The American Anthropological Association (AAA) held its 112th Annual Meeting last week at the Chicago Hilton in Chicago, Illinois and is pleased to announce that for the first time in its history over 7,000 anthropologists participated in a robust gathering that featured hundreds of sessions, workshops and special events. The meeting theme, Future Publics, Current Engagements, featured participants from all over the globe, representing over 60 countries.

The annual meeting also presented an opportunity to recognize those anthropologists that have made unique and special contributions to the discipline. The major awards conferred include the AAA/Oxford U Press Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching of Anthropology, the AAA Minority Dissertation Fellowship Award, the Textor Prize, the Anthropology in the Media Award, the Boas Award, the AAA/SfAA Margaret Winner and the Anthropology in Public Policy Award.

The 2013 AAA/Oxford Teaching Award was given to Dr. Triloki Pandey from the University of California, Santa Cruz. In his 40 years at UCSC, he has taught nearly 5,000 undergraduates, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in anthropology. Dr. Pandey received the PhD in Anthropology in 1967 from the University of Chicago, beginning his academic career in the Department of Anthropology at UCSC in 1973. He is regularly invited to give presentations about his work on the American Southwest, India’s indigenous communities, Grande, and the intellectual history of Indian anthropology.

Karen G. Williams was the recipient of the 2013-2014 AAA Minority Dissertation Fellowship. This annual fellowship of $10,000 is intended to encourage members of ethnic minorities to complete doctoral degrees in anthropology, thereby increasing diversity in the discipline and promoting research on issues of concern among minority populations. Williams’ dissertation, titled “From Coercion to Consent?: Governing the Formerly Incarcerated in the 21st Century United States” traces the day-to-day practices and strategies used to prepare people who are incarcerated for when they come home from correctional institutions.

Professor Jay Sokolovsky was the winner of the 2013 Robert B. Textor and Family Prize in Anticipatory Anthropology. Jay is a scholar whose career exemplifies an anticipatory mode of anthropological research in its broad contributions to the anthropology of aging, a nascent field Jay helped develop and grow over the years, organizing the field of the anthropology of aging in the United States and globally. In addition to making important intellectual contributions based on his own field work in multiple sites in the United States, Mexico, Croatia and England, Jay has spent over three decades establishing an aging research network and multidisciplinary community of practice spirit of the award and for all it stands.

The Anthropology in the Media Award was given to Kathy Reichs. The award honors “those who have raised public awareness of anthropology and have had a broad and sustained public impact at local, national and international levels.” Over the last 15 years, Dr. Reichs has made significant contributions to raising public awareness of anthropology through her fiction writing, television production, and public service.
The American Anthropological Association presented the 2013 Franz Boas award for Exemplary Service to Anthropology to Dr. Louise Lamphere, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology (Emerita), University of New Mexico.

Throughout her more than 45-year career, Dr. Lamphere has made significant contributions to anthropological knowledge through her studies of the Navajo, workplace life, family and kinship, U.S. immigration, and U.S. healthcare policy and to the American Anthropological Association through her vision and leadership. She is perhaps best known as a “founding mother” of feminist anthropology, influencing decades of research in anthropology and related disciplines on issues of gender inequality and knowledge production. Dr. Lamphere received the PhD in 1968 from Harvard University. She served on the faculty at Brown University and later the University of New Mexico, from which she retired in 2008.

The 2013 AAA/SfAA Margaret Mead Award recipient is Sera L. Young for her book Craving Earth: Understanding Pica, the Urge to Eat Clay, Starch, Ice and Chalk. Columbia University Press.

Dr. Young will be presented with the award at the SfAA Spring Meeting in March 2014 in Albuquerque, NM. Dr. Young completed a Ph.D. in International Nutrition/Nutritional Anthropology at Cornell University in 2008 and a M.A. in Medical Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam in 2002. She is currently a research scientist in the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University.

Finally, the AAA Committee on Public Policy selected Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Professor of anthropology and Director of the Medical Anthropology Program at the University of California at Berkeley as the first recipient of the new Anthropology in Public Policy Award. Dr. Scheper-Hughes is a nationally recognized expert on several important health issues, including hunger, illness and organ trafficking. The Anthropology in Public Policy Award was established in 2012 by the Committee on Public Policy to honor anthropologists whose work has had a significant, positive influence on the course of government decision-making and action. Dr. Scheper-Hughes’ body of work and research, especially in the area of organ trafficking, has shaped how governments and international bodies address the issues of illegal transplantation.

- - AAA - -

Founded in 1902, the American Anthropological Association is the world's largest professional organization of anthropologists and others interested in anthropology, with an average annual membership of more than 12,500. The Arlington, VA – based association represents all specialties within anthropology – cultural anthropology, biological (or physical) anthropology, archaeology, linguistics and applied anthropology.