

By the time you read this, our Spring meetings will be over, and we'll all be back into whatever passes for our "normal" lives. Maybe you're still in a daze that you made it to the year 2000, and thinking about how the world has changed since you first grew old enough to contemplate what things might be like in the future that we are now calling the present. Although this triple-zero year is only a cultural construct, it nevertheless represents an important milestone in our times, both socially and personally.

As you may be aware, SAC has reached a milestone as well, for we are currently celebrating our twentieth anniversary. During those twenty years, many strange and wondrous things have happened to our organization. Perhaps the two most amazing are the fact that we still do exist (more on that later) as well as the other fact that we have now been a section of the AAA for a decade. If you've been around with us for a while, then you've witnessed the transformations that have taken place. Our Spring meetings, while staying wild and woolly, have been attracting an ever more diverse group of outstanding scholars (as well as the "usual" crazies) and have become a cherished stop on the annual tours of many persons working in our field. Our panels at the annual AAA meetings have been colorful, diverse, cutting-edge, and usually jam-packed with listeners. Our journal, *Anthropology of Consciousness*, has established itself as one of the premier forums on issues of consciousness and continues to attract new readers. All of this suggests that we must be doing something right.

Of course, nothing in this universe happens without a cause, and it seems only proper here to thank my predecessors for helping realize the dream that we (at least in public) call SAC. In particular, Geri-Ann Galanti, Jeff MacDonald, and Michael Winkelman are to be commended for steering SAC through the straits and narrows of our application for section status with the AAA and for continuing to provide leadership and guidance over the last decade. In addition, Mira Zussman, my immediate predecessor, kept us going and worked very hard to maintain the rights and interests of SAC during a period of AAA reorganization.

I would also like to mention all of the people who have served as editors of the *Anthropology of Consciousness* during the ten years of its existence: Jeff MacDonald, Joseph Long, Charles Laughlin, Barry

Michrina, and Lisa Mertz. If you have ever worked on or edited a journal, you know how much work is involved. Our web site (www.sacaaa.org) owes a major debt of gratitude to our first webmaster, Jim Matlock, who is responsible for much of the way the site still appears. Finally, I would like to thank all the others, far too numerous to mention, who have served SAC by sitting on the Executive Board, organizing a conference, putting together a program, developing a panel, writing an article, reviewing a book, refereeing a submission, presenting a paper, buying a t-shirt, and/or doing any of the other things which have helped to make us what we are today.

Some of the individuals who have helped shape SAC during the first twenty years are no longer with us (in all of the various ways in which that statement can be construed), and some of the others wish to move on to new tasks and endeavors. This offers the rest of us a window of opportunity, but also a challenge. SAC needs people who like what we do *and* would like to help us keep doing it. We have a number of opportunities (and needs) for people to get involved in helping carry the torch into the next years. After all, SAC doesn't run itself (trust me on this one!), but runs because our members help push it along.

As one of the smallest sections of the AAA, SAC offers you a rather unique possibility to step up, become involved, and make a contribution to the operation of *your* organization. Only in this way can we continue to do what we have already been doing, and only through your help will we ever be able to offer even more to our members and make an even greater impact on the field of consciousness studies. We need more involvement from our members, and we need to attract new members as well. Please take a little time to consider how you might be able to help out with whatever time you may have, and with the unique skills that you certainly do have! We need people for many things: to present papers, chair sessions, serve on the Executive Board, and for a myriad of other tasks.

One of the reasons that I decided to run for the Presidency of SAC is because I appreciated all the good times and the good vibes that I have received -- and all of the wonderful things I have learned -- as a result of the hard work of others. I felt that I should give back as well as receive. Not all of the tasks involved in the operations of SAC are glamorous (actually, I can't think of *any* that are *glamorous*), but they are

necessary. As a member of a small section, you have the opportunity to directly interact with some of the most insightful and influential persons in our field, an opportunity that is lacking in much larger sections. By the same token, the smallness of our group makes it even more imperative that our members not remain uninvolved, for our small size does not mean that there are fewer positions of responsibility.

Our size is directly related to the other major challenge facing SAC: securing our financial status. Since we are such a small group, there are many fewer of us to bear the costs associated with our tasks, especially the costs of producing our journal and of putting on our conferences. As a result, we continually face issues having to do with our financial viability. This affects the publication of *Anthropology of Consciousness* and also impacts other projects that we would like to realize but cannot currently afford, such as publishing new books, reprinting old issues of *AoC*, and expanding our web-based activities. If you can think of any ways to help SAC ensure its financial future, please do not hesitate to let me know.

I have set myself two primary goals for my presidency: to promote more involvement from our members, and to ensure our financial footing. These two tasks are related, and there is one simple way that both can be realized: the recruitment of new members. By recruiting more members, we bring in new (hopefully energetic!) blood and increase our fee base. So please, consider what you can do to spread the word and get yourself and others involved. Advertise about SAC on your department bulletin boards, ask your library to subscribe to *AoC*; tell your students and colleagues about this insane group that is interested in such weird things, and spread the word about our web site. Remember, we are a member-driven organization. And movement requires energy, so we can only go where you are willing to take us.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach me via email at: johnbaker@vcccd.net or by writing to me c/o Anthropology Department, Moorpark College, 7075 Campus Road, Moorpark, CA 93021. Thanks!!!