I. Section Officers

Position: President
Name: Danilyn Rutherford
Email: druther1@ucsc.edu

Position: Treasurer
Name: Jessica Cattelino
Email: jesscatt@anthro.ucla.edu

Position: Secretary
Name: Jean Langford
Email: langf001@umn.edu

Position: Board Member
Name: Kath Weston
Email: kmw7j@eservices.virginia.edu

Position: Board Member
Name: Peter Redfield
Email: redfield@unc.edu

Position: Student Caucus Representative
Name: Michelle Stewart
Email: mlstewart@ucdavis.edu

Position: Board Member
Name: Jennifer Cole
Email: jcole@midway.uchicago.edu

Position: Board Member
Name: John Hartigan
Email: johnhartigan@austin.utexas.edu

Position: Board Member
Name: Cori Hayden
Email: cphayden@berkeley.edu

Position: Board Member
Name: Brian Larkin
Email: blarkin@barnard.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: 1722

Factors affecting Membership:

The Board continues to monitor membership trends, both in light of the current economic climate and the increased burden on membership fees given the move to Anthrosource. The membership and subscription reports provided by AAA show that SCA and its journal, Cultural Anthropology, are remarkably strong. This was a record-breaking year for membership, with our ranks growing to 1,722 as of October 2011. At the close of 2010, we had a total of 1,630 members; the previous high point was 1,665 in 2002. This growth is particularly remarkable, given that this was not a spring conference year. We can attribute this success in part to our growth in programming, with the impending launch of our new joint SCA/CA website. (See below.) But other strategies have helped as well. As explained in our last annual report, we now offer multiple categories of membership. We dropped the student rate $12.50 and launched an email outreach campaign to students in advance of last year and this year’s AAA. And we have carried forward a variety of promotional initiatives: membership drives, email blasts, a conference in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Writing Culture, prize ceremonies and student-faculty workshops at the AAA. In the past, we have discussed the possibility of requiring those who submit to our journal to become member; this is not a measure we have yet taken. Our new website will include features that encourage even more potential members to join. There seem to be two possible models of membership for the SCA and other sections – the country club model – where one must join to participate – and the public radio model – where one joins because one feels an affinity to the group. So far, the latter model seems to be working quite well.

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: 239,659

Publications: (if applicable)

Cultural Anthropology

Factors affecting Finances:

Our overall net balance continues to grow (up to $239,659) as of November 2011 from $233,844.64 over the previous year). Continuing a trend dating from the first Wiley-Blackwell contract, subscriptions revenues from Cultural Anthropology dipped again in 2010 from $38,326 to $36,239, a change that as we pointed out last year is presumably due to the journal’s bundling with other humanities and social sciences journals in the packages offered to libraries. At the same time, revenue from rights and permissions also increased again from $27,912 to $29,827. As in prior years, we remain concerned about what the future holds for SCA’s financial health as academic publishing moves towards new models.
We also remain eager to receive more detailed information on our journal’s production costs and revenues. These issues will become increasingly important in the future, now that we have begun to spend down our fund balance by expanding the scope and nature of what SCA offers its membership and the public at large.

In keeping with this goal, we made significant investments in new initiatives in 2011. We devoted significant resources to expanding our on-line presence through a new website that will be home to both the journal and the society. (See below.) The total cost to SCA of the website in 2011 was $25,934.79. We have also added to our budget the expense of creating a new position, that of program director, which our current managing editor will fill. We allocated $20,000 for the managing editor in 2011; in the 2012 budget, we are allotting $46,800 for the combined managing editor/program director job. (We are arranging for this appointment to be made through Duke University, so that we can provide benefits. Given the increased responsibilities associated with the position, we were eager to make it a viable career choice for whoever fills it.) The program director will be responsible for managing this new initiative and overseeing the editorial intern program, which will be directly involved in the project. Needless to say, these are significant fixed costs; we will be assessing the viability of our management model for this project on a yearly basis.

Last year, we were considering devoting some of our fund balance to creating a quasi-endowment for our book prize or another SCA program. We decided against this; we didn’t want to tie up our resources and hamper our ability to respond to new needs and opportunities as they arise.

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:** Culture at Large: A Conversation with Dorian Sagan: “The Human is More than Human: Interspecies Communities and the New ‘Facts of Life’”

**Session Type:** Invited, Co-Sponsored with American Ethnological Society
**Session:** “The Stakes of Crisis"

**Session Type:** Invited
**Session:** “Anthropology and Political Theologies I”

**Session Type:** Invited, Co-Sponsored with Society for Linguistic Anthropology
**Session:** “Tracing Styles, Styling Traces: On the Processuality of Style”

**Other Events:**
Through the offices of our journal, we sponsored an Editorial Intern Meeting, an Editorial Board Meeting, and a roundtable discussion, “Rethinking the Second Book.” We organized five Graduate Student Mentoring Workshops, described below. Following our Business
Meeting and Prize Ceremony, we continued our annual tradition of co-sponsoring a cash-bar reception with the AES.

