Assocation for Queer Anthropology 2011 Annual Report

Submitted by:
Scott Morgensen (scott.morgensen@queensu.ca)

I. Section Officers

Position: Senior Co-Chair
Name: Scott Morgensen
Email: scott.morgensen@queensu.ca

Position: Incoming Co-Chair
Name: Naisargi Dave
Email: naisargi.dave@utoronto.ca

Position: Co-Chair Emeritus
Name: Marcia Ochoa
Email: marcia8a@ucsc.edu

Position: Secretary
Name: Michelle Marzullo
Email: marzullo@american.edu

Position: Treasurer
Name: Joseph Hawkins
Email: jrhawkin@usc.edu

Position: Communications Director
Name: Marcia Ochoa
Email: marcia8a@ucsc.edu

Position: Annual Meeting Program Chair
Name: Shaka McGlotten
Email: shaka.mcglotten@purchase.edu

Position: Annual Meeting Program Chair
Name: Tomi Tusia
Email: tomi.tusia@gmail.com

Position: Payne Prize Chair
Name: William Leap
Email: wleap@erols.com

Position: Benedict Prize Chair
Name: Mary Gray
Email: mlg@indiana.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: 298

Factors affecting Membership:

After many years averaging membership in the mid-200's, our current membership of 298 indicates markedly increased interest in the association, which we understand to be linked to our recent rebranding as the Association for Queer Anthropology (formerly Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists). Our 2011 Business Meeting was filled and we received a markedly higher count of volunteers from the floor for open positions and committees. Currently the association is pursuing a number of new initiatives, most notably a previously-announced planning of a AQA Journal (see below) which is sparking broad interest from the membership. Finally, we note with pleasure that a significant proportion of our new volunteers and members standing for open positions are junior scholars: a goal of ours, prior to and during our rebranding, having been to attract the interest of the newest generations of professional scholars and graduate students with our name change to focus on "queer anthropology."

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: 20,381

Publications: (if applicable)

We continue to receive modest annual income from Wiley-Blackwell for our former publication SOLGAN.

As explained below, we are investigating the creation of a peer-reviewed AQA Journal, which promises to be a major source of future publication revenue.

Factors affecting Finances:

AQA finances remain stable. The noted balance does not include expenses related to the November meetings, but even after taking these into consideration we have a slight net year-to-year increase in finances over 2010-11.

Our healthy financial situation will benefit us as we investigate new initiatives, such as the noted AQA Journal.

The Payne Prize endowment remains stable. While donations and interest provide a measurable yearly increase, we expended somewhat more award monies year-to-year in recent years than we have received in donations. We still need access to fundraising activities internal to AQA to make up this difference. We need to resolve the question of whether and how AQA will be allowed by AAA to continue to hold silent auctions and other fundraising at its Business Meeting to generate income from within its membership.
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:** Volunteered  
**Session:** SEXUALITY, GENDER, NATION, AND CITIZENSHIP  11/16/11 14:00-15:45

**Session Type:** Volunteered  
**Session:** QUEER ANTHROPOLOGY: METHODS, DIASPORAS, LEGACIES  11/16/11 16:00-17:45

**Session Type:** Volunteered  
**Session:** VITALLY QUEER: BIOLOGIES, DEATH-IN-LIFE, AND OTHER ANIMATIONS  11/17/11 10:15-12:00

**Session Type:** Invited, Co-Sponsored with NASA  
**Session:** DIGITAL SITES/QUEER CIRCULATIONS: TRACING ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORKS AND GLBTQ COMMUNITIES (invited session with NASA)  11/17/11 13:45-15:30

**Session Type:** Invited, Co-Sponsored with CMIA  
**Session:** QUEER FEMINIST FUTURES: TEMPORALITIES OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND JUSTICE IN AN AGE OF NEOLIBERAL RISK AND (IN)SECURITY - PART 1 / 2 (invited session with CMIA)  11/18/11 08:00-12:00

