Submitted By:
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- Sarah Taylor (Student Councilor) - sarahtaylor44@gmail.com
- Christine Prebble (Councilor) - cfp357@gmail.com

Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.
Number of Members: 686

List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.

In November our membership numbers went slightly down from our totals one year before, when we had a total of 716 to a total of 686. The variation in one year has been as follows: Regular members from 408 to 369; Student members from 222 to 185; Life members remains in 3 to; and International B members increased from 85 to 129.

In 2013 we reached a peak in the month of April (823 members), when we had our Spring Meetings and when members were registering for the AAA meetings. However, membership numbers seem to display a fluctuation that is expected as memberships lapse and get renewed. Also, it is important to recognize that with electronic access to all AAA journals, and with individuals holding membership into several sections of the AAA may choose to limit their personal expenses in their affiliation to our section. Still, we hope that with different measures being adopted by SLACA we will encourage more individuals to join and take advantage of the benefits our section offers.

Finances:

Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).
Financial Balance: 144977.85

Publication Sponsored budgets.
An annual amount of $2,000 has been allocated for copy-editing. We have also transitioned to an online submission process and must pay an annual fee of $390 for the website/submission portal. In 2011, we paid a one-time fee of $1,175 for the creation of the website/submission portal and importation of reviewer’s lists. Also in 2011 the membership voted to publish a third annual issue of JLACA, the cost of which is $7,600.00. Thus the annual operating costs for JLACA are $9,990.00. The journal editor’s travel expenses were increased to 4500.00 in 2009 is for estimated decline of the dollar against the pound sterling (Journal edited in UK); subsequent increases were also needed 2010-12. The travel funds are
for the JLACA editor and an intern to attend 2-3 conferences for JLACA business. The total operating expenses for JLACA are thus $14,490.00.

AAA balances section publication budgets such that anticipated expenditures (for 2013, $14,490) equals publishing royalties (anticipated at $7,150 for 2014) and section dues subsidy ($7,340). (SLACA runs a loss on the dues subsidy, but the rates are set according to the overall AAA contract with Wiley-Blackwell.)

**List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.**

SLACA’s net assets have increased during the year 2013. We began with $126,366.97 USD, had revenues of $24,603.81 and expenses accountable for $5,992.93, with a total gain of $18,610.88 and with net assets at the end of November 2013 of $144,977.85 USD.

SLACA’s finances are healthy. This year our expenses slightly increased because we held out IV Spring Meeting in Mérida, Mexico and this event included the payment of student grants, travel for board members, general operating expenses and the fees for a reception. An allotment of $5000.00 was created to cover these expenses. Also, at the AAA we increased our contribution to the annual AAA reception we hold with ALLA, AFA, and other sections to $900.00. We also increased the amount to cover a board meeting lunch from $200.00 to $400.00 to adjust for increasing costs of restaurants in the cities where the AAA meetings are being held, and to be able to include incoming board members along with the current board members (usually around 12-15 people). On the other hand, our expenses for the AAA meetings decreased because we had our Presidential Lecture as our special event (at no additional cost), and did not hold Conversations Across the Americas, for which we would normally pay travel expenses to two participants.

Since we have positive numbers the board with approval of the membership at the SLACA Business meeting approved the creation of a fieldwork grant, the details for which are now being discussed by a board committee in charge of ensuring its financial sustainability. We also increased the amount assigned to both student prizes to $1000.00 each.

At the 2011 AAA SLACA business meeting the members voted for the institution of a book prize for emerging scholars. We have been unable to institute this process thus far. However, at the last meeting we agreed to increase the prize amount from a US $600.00 to a $1000.00 prize this year for a first book that the jury will consider a contribution to the understanding of socio-political and cultural issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**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:** Crowds and Citizenries in Latin America. Organized by Rihan Yeh

**Session Type:** Invited  
**Session:** Engaging Black Feminist Anthropolog(ies): Questions of Methods, Theory and Practice Within and Outside the Discipline. Organized by Riche Daniel Barnes.

**Session Type:** Special Events  
**Session:** Presidential Lecture: Ramona L. Perez (SDSU) Why the Ethnographic Present Died when the Parachute Failed in Latin American Anthropology: The Politics of Long
Term Field Research.

Awards

List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.

Award: Roseberry-Nash Student Prize  
Date: 11/22/2013  
Recipient: Yana Stainova  
Affiliation: Brown U.  

Award: Whiteford P. for Applied and Engaged Anthropology  
Date: 11/22/2013  
Recipient: Jordan Levy  
Affiliation: U. of Western Ontario  
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Schoolteachers and National ?Public? Education in Honduras: Navigating the Reforms and Re-Founding the State.

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

The IV SLACA Spring meeting was held, for the first time, autonomously from other societies (in the past we had held them in association with the Society for Applied Anthropology). It was organized by Steffan Igor Ayora-Diaz, Gabriela Vargas-Cetina and Francisco Fernández-Repetto. It was held in Merida from March 20 to 22, 2013 under the general theme Post-National Transformations: Culture and Politics in the Greater Latin America and the Caribbean.

To make it appealing it was decided to hold a small meeting with 40 participants and no concurrent sessions. It was well attended.