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

Requested Grant: Yes

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

Dorion Sagan, our Culture at Large speaker, who is a science writer and not a AAA member, and Myra Hird, one of the Culture at Large discussants, who is a sociologist, and not a AAA member.

5) List spring meeting activities (if applicable):

Our biannual conference, “Life and Death: A Conversation,” will be held from May 11-12, 2012 at the Providence Biltmore Hotel in Providence, Rhode Island. The organizers, Jennifer Cole, Peter Redfield, and Danilyn Rutherford, are encouraging submissions that experiment with the traditional conference formula, seeking out panels that take the form of conversations among viewpoints as opposed to isolated papers. In line with this model, the plenary sessions will all take the form of a dialogue between pairs of scholars: Laura Bear and Gillian Feeley-Harnik, Erica Bornstein and Ilana Feldman, Lawrence Cohen and Eric Fassin. João Biehl and Vinh-Kim Nguyen will present the David Schneider Memorial Lecture, in line with our effort to showcase younger practitioners in our field.

For a description of the conference, see

http://sca.culanth.org/meetings/sca/2012/intro.html

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: Gregory Bateson Book Prize
Date: 2011-11-18 00:00:00.0
Recipient: Karen Strassler
Affiliation: CUNY
Project/Paper/etc: Refracted Visions: Popular Photogtaphy and National Modernity in Java

Award Title: Cultural Horizons Prize
Date: 2012-11-18 00:00:00.0
Recipient: Jessica Cattelino
Affiliation: UCLA
Project/Paper/etc: "The Double Bind of American Indian Need-Based Sovereignty"
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

SCA was among the first sections to introduce a voting Student Caucus representative to its full-time board. With help from Michelle Stewart (UC Davis), we again offered Student Faculty Mentoring Workshops at the AAA. Faculty members associated with SCA met with groups of students working on topics of shared interest over lunch in the conference hotel. See


Our journal’s editorial intern program remains an important avenue for mentoring our student members. Drawn from graduate programs around the country, our editorial interns have produced virtual issues and supplementary pages providing additional content and teaching suggestions related to particular articles.

A recent virtual issue:

http://www.culanth.org/?q=node/360

A supplemental page:
We will be expanding our editorial interns’ role with the launch of our new SCA/CA website in January, which will feature a blog, Fieldsites, with a range of content, from conversation on fieldwork to “Hot Spots,” a feature that includes 500 word essays on breaking global events. Managing the website will require significant participation by student internships. We recently put out a call for editorial interns and received forty applications – twice as many as we did during last year’s round.

Early career scholars:

We make a point of nominating early career scholars for AAA positions and inviting them to participate in the society, including by taking part on the jury for our various prizes and advising on our website and other modes of scholarly communication. Given SCA's long record of graduate student involvement, the transition from graduate student to early career scholar participant in SCA activities tends to be seamless. Finally, SCA's journal, Cultural Anthropology, has a long record of publishing work by early career scholars.

Independent scholars:

Our special session, "Rethinking the Second Book," appealed to this group.

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:

Increasing SCA's web presence:

SCA has continued to build on a number of new initiatives through our incoming Editors, Anne Allison and Charles Piot (Duke U). We launched our new Book Review section in the journal as of November 2009, creating another portal into the journal’s content. This has become a very popular feature of the journal. We established a Facebook page. Through our editorial intern program, we developed additional virtual issues supplemental pages on the Cultural Anthropology website. We have piloted a new feature on the CA website, “Hot Spots,” which features brief essays, background inks, and discussion focused on breaking world events. See http://www.culanth.org/?q=node/432. We plan to feature content on “Writing Culture at 25,” a conference held at Duke from September 20 to October 1, 2011.

As noted above, SCA’s major project for 2011 was the preparation of a state-of-the-art joint SCA/Cultural Anthropology website, which explores new venues and forms of scholarly
conversation, from video of conference proceedings to short thought pieces on breaking events to online discussions of emerging topics and themes in the discipline. The new website integrates the current SCA and CA websites, and has four main sections:

A Site Guide that provides visitors with information regarding the site and how to use it. Here, visitors can learn about journal article submission, available teaching tools, etc.

The Journal section houses most of what is available through the current journal website -- supplemental pages, theme and area lists, curated collections, information about the journal and the intern program.

The Society section includes all of the content available through the current SCA site.

Fieldsights, our new blog, emerged out of the committee’s desire to expand our modes of communication and scholarly exchange. In addition to being used for SCA and CA announcements, Fieldsights will house the following new features:

Episcope – a current events blog, with anthropologists weighing in on contemporary issues of pressing concern.

Fieldnotes – an ongoing conversation around fieldwork and the research process.

Anthro Happenings – snapshots of people, places, and events from the SCA/CA community.

From the Editors’ – announcements about new journal content – from the print issue, the archives, and Wiley Blackwell’s promotion office.

Hot Spots – a forum that reports on current “hot spots” around the world from the perspective of anthropologists and others on the scene.

Visual and New Media Review – a blog that reviews emerging work at the intersection of cultural anthropology and visual/new media.

We hired a web designer to work on the new website in collaboration with us over the summer. To view the demo site produced during this period, visit
http://simple-robot-70.herokuapp.com/design_mockups/home. Our web developer is currently setting up the new site, which we plan to launch in January 2012.