**Session Type:** Volunteered  
**Session:** QUEER TIMES, QUEER SPACES  11/18/11 16:00-17:45

**Session Type:** Volunteered  
**Session:** QUEER PRACTICES OF HEALTH, RISK AND IDENTITY  11/20/11 12:15-14:00

**Other Events:**  
Business Meeting, 11/18/11, 7 - 9 pm  
Social Gathering, co-organized with ABA, AFA, ALA, and other organizations, 11/18/11, 9 - midnight

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)*
5) List spring meeting activities (if 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:** Ruth Benedict Book Prize - Monograph  
   **Date:** 2011-11-18 00:00:00.0  
   **Recipient:** Evelyn Blackwood  
   **Affiliation:** Purdue University  
   **Project/Paper/etc:** Falling into the Lesbi World: Desire and Difference in Indonesia

   **Award Title:** Ruth Benedict Book Prize - Monograph  
   **Date:** 2011-11-18 00:00:00.0  
   **Recipient:** Roger Lancaster  
   **Affiliation:** George Mason University  
   **Project/Paper/etc:** Sex Panic and the Punitive State

   **Award Title:** Ruth Benedict Book Prize - Anthology  
   **Date:** 2011-11-18 00:00:00.0  
   **Recipient:** Peter Jackson  
   **Affiliation:** University of Queensland  
   **Project/Paper/etc:** Queer Bangkok: 21st Century Markets, Media, and Rights

   **Award Title:** Payne Student Paper Prize  
   **Date:** 2011-11-18 00:00:00.0  
   **Recipient:** Eric Plemons  
   **Affiliation:** University of California at Berkeley  
   **Project/Paper/etc:**

   **Award Title:** Payne Student Paper Prize  
   **Date:** 2011-11-18 00:00:00.0  
   **Recipient:** Jia Hui Lee  
   **Affiliation:** Harvard University  
   **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**

   At AAA 2011, AQA members Tom Boellstorff (former AQA Co-Chair) and Naisargi Dave (Incoming AQA Co-Chair) participated in the Society for Cultural Anthropology mentorship lunch with graduate students.

   At AAA 2011, AQA was represented by Marcia Ochoa (Sitting Senior AQA Co-Chair) in formal presentations and discussion with the audience at the AAA Section Summit special session, “Section Summit on the Changing Job Market and Student Training: Linking Anthropology Departments and Practice," which addressed the job market and training needs
of graduate students, early career scholars, and independent scholars.

**Early career scholars:**

See Marcia Ochoa's participation at the 2011 Section Summit, above.

**Independent scholars:**

See Marcia Ochoa's participation at the 2011 Section Summit, above.

**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:**

AQA's Communications Committee -- through its revamped website and Facebook page, as well as its listserv -- offer a continual public presence that conducts outreach to underrepresented minorities. In our case, and as stated in our new mission statement (approved 2011, simultaneously with our rebranding) and as a tag-line on all publications and official emails sent by the AQA Co-Chairs,

"AQA serves the interests of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other queer and allied anthropologists in the American Anthropological Association. AQA promotes anthropological research and education on homosexuality, bisexuality, transgender/transsexuality, and other sexual and gender identities and expressions, and their intersections with race, class, disability, nationality, colonialism and globalization. AQA supports and encourages a diverse membership within the AAA and actively seeks to increase that diversity along lines of race, class, disability, nationality, gender, sexuality, and other forms of social difference."

As always, AQA remains interested in coordinating with other sections and interest groups serving minority constiuencies in common work, which were demonstrated in 2011 by our collaboration in networking events.

**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:**

AQA retains a very active listserv, which currently is in plans to be migrated from an external server to be hosted by the AAA. AQA also has a new website, queeranthro.org, and an interlinked Facebook page, both of which are being targeted for increased and interlinked usage by the new Communications Committee in the coming year. We have resintated the position of “Communications Director” who will head a Communications Committee that will coordinate postings of internal announcements on these sites. The commitee also will collectively produce columns for the AAA Newsletter, including by invitation of guest writers.

