Society for Medical Anthropology 2011 Annual Report

Submitted by:
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I. Section Officers

Position: President
Name: Carolyn Sargent
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Position: President elect
Name: Doug Feldman
Email: dfeldman@brockport.edu

Position: Treasurer
Name: Jennifer Hirsch
Email: jsh2124@columbia.edu

Position: Member-at-Large
Name: P. Sean Brotherton
Email: pierre.brotherton@yale.edu

Position: Secretary
Name: Liz Cartwright
Email: carteliz@isu.edu

Position: Member-at-Large
Name: Mara Buchbinder
Email: mara.buchbinder@gmail.com

Position: Member-at-Large
Name: Lance Gravlee
Email: cgravlee@ufl.edu

Position: Member-at-Large
Name: Holly Mathews
Email: mathewsh@ecu.edu

Position: Member-at-Large
Name: Juliet McMullin
Email: julietm@ucr.edu

Position: Member-at-Large
Name: Mark Padilla
Email: padillam@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: 1350

   Factors affecting Membership:
   We speculate that the availability of the MAQ journal online may have led some previous members to drop memberships. Essentially, we are showing stability—down in professional memberships but up in student memberships, which may be related to our new initiative offering student travel awards.

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: 186,983.59

   Publications: (if applicable)
   Financial balance: net assets $186,983.59
   11/09/2011

   Change in net assets: $(10,506)

   Factors affecting Finances:
   Declining publishing revenues primarily related to Wiley-Blackwell arrangements with AAA; possibly minimal losses in 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: Invited, Co-Sponsored with NAPA
   Session: Co-Sponsored SMA/NAPA Student Mentoring Session SMA/NAPA Mentoring Session

   Session Type: Invited
   Session: Invited: 4-0285 GLOBALIZING BIOPSYCHIATRY, PHARMACEUTICALIZATION, AND THE INTERPLAY OF HISTORICAL CONTINGENCIES Friday, November 18, 2011: 08:00-11:45 Organizers: Dominique P Behague (Brunel University) and Junko Kitanaka (Keio University) Chairs: Jonathan M Metzl (Vanderbilt University) Discussants: Emily Martin (New York University) and Laurence J
Kirmayer (McGill University)

**Session Type:** Invited  
**Session:** 1. BEYOND THE BODY PROPER: BIOPOLITICS AND BIOCONTINGENCIES  
Organizers: vinh-Kim Nguyen (University of Montreal) and P. Sean Brotherton (Yale University)  
Discussants: Lawrence Cohen (University of California)

**Other Events:**

Special Events:  
SMA Business Meeting  
SMA Board Meeting  
SMA/Special Interest Group Meetings (SIGS)  
SIGS Chairs Meeting  
MAQ Editorial Board Meeting

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):

SfAA/SMA joint meeting in Baltimore

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:** New Millennium Prize  
**Date:** 2011-11-10 00:00:00.0  
**Recipient:** Barbara Rose Johnston, Holly Barker  
**Affiliation:** Johnston, UC Santa Cruz; Barker, UWashington  
**Project/Paper/etc:** Consequential Damages of Nuclear War: The Rongelap Report

**Award Title:** Polgar Prize  
**Date:** 2011-11-10 00:00:00.0  
**Recipient:** Sarah Horton, Judith Barker  
**Affiliation:** Horton, UCDenver, Barker UWashington  
**Project/Paper/etc:** Stigmatized Biologies: Cumulative Effects of Oral Health Disparities for Mex-Am Farmworker Children

**Award Title:** Rivers Undergraduate Paper Award  
**Date:** 2011-11-10 00:00:00.0
Recipient: Shannon Ward  
Affiliation: Wellesley  
Project/Paper/etc: Narrative, Embodiment, and Choice: Identity, Reproduction, and Abortion

Award Title: MASA Dissertation Prize  
Date: 2011-11-10 00:00:00.0  
Recipient: Kenneth MacLeish  
Affiliation: University of Texas, Austin  
Project/Paper/etc: What Makes the War: Everyday Life in a Military Community

Award Title: Eileen Basker Memorial Prize /Gender & Health  
Date: 2011-11-10 00:00:00.0  
Recipient: Leslie Reagan,  
Affiliation: U Illinois; Susser,  
Project/Paper/etc: Dangerous Pregnancies: Mothers, Disabilities and Abortion in Modern America

Award Title: MASA Graduate Student Mentor Award  
Date: 2011-11-10 00:00:00.0  
Recipient: Frances Barg  
Affiliation: UPenn  
Project/Paper/etc: Mentoring

Award Title: Basker Prize, Gender & Health  
Date: 2011-11-10 00:00:00.0  
Recipient: Ida Susser  
Affiliation: Hunter College/CUNY  
Project/Paper/etc: AIDS, Sex, and Culture: Global Politics and Survival in Southern Africa

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

SMA/NAPA mentoring session at AAA

Early career scholars:

not applicable

Independent scholars:

not applicable

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:
Participation in "grey literature" task force working with CDC and other practicing anthropologists to compile a directory of those who would like to circulate technical reports and other comparable documents

National Health Task Force engaging in continued efforts in collaboration with SIGS to stimulate research on impact of national health reform as implemented

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:

The SMA list serve is supervised by the SMA president and used for internal communications regarding such issues as deadlines, upcoming events of general interest, requests for input (e.g. nominations for journal editor, board nominations, etc.)

We are in the process of updating the SMA Global Directory, which comprises a list of scholars worldwide with interests broadly identified as medical anthropology. A committee was formed in summer f2011 to compile a list of contacts who will then provide additional names for research and consulting expertise. The directory also will be updated to facilitate matching topical and geographic interests.

SMA website: the server has been updated, opening possibilities for the webmaster to innovate.

Web traffic remains high, especially on our more popular pages (primarily: main page, job listings, SIG pages, news, announcements, etc) The AARG SIG piloted our new process for hosting SIG web pages as a nested module within the larger SMA site

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

By-laws amended 2010-2011

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

We are engaged in planning for the biennial joint SfAA/SMA meeting, March 27-31

We are also planning an independent SMA meeting to be held in Spain in 2013, jointly with the European Medical Anthropology Network. We held a planning meeting at the Montreal AAA and the organizers are in regular email and skype contact. Chairs, Elizabeth Cartwright (Idaho State), Anita Hardon (U Amsterdam)

Brainstorming about increasing membership

Enhancing SMA website

Preparing for Lance Gravlee, UFlorida to replace MAQ editor(s) Andrea Sankar and Mark Luborsky December 2012
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.**

Board members would like clarification re use of section reserves and whether this is an issue for other sections

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

This form is rather cumbersome given that it does not allow open responses (e.g. if there are more than 10 board members).

We also have had board members with serious concerns about the relationship (actual or ideal) between the official journal of the SMA, the MAQ, and the board. In addition, we had very negative responses from our special interest groups regarding their budgets, over which they wished to retain control. I realize that this is not negotiable and am merely reporting dissatisfaction from the membership, especially from a couple interest groups with bank accounts (savings). I think we have worked this out with Suzanne Mattingly to everyone's satisfaction.

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

We would appreciate efforts to work on annual meeting organize so that board meetings and business meetings, as well as award presentations do not conflict with scheduling for closely related sections such as SPA. We have had numerous award winners unable to attend ceremonies or running between events because of the parallel scheduling

We appreciate Kim Baker's consistently supportive role!!