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Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.
Number of Members: 280

List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.
Over the past several years, the ABA has consistently had around 300 members. The membership numbers fluctuate based on the time of the year. Membership rates are at their peak when AAA Meeting abstracts are due.

Finances:

Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).
Financial Balance: 75,113.59

Publication Sponsored budgets.
Transforming Anthropology - as of Nov. 13, 2013

W-B Royalty 3,890.59

Total Revenue 105.63

Total Publication expenditures 105.63

List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.
The Association of Black Anthropologists has a steady membership base. We keep extraneous expenses to a minimum; therefore, we typically end the year with more money than we had the previous year. The board members have begun thinking about the future of our publication platform, as our revenues from TA are diminishing.

**Sessions:**

**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.**

**Session Type:** Invited  
**Session:** Revisiting the Chicago School: Engagements with Race, Class and Gender through Contemporary Ethnography

**Session Type:** Invited Co-Sponsored with AAA Committee on World Anthropologists  
**Session:** Race and Racism in Comparative Perspective: Part II

**Session Type:** Volunteered  
**Session:** Black Women's Intellectual and Political Work Chicago Style: Conversations with Cathy Cohen and Barbara Ransby

**Session Type:** Volunteered  
**Session:** After the Atlantic Revolution: Rethinking an Anthropological Tradition, Part II

**Session Type:** Volunteered  
**Session:** Development, Housing and Community in African America

**Session Type:** Volunteered  
**Session:** Nationalized, Racialized and Gendered Bodies: Narratives and Practices of Blackness

**Session Type:** Volunteered  
**Session:** The Embodied Politics of Place in the Black Diaspora

**Session Type:** Volunteered  
**Session:** Black Mirrors: Emergent Ethnoracial Configurations and Afro-Indigenous Futures

**Session Type:** Volunteered  
**Session:** Religion, Exchange and Blackness

**Session Type:** Volunteered  
**Session:** Museums, Cultural Sites and Landmarks of African America

**Session Type:** Volunteered  
**Session:** Furthering the Legacy of W.E.B. DuBois: Collaborative Projects in Western Massachusetts

**Session Type:** Special Events  
**Session:** Legacy Scholar and Awards Program
Awards

List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.

Award: Johnnetta B. Cole Student Travel Award
Date: 11/22/2013
Recipient: Orisanmi Burton
Affiliation: UNC - Chapel Hill
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: The Center for Nu Leadership on Urban Solutions: A Critical Community Based Response to the Crisis of Mass Incarceration

Award: Legacy Scholar
Date: 11/22/2013
Recipient: A. Lynn Bolles
Affiliation: U. of Maryland
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: N/A

Award: Legacy Scholar
Date: 11/22/2013
Recipient: Arthur K. Spears
Affiliation: City University of New York
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: N/A

Meetings

Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?
No

If granted, who/what was it/they used for?
Not Applicable

List spring meeting activities
Incomplete

Mentorship:

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 brain-child of Kevin Michael Foster and Riché Daniel Barnes, the Works-in-Progress Mentoring Program was developed in 2008 at the 107th Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in San Francisco. When Riché was ABD and Kevin was an assistant approaching tenure review. Recognizing that many graduate students found themselves in departments where no one was really doing the “work” they were doing, Kevin and Riché decided to organize something they envisioned as a short-term mentoring program where students and junior “rising” scholars could get more senior “established” scholars with similar interests to “look-over” and advise them on a work in progress. The idea was meant to be a low-stress opportunity for the senior scholar to provide assistance to the student or junior scholar in a one-to-one matchup. Kevin and Riché would create pairs based on similar interests, share the work of the junior scholar via email before the AAAs and the pairs would meet at the AAAs in a session dedicated to allowing for conversation between the junior and senior scholar. The program was launched in 2009 at the meetings in
Philadelphia. At the inaugural meeting there were six senior scholars and five junior scholars. The pairs met for the first half of the session and then during the second half, the conversation was opened to include topics of interest to junior scholars in attendance. Students and junior scholars were able to ask questions about the job search, fellowships, post-docs, publications, and work-life balance. In 2010, Riché became the sole director and organizer and the program has been a mainstay ever-since, creating opportunities for short-term and long-term relationships. The program has also grown to include not only one-to-one match-ups, but also large-group discussions, and some of the participants have built long-term scholarly relationships that continue.