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

In 2011, the AQA membership approved our section's rebranding as the Association for
Queer Anthropology (formerly Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists) as well as the adoption of by-law changes, most notably the adoption of a new mission statement that explicitly marks our commitment to an intersectional analysis of gender and sexuality and to advocacy for minoritized anthropologists, broadly speaking, in the AAA. The brief version of the new mission used in our associations public "tag-line" is as quoted above:

"AQA serves the interests of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other queer and allied anthropologists in the American Anthropological Association. AQA promotes anthropological research and education on homosexuality, bisexuality, transgender/transsexuality, and other sexual and gender identities and expressions, and their intersections with race, class, disability, nationality, colonialism and globalization. AQA supports and encourages a diverse membership within the AAA and actively seeks to increase that diversity along lines of race, class, disability, nationality, gender, sexuality, and other forms of social difference."

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

*AQA Journal:* Building from our success of our rebranding, an exploratory committee and proto-Editorial Board has formed to propose a new AQA Journal. As part of our rebranding, our membership identified a severe and longstanding gap among current international peer-reviewed academic journals: the absence of a journal concentrated on publishing anthropological and related social scientific scholarship in queer studies and gender/sexuality studies more broadly. The most well-known extant arenas for publication are weighted heavily towards humanities scholarship, as has been true for the field of queer studies for some time. We are determined to resolve this situation, in concert with our name change, by indicating that queer studies can be publicly represented and led by the work of queer anthropology. We are extremely excited and optimistic about our capacity to develop this initiative. As noted above, a broad buy-in has emerged among the membership, which includes volunteers on the planning committee from the SOLGA era and from among junior scholar and newer graduate student members. The committee is able to draw on the resources of members, which include Tom Boellstorff, immediate former editor-in-chief of American Anthropologist, and the current co-Chairs who have been active over the past two years in studying the Wiley-Blackwell contract with AAA and participating in discussions regarding journal development in the Association. The planning committee will be conducting investigations during 2012 with the goal of presenting a formal report to the membership at the 2012 Annual Meetings regarding next steps we may take.

*Membership:* We are continuing to build from the energy of our rebranding by recruiting new members, so that our increase in membership numbers sustains and grows. The work of the Communications Committee to integrate our outreach through the listserv, website, and Facebook page will include efforts to conduct membership outreach.

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.

In our last two Annual Reports, we alerted the Section Assembly Executive to our interest to interact in a more programmed way with other minority section chairs at the Annual
Meetings. Can the Committee please respond to our request: to set aside a time prior to the Section Assembly meeting (a pre-breakfast meeting) when the various minority section chairs may caucus?

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

At the 2011 Section Assembly, AQA brought to the floor the following motion, which was seconded by AFA, and approved by vote of the SA chairs. We are aware that SAEC has adopted the advise in the motion into its work. We also want to ensure that the AAA Executive Board and Staff are fully aware of the motion and of its implications. The SAEC is now responsible to the motion and should be contacted with questions about it. The AQA Co-Chairs also would be happy to be consulted if the Exec or Staff have questions about our intentions in the writing of the motion. Finally, we wish to see tangible movement on item 3 during the coming business year.

1. AAA surveys and membership forms should make use of inclusive and affirmative language when attempting to take stock of the various parameters of the AAA membership, e.g. racial, ethnic, sex, gender, gender identity, national origin, ability, language fluency, age, career status, income level, etc.

2. Many groups have developed statements/recommendations identifying "best practices" in these areas. And any number of sections and interest groups in the AAA stand ready to provide advice on "best practices" when AAA undertakes surveys or similar data gathering projects at a future time.

3. We propose creating a task force composed of representatives from sections and interest groups with interest in this issue, whose charge will be:

   (1) to assemble and transmit to AAA staff appropriate "best practice statements"

   (2) to develop a plan to update AAA access to those statements, as newer versions are made available

   (3) to establish liaisons/contacts within interested groups whom AAA staff can consult when implementing "best practice" recommendations on particular projects

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

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