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## Association of Senior Anthropologists

PAUL DOUGHTY, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

### ASA Affairs

Our treasury shows that we are solvent and in condition to use some of that wealth to enhance ASA participation at the next AAA Annual Meeting. We want to thank outgoing Treasurer Paul Kutsche for his service in that regard. New President Alice Kehoe is anxious to receive your suggestions for Board members and this year's AAA program.

### Recording Our History

Although we have no way of knowing exactly what the demography of the AAA is [age information and other social data is not collected by these social scientists about themselves!], we assume that the average ASA member lived throughout most of the AAA's history and has been a professional member for almost half of its 100 years. It would seem especially opportune to record the highlights of those years in an accessible manner from ASA members. Although this may seem to some as self-aggrandizing, epistomocentric and pretentious, there are indeed major anthropological findings and ideas that deserve to be underscored as our significant contributions to human life and the general knowledge as the products of our endeavors.

### Reduced to Our Parts

I suppose nothing irks me more than finding what I know to be anthropological work attributed to sociology, psychology, geography or in categories such as "travel" or "religion." Librarians have done this to us over the years because of gaps in their classification systems, but booksellers and the media frequently relegate us to these "lesser" disciplines without second thought. When perusing most bookstores for anthropological works, you generally search those disciplines or "culture area" designations: Latin America, Africa, Asia and so forth. Thus we are reduced to our parts and our "whole" is lost. What an irony for the discipline that has made holistic theory, method and concept its central feature and leitmotif!

It is difficult for anthropology to be recognized as such, and positively too. Nothing makes better news that a "good" scandal. Alas, observers become bogged down by sensationalism that distorts what we do and dismisses its importance. Such events neither improve public understanding of the discipline and our findings, nor our own intradisciplinary relationships. Thus past misadventures in Yanomamiland continued to mire the AAA body politic in its poisonous residue at our last annual Business Meeting.

Throughout all of this, one is reminded that scientific arrogance is just as intolerable as any other when employed to legitimize one's behavior as being superior to that of others. Internal disciplinary disputes not only lower our own self-esteem but also demote our stature in the eyes of others, encouraging a sort of "tisk-tisk" attitude among capital scientists and those in other disciplinary areas.

Now, in response to feeling slighted by the AAA Program Committee, a movement to "scientize" anthropology has sprung forth. At the 2002 Annual Meeting, a number of colleagues displayed little blinking lights on their nametags to indicate they were representatives of a harder-than-thou, materialist viewpoint, seeking to disengage themselves from that old anthropology, and to run a competing meeting with the AAA. One recalls the fracturing of the Connecticut anthropology department 40 years ago, and recently that of Stanford, along such cleavages in interests and among personalities. Could the librarians and booksellers be right in dividing us into parts indistinguishable from those other disciplinary niches into which they place us? Or is there a holistic core that still ties us together? Stay tuned.

For ASA information, contact: Alice Kehoe, 3014 N Shepard Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53211; and/or Paul Doughty at [doughty@gator.net](mailto:doughty@gator.net).

## Biological Anthropology Section

LINDA D WOLFE, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

This month we have the announcement of the BAS Student Prize and a comment on the four-field approach to anthropology (see this month's Correspondence section on p 3 for another comment on this topic).

### From James Calcagno:

The BAS Student Prize has been awarded to Anna East (U of New Mexico) for her poster "Normal Periosteal Bone Growth and Skeletal Pathology in Documented Fetuses."

### From Abe Gruber (Palomar C):

I was astounded to read that Columbia U is dropping biological anthropology. I do not think that an anthropology major is getting a rounded education without biological anthropology. To my way of thinking, cultural anthropologists might as well be sociologists if they do not study the other branches of anthropology. I taught for 30 years in a community college in California, and I am proud to say that several colleagues and I actually taught almost twice as many sections of "physical anthropology" as cultural. That is not at all rare in this state because this subject meets a biological sciences transfer credit to the universities. It is also encouraging that some universities are adhering to the four-field approach in this month's job placement ads in AN. However, I do think that the BAS should be taking an activist

position with Columbia U on this issue. Sometimes action is called for, for the greater good. I also truly think that the elimination of biological anthropology is victory for anti-evolution forces in some of the southern and midwestern states that have tried to tope the teaching of evolution in the public schools. That alone is a reason to work toward keeping biological anthropology as part of the curriculum.

Please send news items and brief reports to [wolfel@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:wolfel@mail.ecu.edu).

## Council on Anthropology and Education

KEVIN MICHAEL FOSTER, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

This is my first column as contributing editor. Thanks to outgoing Editor Lisa Rosen for her hard work over the past two years, including her efforts to ensure a smooth transition between editors. The various items in this month's column speak to the issues of enhancing diversity within and ensuring the ongoing relevance of the CAE.

### Open Forum

By Portia Sabin

During the 2002 AAA Annual Meeting, the CAE held an open forum to discuss the future of the Section. The discussion was jump-started about a week earlier on the CAE listserv by incoming President Catherine Emihovich. In her email, she pointed to "the work many of us do in culturally and linguistically diverse schools and communities, and the growing lack of diversity in our general membership and organizational structure." One of the issues raised in the following discussion concerned the opacity of the current session proposal and submission structure, and the problems with recruiting new people to take part in a process that is difficult to understand. The AAA's overarching structure was shown to be somewhat divisive, as members can only submit one paper proposal per person and must choose between Sections. This causes a problem for those scholars of color (and others) who find other Sections more relevant to their concerns. The CAE's relevance to the discipline was also addressed, and a call to revise the CAE's mission statement along more inclusive lines was made.

Additional ideas generated at the open forum included creating special sessions for students of color, inviting local teachers and reformers to participate in annual meetings, foregrounding scholarship of people of color, opening the listserv beyond the CAE membership, developing a website to share session proposals, formal mentorship by scholars of color, and re-thinking the CAE's mission. The meeting ended without specific resolutions, but with a commitment by all to a continuing dialogue.

### Announcements

The CAE seeks nominations for the positions of secretary and first-year member-at-large, both