

**Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness**  
*A section of the American Anthropological Association*



December 12, 2003

Hi there!

We are writing to inform you about upcoming developments concerning the Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness. There are a lot of exciting things afoot, many of which will increase SAC's visibility and strengthen the quality of our journal.

Our **2004 Spring Meeting** will be held from March 24-28 at The Faculty Club of the University of California, Berkeley. The theme of the conference is "Altered Bodies, Altered Minds". In addition to our day program of academic presentations, evening events will include a wide variety of talks and experiential events. You will have the possibility to attend a Mevlevi Sufi zikr, a workshop on dreamwork, and even journey into the Bay Area night. On Saturday night, you can experience Annie Sprinkle, an internationally known adult film star turned author cum lecturer. A registration form for the conference is enclosed in this letter. Be sure to register early, as the special events will fill up fast! There are also forms for submitting a proposal for a panel and/or presentation, and a call for papers. You can help us to promote the conference by posting this in a visible place.

Issue 14:1 of our journal, *Anthropology of Consciousness*, will be in the mail in the very near future. This issue includes the following articles: "Faith, Healing, and 'Ecstasy Deprivation': Secular Society in a New Age of Anxiety" (Erika Bourguignon), "Trance, Possession, Shamanism and Sex" (I.M. Lewis), "Further Correspondences and Similarities of Shamanism and Cognitive Science" (Timothy Hubbard). Grant Rich, *AoC* editor, is soliciting new manuscripts as well as individuals willing to serve as peer reviewers. For more information, contact Grant at: [OptimalEx@aol.com](mailto:OptimalEx@aol.com)

In a development that will have far-reaching implications for both our society and our journal, the American Anthropological Association (our parent organization) is currently developing **AnthroSource**, an **on-line portal** that will make the entire run of our journal, *Anthropology of Consciousness*, available to subscribers throughout the world. In addition, articles will be indexed and cross-linked, making searches more powerful and more convenient. This project will have an enormous impact upon SAC. On the one hand, we will become more visible and accessible to others. At the same time, the changeover is already causing us to rethink the ways in which we publish our journal and provide it to members. There are also – as yet unknown – cost issues involved. On-line publishing may affect our member numbers, and the potential implications to SAC's continued financial viability need to be carefully explored. Please be assured that the SAC leadership is already engaged in discussions about these issues, and we welcome all input from our members.

To help us with our discussions, and to improve the benefits of membership in SAC, we are currently developing a **survey asking for your input** on a number of topics. This survey will be mailed out in the spring, and it will ask for your input on a number of questions, including: What are we doing well? What could we be doing better? What types of services could we provide to you that are not yet in place? Since the survey is still under development, please do not hesitate to let us know about any issues that you are concerned about and would like to see included.

**Our web site, [sacaaa.org](http://sacaaa.org)**, has recently been moved to a new hosting service, which will speed up download times and make the site more accessible than ever. Please look over the site and let us know what you like about it and what you would like to see added. If you experience any difficulties accessing any page on the site, please let the webmaster ([johnbaker@vcccd.net](mailto:johnbaker@vcccd.net)) know immediately.

Finally, Steve Glazier would like to thank the membership for allowing him to serve as President of SAC for the past two years. It was a great honor. Steve continues as Past-President and will serve as 2004 SAC Program Editor for the AAA November meeting in San Francisco. As always, Steve welcomes suggestions for possible organized sessions, workshops, tours, and panels. You can email Steve at: [Sglaz1234@aol.com](mailto:Sglaz1234@aol.com)

We would both like to thank you for your continued support of the goals and efforts of the Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness. Although we are a relatively small organization, we have already done much to promote the anthropological study of consciousness. Now, as we look towards the future, please consider the ways in which you would like to see SAC grow so that we can become an even more effective organization. We welcome your input!

John Baker  
President

Stephen D. Glazier  
Past President

p.s. – If you would like to take on a more active role in SAC, why not consider running for one of our leadership positions? You can find out about the open positions and the requirements by visiting our web site at: [sacaaa.org](http://sacaaa.org)