Special Event 1: Dr. Carmen Bueno-Castellanos, from Universidad Iberoamericana gave the Michael Kearney Lecture in Responsible Anthropology, titled “Globalization and the Challenge for the Anthropology of Organizations and Industrial Production.”

Special Event 2: we held an editors’ workshop at a local restaurant in which we had the participation of Andrew Canessa, the editor of JLACA; the editor of Temas Antropológicos (UADY); the editor of Annales Antropológicos (UNAM); and the editor of Nueva Antropología (Mex). Over 30 members benefited from this workshop.

Two receptions: one on the inaugural evening, and the second following the Kearney Lecture.

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.
Not applicable.
Early career scholars.
Not Applicable.
Independent scholars.
Not Applicable.

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.
Not Applicable.

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.
Ronda Brulotte, our Councilor, has been in charge of SLACA’s Anthropology News column, and she has successfully managed to enroll contributors to the column both in its printed and on-line formats.
SLACA has a website managed by José Carlos Gómez-Aguiar. He has been in charge of updating information about the society and its board members. However, not all board members have supplied him with the required information and the page still has some gaps to fill.
Sarah Taylor, who was a Student Councilor until November last year, was in charge of the ListServe and Facebook accounts. Today Quetzil Castañeda is monitoring and updating the Facebook account, and Sydney Silverstein is in charge of the ListServe.
Christine Preble, also a Student Councilor, has been in charge of updating and monitoring SLACA’s twitter account.

Governance:
Changes in bylaws or governance structure.
There were none during 2013, although we are now revising some of our by-laws to keep them in accord with changes in procedures.

Initiatives:
What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?
1. The creation of a fieldwork grant for emerging scholars. This prize has been approved by the membership, but we are still examining strategies to ensure its financial sustainability. We have appointed a committee formed by our current treasurer, Jennifer Mathews, our Treasurer-Elect Timothy Smith, and the proponents of the prize: Councilor Jose Carlos Gómez-Aguiar and Andrew Canessa.
2. The first call for a book prize. Our councilor Jason Pribilsky is in charge of this call.

3. Call for the Student Prizes: Roseberry-Nash, to be handed out at the AAA meetings, and the Whiteford Prize, to be delivered at the V Spring Meetings in Oaxaca, 2015. Also responsible for these calls is our Councilor Jason Pribilsky.

4. Encouraging board members and individuals from the membership to propose workshops during the AAA. Our Councilor Quetzil Castañeda should be handing these proposals along with our Program Chair.

5. Publication of the announcement of the V Spring Meeting to be held in the city of Oaxaca, Mexico.

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.

Not applicable.

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

At the SLACA Board we are not sure that the publishing crisis is affecting JLACA as the numbers indicate. Andrew Canessa, our editor, has already expressed some concerns and they are listed here:

JLACA Loss or Profit? (1) Only American Anthropologist and American Ethnologist make a profit for Wiley Blackwell and the AAA and JLACA is listed as one of those loss-making journals.

(2) JLACA’s allocation of the profit share substantially increases the size of the coffers of its sponsoring AAA Section, the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology. JLACA earns a substantial amount for SLACA, mostly because of the high download rate.

Both statements are true and whether one thinks of JLACA as making a loss or profit depends on the chosen accounting methods. In the income column the AAA lists sales to libraries and advertising. In the cost column, the AAA lists production costs; and income generated in the aforementioned way is greater than the cost of producing the journal. The AAA, however, counts any subvention from SLACA as a cost. This creates the paradox whereby every penny SLACA spends on the journal is seen as contributing to a deficit even though – from SLACA’s perspective – income far exceeds expenditure. SLACA, for example, funds the third issue out of its own resources as it, rightly in my view, invests some of the income generated by the journal into the publication. It also covers the considerable cost of an in-house copyeditor. To put it another way, the AAA gives lots of money to SLACA for the journal but complains when it invests any of it in the (loss-making) journal.

Perhaps more controversial is the calculation of membership dues. Members receive a free copy of JLACA and their dues contribute to the running of the journal. This has always been clear since the founding of the journal. These dues, however, are not seen as income by the AAA, but as expenditure. If you were to think of membership dues as principally sales
purchases of the journal then JLACA makes a handsome profit. The AAA, however, does not calculate what you might consider the sale of the journal to SLACA members as income but, rather, expenditure. The essential problem is that the contract is between the AAA and Wiley Blackwell and not SLACA and Wiley Blackwell.

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

1. The management of workshops by the AAA staff shows some problems. For example, workshops were listed but persons could not sign up/register to attend, the list of registered attendees was not provided sufficiently in advance to allow a better organization, and there have been some problems in the communication between AAA staff in charge of workshops and workshop organizers.

2. The online sign up system is more difficult than it should be. The online signup required individuals to go to one page to view workshops and then click through 3 different steps to get to a different web page to sign up. It needs to be simplified and allow individuals to sign up in the same page where workshops are listed.

3. The excel sheet with the workshop participants must be distributed to the organizers a minimum of two weeks in advance, or revise the system such that the organizer can gain access to the list of registered attendees.