

## Annual Report 2005 Biological Anthropology Section (BAS)

### 1) ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Membership:** Membership declined from 559 in 12/04 to 536 in 12/05, a decrease of 4% with overall AAA membership increasing about 3%. Nearly 40% of our BAS members are students.

### **Financials:**

Dr. Tom Leatherman, Secretary-Treasurer reported a fund balance as of October 30, 2005 of \$21,937. The estimated expenses for the annual meeting were \$3800 in travel for Board members, the Distinguished Lecturer and Howells Award winners and \$1852 for food and awards. In addition, the balance of the W. W. Howells Fund as of September 30, 2005 was \$23,625. Approximately \$2000 was spent on the medals, honoraria and dinner. Westview and University of California Press contribute to the reception.

### **AAA Annual Meeting**

**1. Sessions:** Program Chair, Dr. Tad Schurr organized 9 BAS sponsored or co-sponsored scientific sessions. In addition, we had a Distinguished Lecture by Dr. George Armelagos, a reception for Dr. Armelagos and W.W. Howells Book Award recipients Dr. John Relethford (2004) and Dr. Chris Beard (2005) chosen by a committee chaired by Dr. Karen Strier, a BAS Graduate Student Reception and Executive Board and Annual Business meetings. BAS members participated in a number of other sessions and activities.

**2. Student Awards:** The BAS Student Paper or Poster Award winner was Mr. Brian Kemp, UC-Davis, "Correlating Genes, Languages and Culture: Insights into Native American Prehistory". Board member Dr. Karen Weinstein oversaw student awards. Ms E.A. Quinn, Northwestern, was the recipient of an AAA travel award through the Ford Foundation as part of the AAA initiative "Understanding Race and Human Variation"

Ms. Deborah Bolnick, Student Board member, helped organize the first BAS Graduate Student Meeting. The result was a wide ranging discussion with suggested topics for subsequent meetings that included: identification of funding sources, step-by-step instructions on how to organize a AAA session, assessing post-doc vs. first teaching position- pros & cons, interviewing expectations & techniques, writing cover letters & assembling teaching portfolios- do's & don'ts, socialization strategies for the successful transition to a professorship.... and more.

### **BAS Communications:**

Dr. Jim Bindon has redesigned the BAS website to include pictures of our 2005 business meeting, a discussion group, job and graduate student program announcements and more up-to-date section news.

**Dr. Virginia Vitzthum has add a regular feature to the *AAA Newsletter* BAS column on shared databases and informatics. The BAS Chair periodically uses the BAS listserv to send out and solicit information.**

**Nominations:**

**The BAS is one of only a very few sections that has consistently put forth nominations for AAA-wide officers and committees and will continue to do so.**

**2) FUTURE PLANS**

- 1. The BAS plans to hold regular Graduate Student Events at the AAA Annual Meeting.**
- 2. The BAS By-laws are out-of-date and will be rewritten to conform to the new governance structure when that is implemented by AAA.**
- 3. BAS will seek ways to become more involved in the Human Race and Variation initiative.**