



Society for the
Anthropology of
Consciousness

2009 Annual Report

STATUS, ACTIVITIES, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Membership and Dues

The October 2009 report from the AAA (the most recent available) stated that SAC has 107 regular, 114 student, 19 Retired, 7 Associate, 0 Joint, 1 Life, and 4 International members, for a total membership of 252. This represents an increase of 26 members over the previous October.

Between Oct. 2008 and Oct. 2009, the number of student members of SAC rose from 81 to 114. This increase is due at least in part to the late 2008 decision of the SAC Executive Board to lower dues for our student members from the previous \$15 to \$5 per year (effective Jan. 1, 2009). The apparent success of this move led the SAC Executive Board to lower slightly the dues for regular members (from \$35 to \$30 per year; effective Jan. 1, 2010). We hope that this will produce a similar uptick in the number of regular SAC members. As of October 2009, this number had declined to 107 from the 123 members listed in October 2008. Perhaps this decline is due to the overall economic situation; it is difficult to tell.

Communication with Members

To keep our members current on section activities, the SAC President mailed out a letter to all members on November 21, 2009. This letter contained information about SAC-sponsored sessions and events at the AAA meetings in Philadelphia as well a Call for Papers and registration forms for our upcoming 2010 Spring Meeting in Berkeley, CA.

We also blast periodic emails concerning topics of interest, news, etc. to our members.

Pertinent information (including the registration form and Call for Papers for our spring conference) are posted on our section web site. More details about our web site can be found below.

Finances

As of September 30, 2009, SAC had Net Assets of \$46,845.80. This figure represents a healthy increase over the previous year's figure of \$32,153.99, and is the reason we were able to lower our regular member's dues and also invest a considerable sum in updating our web site. We have also made a commitment to increase the number of pages in our journal, *Anthropology of Consciousness*.

SAC's financial situation in 2009 was very good, and at that time we developed a budget that had approximately \$10,000 in revenues over and above expenses. At its 2009 Spring meeting, the SAC Executive Board discussed the needs of the organization and concluded that the journal would function better with financial support for an assistant editor, and that it was important to allocate funds for publicity to grow our membership. The 2010 budget took these areas into account, as well as additional expenses to enhance the website. The SAC 2010 budget has a profit margin of approximately \$3000. For the coming year, SAC is submitting a request to increase the number of pages in its journal by 20 pages per issue/40 pages per year. If the request is not approved, the additional page count will cost SAC approximately \$1000 annually under the current Wiley-Blackwell agreement.

Elections

In the spring 2009 elections, Evgenia Fotiou, Beth Hagens, Peter Jones (non-anthropologist position), and Beth Savage (student position) were elected to the Executive Committee. All will serve two-year terms.

AAA Annual Meetings

The AAA Meetings in Philadelphia featured the following panels that were either invited by or (co)sponsored by SAC:

Fri., 12/4 8:00 Am - Dialectics of Language, Self, and Spirituality: Papers on the Anthropology of Consciousness - Session

Sat., 12/5 8:00 Am - Consciousness, Agency and Authenticity in Shamanic Identity and Ritual in South America: Expanding the Range of the Sound of Rushing Water (Part I: Papers in Honor of Michael J. Harner) - Invited Session

Sat., 12/5 1:45 Pm - Consciousness, Agency and Authenticity in Shamanic Identity and Ritual Within Cultures of the World: Expanding the Range of the Sound of Rushing Water (Part II: Papers in Honor of Michael J. Harner) - Invited Session

Sun., 12/6 8:00 Am - Good Spirit, Good Medicine: Foundations of Healing in Caribbean Religions - Invited Session

The SAC 2009 Distinguished Lecture was presented by the neurotheologist Andrew B. Newberg, who spoke on "How God Changes Your Brain".

Spring Meeting

SAC held its 2009 annual spring meeting at at McMenamins historic Edgefield Resort in Portland, Oregon. from April 1-5, 2009. The theme of the conference was "Bridging Nature and Human Nature". Mark Schroll and John Baker served as Conference Co-Chairs, and Jeff MacDonald as Site Coordinator. Approximately 70 people attended the conference, which continued our tradition of academically-oriented papers during the day and experiential events in the evening.

SAC Web Site

In the second half of 2009, SAC initiated a major revamping of our web site (located at www.sacaaa.org). In addition to a new look, a bulletin board/discussion board area has been

added to the site. This has increased the value of our web site for our members, but has also attracted the attention of spammers. We are currently working out the issues involved in making this area secure for our members and unavailable to those whose interests are not congruent with our own.

Anthropology of Consciousness

Our journal, *Anthropology of Consciousness*, continues to be published on schedule. All past issues of the journal are available through AnthroSource. SAC continues to be a strong supporter of AnthroSource, but also adheres to a policy of providing members with print copies of the journal as an extra advantage of membership.

On August 1, 2009, Hillary S. Webb formally assumed the position as Managing Editor of AoC, replacing Bonnie Glass-Coffin. Hillary has continued to build on Bonnie's strong leadership for our journal. All submissions to the journal are processed using ScholarOne (formerly Manuscript Central). The number of quality submissions has increased in the last several years, which is why it was decided to increase the number of journal pages produced annually, beginning in 2010.

FUTURE PLANS

Spring 2010 Meeting

Our 2010 annual Spring Meeting will be held March 17-21, 2010 at the UC Berkeley Faculty Club. The theme of the conference is: "Curing Minds: Consciousness in Sickness and Health."

OTHER ITEMS AND CONCERNS

2009 witnessed the publication of a new book *So What? Now What? The Anthropology of Consciousness Responds to a World in Crisis*. This volume grew out of the 2006 SAC spring meeting (held at Asilomar, California). It contains a number of contributions that take the anthropology of consciousness past the realm of academic discourse to offer stimulating ideas about what we as individuals and scholars can do to apply our knowledge and expertise in the service of others. With the publication of this volume, SAC achieved another of our long-held goals: to make the fruits of our spring meetings and other discussions available to a wider audience.

We are still hoping that the AAA will implement some type of "Associate Member" category for people who would like to be a member of SAC but are non-anthropologists who do not want to become AAA members.

Submitted by John Baker, Past-President, on January 27, 2010

Anthropology of Consciousness Section Officers (2009-2010)

President (2009-2011)

Stephen Glazier - SGlaz1234@charter.net

Past-President (2009-2010):

John Baker - johnbaker@vcccd.edu

Secretary/Treasurer (2008-2010):

Amy Smith - anthroamy@sbcglobal.net

Executive Committee Members-at-Large (including term of office):

Marlene Dobkin de Rios (2008-2010) - sepтрion@aol.com

Evgenia Fotiou (2009-2011) - efotiou@wisc.edu

Bethe Hagens (2009-2011) - bethehagens@gmail.com

Peter Jones (2009-2011) – non-anthropologist position - pnj@bauuinstitute.com

John McGraw (2008-2010) student position - jmcgraw@ucsd.edu

Enoch Page (2008-2010) - hepage@anthro.umass.edu

Beth Savage (2009-2011) – student position - savageba@buffalostate.edu

Hillary S. Webb (2008-2010) - hillaryswebb@comcast.net

Editor for AN column

position currently open

Webmaster

David Xanatos: xanatos@xanatos.com

AAA 2009-2010 Program Editor

Stephen Glazier: SGlaz1234@charter.net

Editor, *Anthropology of Consciousness*

Hillary S. Webb - hillaryswebb@comcast.net

SAC Web Site: www.sacaaa.org