertation stage) and early career scholars.

Independent scholars:

We have four independent scholars in our formal mentoring program. One has participated as a mentor since the mentoring program’s inception in November 2010 and has been working with a first-year graduate student. Three other independent scholars also began participating as mentees in our formal mentoring program in 2010 and are still being mentored. One
received her Ph.D. three years ago and is receiving help landing an academic job from a
tenured professor who serves as her formal mentor; the other two are receiving help from
established professional anthropologists to return to graduate school and complete their Ph.D.s.

8) 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:

Many of our members gave talks in universities and in the community (including in museums)
for American Indian Heritage month (November). In addition, many of our members gave
presentations about their work or about American Indians more generally in the schools
(K-12) and to the citizenries of their tribes. These are but a few examples of ways our
members undertake outreach efforts. Based on anecdotal evidence, it is fair to say that these
efforts are extensive.

9) 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:

Our board members stay in touch with one another through a listserve. Our board members
stay in touch with our members informally and through several mass emails that Richard
Thomas has sent out to our membership on behalf of our section. Our members regularly
interact with many of their fellow AIA members informally and through tribally-specific
listservs such as that which exists for scholars who are citizens of one of the three
federally-recognized Cherokee Tribes.

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

Not applicable

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

We are working on a number of different initiatives. These include work on an AIA scholarship,
plans to organize an all-Indian panel for the 2012 AAAs, and plans to further expand our formal
mentoring program.

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 Executive Committee (SAEC)? Please be specific.

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What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA
Executive Board? Please be specific.
What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff? Please be specific.

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