Because of the difficulty in scheduling the one-to-one match-ups as a 3rd party convener, we will allow individuals to organize their own meet up time to discuss their papers. In the future, we will develop what has been the second part of the mentoring session and continue to grow this excercise. Graduate students and junior scholars have found the time immensely beneficial to their development and acclamation to the demands of the field. This year nearly twenty graduate students/junior scholars met to speak with approximately five senior scholars who offered their wisdom and experience. The time was incredibly effective with several people expressing deep appreciation for the time and asking that we continue the session. This is certainly our plan for the foreseeable future.

Early career scholars.
See above.

Independent scholars.
See above.

Outreach:

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.

For several years now we have hosted a joint reception with AFA, ALLA and several other AAA sections. This event allows members of our various sections to meet one another and acknowledge the accomplishments of our members. Book awards, scholarships and other types of awards given annually at the AAA are broadcast on a powerpoint screen for members to see.

In addition to this effort, in 2014 some of our ABA members participated in the Anthropology returns to school experience that the AAA hosted. In this capacity people visited public schools and classrooms explaining to grade school students about anthropology and the subjects that we research.

Communications:

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.
We revamped our website in 2012 and use it to communicate information about the ABA including - list of officers, bylaws, award application instructions, among a host of other things. Our website currently retains a section on Haiti that was created after the earthquake to keep members and website guests abreast of conditions there.

We communicate internally mainly through our ABA listserv and our Facebook page.

**Governance:**

**Changes in bylaws or governance structure.**

Not Applicable

**Initiatives:**

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

We are launching two initiatives, one in early stages, the other nearly prepared for launch:

1. We have recently decided to host an ABA conference in the spring/summer of 2015 in Charleston, SC. We have selected the conference chairs and are beginning to plan.

2. This spring '2014 we are unveiling our ABA Mapping Project. We are excited about it and have been working on this initial phase of this project since last spring.

The purpose of the ABA mapping project is to expose a broad audience of people to the research and writings of black anthropologists and members of the ABA. The map project is a geographic visualization of the people, places and communities explored in the research of ABA members. It provides not only the location of their research, but also a detailed bibliography of their writings, which can be used as a resource for students, scholars as well as the broader public.

**Goals:**

- Bring greater exposure to the research and writings of ABA members
- Show where black anthropologists of the past have studied.
- Chart where black anthropologists and current members of the ABA are conducting research in and around the world.
- Provide a bibliographic database of research articles and books published by ABA members.
- Link interested parties to other pertinent information about ABA members who share their interests (employment, website, contact information)

This map is beneficial because it allows scholars and students to:

- find others working in their geographic location
- explore topical issues comparatively across geographic regions
- locate potential mentors and allies in their research
- build syllabi more easily
- identify trends in what topics are studied in what geographic locations
- more easily write articles/books on topics without missing key persons who have already studied in their area.
- more easily learn the history, geography, story of a particular region
Ask AAA:

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.

N/A

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

First, we had a wonderful set of meetings in Chicago. Several great opportunities were created for collaboration and even sharing our knowledge beyond the AAA, so thank you. The one major concern that was voiced repeatedly pertained to scheduling conflicts for important sessions. For example the session focused on race and racism in anthropology conflicted with our ABA general body meeting. This was quite unfortunate as several ABA members wanted to be present for that discussion. We understand that conflicts will arise, but we ask that ongoing efforts be made to avoid major conflicts like the one stated.

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

We recommend more assistance in addressing section financial concerns. It seems current staff may be stretched.