Society for East Asian Anthropology 2011 Annual Report

Submitted by:
Jennifer Robertson (jennyrob@umich.edu)

I. Section Officers

   Position: President
   Name: Jennifer Robertson
   Email: jennyrob@umich.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: 551

      Factors affecting Membership:
      
      Our membership high of 566 was in May 2011 in the category of "professional." Perhaps the expense of membership or retirements, play some role in the 15 member decline. That said, our graduate student membership increased by 33 persons between October 2010 (518) and October 2011 (180). Hopefully, this latter trend will continue over the coming years. Our graduate student councilors have been admirably pro-active in recruiting new 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: 11,591

      Publications: (if applicable)
      None; just update of the SEAA website and web manager's remuneration.

      Factors affecting Finances:
      
      The estimated expenses for 2012 were based on 2011 figures and, if a summer conference is not in the picture, then SEAA will have an additional $8550 for the coming year.

   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: Please Select
      Session: Format did not copy properly -- AAA may want to request PDF uploads in the
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Program #</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Panel Session Type</th>
<th>Regular session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>2-0105</td>
<td>12:00-1:45pm</td>
<td>INNOVATING THE OLD AND NEW: CREATIVE ENGAGEMENTS WITH HISTORY, TRADITION, AND CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGIES IN EAST ASIA</td>
<td>2-0110 12:00-1:45pm JAPAN IN TRANSITION</td>
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<td>2-0650 6:00-7:45pm DREAMS OF A BETTER LIFE: THE JOURNEYS AND IDENTITIES OF CHINESE MIGRANT LABORERS</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>3-0120</td>
<td>8:00-9:45am</td>
<td>AMUSE-BOUCHE: THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF JAPAN</td>
<td>3-0125 8:00-9:45am FROM SOFT POWER TO GRASSROOTS: STATE AND CITIZENSHIP IN CONTEMPORARY JAPAN</td>
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<td>3-0255 8:00-11:45am LEGACIES, TRANSITIONS, AND FUTURES OF HOPE IN TRANS/NATIONAL KOREA</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>4-0130</td>
<td>8:00-9:45am</td>
<td>THE CHINA MODEL: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL CRITIQUE</td>
<td>4-0445 10:15am-12:00pm PORTRAITS OF WORKING WOMEN IN RECESSIONARY JAPAN: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE</td>
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<td>4-0820 1:45-3:30pm BEING GLOBAL AND TRANSNATIONAL?</td>
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<td>4-1100 4:00-5:45pm CULTURAL IDENTITIES IN MOTION IN EAST ASIA</td>
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<td>4-1105 4:00-5:45pm NEOLIBERALISM INHERITS THE COLD WAR: INTIMATE AND AFFECTIVE LEGACIES OF THE GEOPOLITICAL IN NORTHEAST ASIA</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>5-0085</td>
<td>8:00-9:45am</td>
<td>PASTS AND FUTURES IN THE MAKING: IMAGINATIONS, DESIGNS AND COPIES IN URBAN CHINA</td>
<td>5-0655 1:45-5:30pm MIND IN MATTER: THE ENCHANTMENT OF THINGS IN CONTEMPORARY JAPAN</td>
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<td>5-0795 1:45-5:30pm INTIMATE COSMOLOGIES OF KINSHIP: TRACING SPIRITUAL AND AFFECTIVE RELATEDNESS IN TIBETAN AND INNER ASIAN SOCIETIES</td>
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<td>5-0955 4:00-5:45pm TRANSFORMATIONS IN CHINESE VIEWS OF THE WORLD AND THE World’s VIEWS OF CHINA</td>
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<td>6-0190 8:00-11:45am CAPTURING JAPAN AFTER THE LOST DECADE</td>
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<td>6-0290 10:15am-12:00pm CAPITALISMS AND THEIR LOGICS IN EAST ASIA</td>
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<td>6-0520 12:15-2:00pm CHINESE WOMEN CHOOSE: ON LABOR, CHILDREN, MARRIAGE AND MIGRATION</td>
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Other Events:

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)
5) List spring meeting activities (if applicable):

"Material Asia: Objects, Technologies and Rethinking Success"
August 1-5, 2011, Chonbuk National University, Jeonju, Republic of Korea

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:** Francis L. Hsu Book Prize  
   **Date:** 2011-11-18 00:00:00.0  
   **Recipient:** Professor Li Zhang  
   **Affiliation:** UC-Davis  
   **Project/Paper/etc:** In Search of Paradise: Middle-Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis, Cornell UP

   **Award Title:** Theodore Bestor Graduate Student Essay Prize  
   **Date:** 2011-11-18 00:00:00.0  
   **Recipient:** Ms. Emily Wilcox  
   **Affiliation:** Graduate Student, Anthropolgy, UC-Berkeley  
   **Project/Paper/etc:** "Arts of Truth: The Epistemological Paradox of Chinese Dance"

   **Award Title:** David Plath Media Award - Co-Winner  
   **Date:** 2011-11-18 00:00:00.0  
   **Recipient:** Mark Patrick McGuire and Jean-Marc Abela (shugendonow.com)  
   **Affiliation:** Shugendo Now (company)  
   **Project/Paper/etc:** DVD "Shugendo Now"

   **Award Title:** David Plath Media Award - Co-Winner  
   **Date:** 2011-11-18 00:00:00.0  
   **Recipient:** Karen Nakamura  
   **Affiliation:** Assoc Prof, Anthro, Yale Univ  
   **Project/Paper/etc:** DVD "A Japanese Funeral"

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**

   The graduate student councilors organized a dinner (which, I think, SEAA should pay for next year). They also have several initiatives (e.g., Facebook, mentoring workshop) in process.

   **Early career scholars:**

   N/A
Independent scholars:
N/A

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:

Not directly, but our panels represent such.

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 new website is updated frequently (largely the president's initiative) and we have a web manager on retainer. We also maintain the SEAA column in the AAA newsletter.

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

N/A

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

This will be up to the new president.

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.

The AAA is an expensive organization to join (esp. for undergrads, grads, and untenured faculty). I think that the (to use a contemporary buzzword) "balkanization" (which is premised on different criteria, from individual identities to geographical area) of the AAA has increased expenses and prevented a "forest-level" (vs."tree/leaf-level") perspective on the field of anthropology and has inhibited true (and "thick") comparative work and interdisciplinarity. Also, the organization can benefit from streamlining; in my experience in the SA, there is a lot of talk, a lot of posturing, but few concrete initiatives and implementations.

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

See above. Also, host a separate grad student conference; with the exception of ABDs, I feel that grad students should not be eligible to give papers -- they will have plenty of time in the
future. ABDs need to showcase their work, and untenured faculty benefit from a public forum. I am tired of being subjected to rehashed seminar papers by 1st and 2nd year grads. Bracketing them with tighten the panels at the AAA and make it a more manageable (and meaningful) annual meeting.

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

The staff works very hard, and the AAA's thanks to them can be more efficient streamlining among faculty members, and more acting (and less talking)!