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:

SCA runs an active Listserver with approximately 2000 subscribers. We limit email flow to approximately 20 messages per year, focusing on public section events. The website is in active use.

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

None.

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

1. Increasing Membership

A small but very important campaign for us is to see our journal, which currently has the leading impact factor of all journals published by the AAA, properly indexed. We appreciate the efforts of the Publications Office and W-B to assist us in resolving this problem. But we feel that more could be done. This summer, the journal made it onto the Humanities International Index, but other applications submitted by W-B were turned down. We hope that the Publications Office and W-B will continue to work with us to ensure that Cultural Anthropology enjoys the same indexing coverage as other AAA journals.

2. Collaboration

SCA has worked to increase collaboration between our student representative and the student representatives from other AAA sections, who have exchanged information and announcements regarding upcoming events. We also joined forces with other sections to sponsor AAA events, including our annual SCA/AES cash bar.

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.
• SCA hopes for the Publications Office to be more of an advocate for our publishing concerns. We are grateful for efforts to expand our journal’s visibility by ensuring it is properly indexed in all the relevant venues. But we still feel that more could be done.

• SCA urges a careful review and debugging of the new AAA program planning system. We heard of challenges faced by organizers inputting sessions with unusual formats. More importantly, the new deadlines for deciding invited sessions will make it very difficult for SCA to collaborate with other sections. We are standing firm with our policy of choosing invited sessions out of the general pool of submissions we are asked to review. We feel that this allows us to showcase unusual or unexpected new work and provide a venue for less established scholars.

• SCA urges an evaluation of the registration fees charted for attending the annual meeting. The cost of registration is prohibitive to non-AAA members. This makes it very difficult for SCA to sponsor the kind of interdisciplinary conversations SCA has long sought to foster. We would welcome any information the EB can provide on the costs and benefits of the current system. A survey of the way other professional societies structure registration fees could provide useful comparative insight and a sense of best practices.

• SCA urges a more active role on the part of the Section Assembly and AAA Staff to make use of the Student Caucus. Graduate students can play a central role enhancing the vitality of the AAA and its programs.

• SCA urges the Executive Board to play a pro-active role in considering alternatives to the current AAA publishing arrangement. As in past years, we are eager to see the AAA leadership think creatively about alternative models. As we explained last year, libraries at our home institutions bear the cost of the current contract. So do our students and staff at public universities, who end up shouldering the burden of budget shortfalls through tuition hikes, furloughs, and lay-offs. Advances in technology are leading to changes in scholarly publishing that bear on the very nature and raison d’être of professional organizations like ours.

This year, we are also urging the Executive Board to take up questions of transparency in governance that have arisen in relation to the publishing issue. Two incidents occurred last year that we find troubling.

In February 2011, we submitted a section news column on the future of print and electronic publishing for publication in the April 11 edition of Anthropology News. The editors of Anthropology News did not reject the column, but they placed such constraints on its contents,
rejecting multiple drafts on the basis of their disagreement with the views expressed, that we were unable to run it. We found this quite remarkable. The column was clearly an opinion piece, written by an SCA member who had served on the section assembly task force on the discussion of publishing futures. This may not have been the intention, but the editorial interventions felt like censorship.

In November 2010, the Section Assembly passed a resolution calling for the renewal of the Section Assembly task force on publishing futures, which was tasked with exploring publishing alternatives. But in the Section Assembly meeting of November 2011, we learned that the matter had been dropped. As we understood the process, the establishment of this task force did not require Executive Board approval; it was to be an internal working group of the Section Assembly. We are eager for an explanation of why this resolution was not carried out.

Here is the text of the resolution:

Motion to Renew Section Assembly Task Force on “Discussion of Publishing Futures” in 2010-11

Association for Queer Anthropology

WHEREAS

The Section Assembly Advisory Group on Publishing has issued a series of memos with respect to the Sections’ evaluation of the Association’s AnthroSource publishing agreement with Wiley-Blackwell and;

WHEREAS

Section Assembly discussion has revealed concerns about the “ecology” in which Section publications are located, specifically the ongoing crisis in cost and access to AAA publications in research libraries;

RESOLVED: That the Section Assembly will renew the Advisory Group on Publishing in 2010-11, with the mandate to explore and determine viable alternative publishing models for the AAA with have the interests of public education and research libraries in mind. Further, that this Advisory Group will report the results of this process to the 2011 Section Assembly.

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

• SCA hopes for the Publications Office to be more of an advocate for our publishing concerns. We are grateful for efforts to expand our journal’s visibility by ensuring it is
properly indexed in all the relevant venues. But we still feel that more could be done.

• SCA urges a careful review and debugging of the new AAA program planning system. We heard of challenges faced by organizers inputting sessions with unusual formats. More importantly, the new deadlines for deciding invited sessions will make it very difficult for SCA to collaborate with other sections. We are standing firm with our policy of choosing invited sessions out of the general pool of submissions we are asked to review. We feel that this allows us to showcase unusual or unexpected new work and provide a venue for less established scholars.

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