

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



December 26, 2004

Hello there!

Another year is coming to a close, and I hope that it has been a good one for you and yours! I writing to let you know about what has been going on with your Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness, and to apprise you of our plans and hopes for the year ahead.

First of all, our **2005 Spring Meeting** will be held from **April 13-17, 2005 at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst**. The theme of the conference is "Expressions of Consciousness". This will be our first meeting in the "East", and represents an opportunity for us to make new friends. Please plan on attending, and help spread the word! Proposals for papers and presentations are due February 1, 2005. More information, as well as forms for submitting proposals and for pre-registration, are available on our web site: www.sacaaa.org

Speaking of meetings, I know that the AAA's **decision to cancel/move its annual meeting** from San Francisco to Atlanta has caused many of you grief. Needless to say, the move was not popular, nor was it easy. I attended the Atlanta meetings, which were (not surprisingly!) *much* smaller than usual. While there, I attended the Section Assembly meeting which discussed this and other issues. At the top of the agenda were labor relations and changes so that future problems can be avoided. There is also movement towards a reorganization of the AAA governance structure, which provides an opportunity for all of us to make our voices heard and suggest changes. You will be hearing from the AAA directly about this, and I will also let you know about any issues that I find important for us.

Issue 15(1) of our journal, *Anthropology of Consciousness*, will be coming out soon. The delay has been caused not by a lack of papers, but by a series of production questions. As part of the solution, we have increased the *AoC* staff. Editor Grant Rich will now be assisted by Beth Hagens, who will serve as Production Editor and Associate Editor, and Peter Jones, who is the new Assistant Editor. As always, **the *AoC* is soliciting new manuscripts, and is currently also looking for individuals willing to serve as peer reviewers**. For more information, contact Grant at: OptimalEx@aol.com

AnthroSource, the on-line portal of the American Anthropological Association and its member sections, is now up and running. You can log on and search over 230,000 pages of AAA publications, including all issues of the *Anthropology of Consciousness* from its inception in 1990 to 2003 (if you are a AAA member, you can log on at: www.aaanet.org; if not: www.anthrosource.net). This past year, we held several discussions with members of the AAA staff concerning SAC's desire to become a permanent part of AnthroSource so that all past and future issues of the *AoC* are available to subscribers throughout the world. However, we are dealing with issues that also pertain to our continued financial viability, and as a consequence we have not yet been able to determine whether SAC will be able to take part in this state-

of-the-art web portal. The fundamental issue is our financial status, and this means that we must both increase our membership and our revenue.

To that end, the SAC Executive Board has voted to offer a special introductory rate to all new SAC members and to all former members whose memberships have been lapsed for at least one year. This **"Get to Know SAC" introductory rate** is just \$20, and is valid until April 30, 2005. We have also lowered most of our dues rates. But if SAC is to be able to expand its services to you and continue to promote anthropological perspectives into the study of consciousness, it is essential that we increase our membership. So if you are already a member, I want to thank you for your support in the past and urge you to renew your membership when the time comes, and if you are not, now is the time to join! And remember, **SAC memberships make great gifts!**

As part of our membership drive, any suggestions regarding mailing lists of organizations, institutions, departments, and/or individuals who may be interested in SAC would be greatly appreciated. Also, if you attend any meetings or conferences that are related to SAC's interests, please contact Amy Smith (at: anthroamy@sbcglobal.net) with the information or to request brochures to distribute while you are attending the conference.

This past year, we also mailed out a **survey asking for your input** on a number of topics. We had a response rate around 20%, which is very good for a survey of this sort. As a result of your responses, we hope to introduce some new features on our web site this spring, including teaching syllabi and other resources for the classroom. We are also exploring the possibility of having a password-protected area for working papers, a bulletin board, etc. Please be patient, as we are a small group, and there are many tasks for us to manage. But we're working hard! And on that note...

Nominations for SAC officers are due at the AAA on January 31, 2005. This cycle, we will be voting for candidates to fill four positions on the SAC Executive Committee. These officers make the decisions that ensure SAC's continuity and help to chart our course into the future. Please consider running for one of these positions. You can contact me directly at: johnbaker@vcccd.net for more information.

That's it for now! Be well, and have a great start in the New Year!



John Baker
President

P.S. – I am enclosing a copy of our new brochure, the Call for Papers, and the Call for Submissions. Please pass them along and/or post them.