

Biological Anthropology Section Annual Report 2006

1. Status, Activities and Accomplishments.

- ✚ **Membership numbers** have remained relatively stable with 540 as the number in June 2006 that was used by the Governance Commission for planning purposes. Membership varies each month and over all maybe down by 1-2%. We are concerned about the impact on membership of the new income-based dues structure, of AnthroSource and changes in the governance structure.

- ✚ **Financial balances** reported by Dr. Douglas Crews, Secretary-Treasurer, for 2006 are relatively stable. As of 8/31/06 the general fund was \$20,177 (2005, \$21,936) and the W.W. Howells Endowment was \$23, 035 (2005, \$22,882). We are faced with deficit spending and have considered increasing dues but will wait to see the outcome of the new AAA dues structure. We did vote to split the W.W. Howells Prize among co or multi-authored books and have set a limit on the Award. Reimbursement for Executive Committee Members attendance at the annual meeting was retained at a maximum of \$300.

As in previous years, our Reception costs were subsidized by the publisher of the winning W.W. Howells Book Prize. This year Westview Press and Editor. Dr. Karl Lambert contributed \$400.

Food for the Executive Committee lunch, Student Reception and evening Reception with bar service represent escalating costs.

- ✚ **AAA meeting highlights.**
 - a. 2006 **W.W. Howells Book Prize** was awarded to Dr. Donna Hart (U Missouri St. Louis) and Dr. Robert Sussman (Washington U.) for *Man the Hunted: Primate, Predators and Human Evolution* (Westview Press)

 - b. 2006 **Distinguished Lecturer** was Dr. Wenda Trevanthen (New Mexico State U) "*Our Bodies, Our Past: Evolutionary Medicine and Women's Health*"

 - c. **W. W. Howells Remembrance** was held with a presentation by Dr. Laurie Godfrey (U Mass) and a letter from Dr. Alan Swedlund (U Mass).

 - d. Dr. Karen Weinstein (Dickinson) and Ms Amanda Thompson (Emory) organized the **Graduate Student Reception** . Drs. Trudy

Turner (U Wisconsin-Milwaukee) and Leslie Lieberman (UCF) gave presentations and led a discussion on academic job interviewing.

e. The **2006 Student Prize** was awarded to Patricia Sherin (Queens College) by Dr. Weinstein.

f. Dr. David Himmelgreen, Program Chair, assisted in organizing the **BAS sponsored and co-sponsored sessions**. Thank the session organizers and the participants:

- *From the Margins Toward the Center: Women and Gender in Human Biology*
- *Innovations in Skeletal Biology: Understanding the Past*
- *Critical Intersections in Biological Anthropology: Increasing Specialization and Shared Perspectives*
- *Adaptation and Disease: Current Research and Future Directions*

g. **The Reception** was well attended and followed the Distinguished lecture. This is the second year we opened the bar and had snacks available during the Business Meeting and awards presentations and this was well received. Westview Press substantially contributed the reception.

✚ The **BAS website** was extensively updated this year through the efforts of Dr. Jim Bindon (U Alabama) our Webmaster. Not only were there timely announcements related to the annual meeting but he added a discussion feature and more job announcements, hot buttons to related organizations, reprinted the BAS Columns of Dr. Virginia Vitzthum from the *Anthropology Newsletter*, listed teaching materials, field schools and training programs.

✚ The **listserves** were updated (still about 10% 'bad' emails for the membership listserv) and a number of emails were sent to the Executive Committee and to the membership. Ms. Amanda Thompson (Emory), Student Member of the Executive Committee used the new AAA **listserv of graduate students** to make additional contacts.

✚ The **AN BAS Columns** by Dr. Virginia Vitzthum (Indiana) were timely and interesting with a variety of features.

✚ Dr. Karen Strier (U Wisconsin- Madison), Chair of the **W.W. Howells Book Prize committee** and Dr. Jim Bindon wrote the procedures and protocols for the Endowment and Prize. They explicitly covered the

eligibility criteria, timeline, conflict of interest, committee composition and disposition of funds. Dr. Chris Kuzawa also served on this committee.

2. Future plans or activities

- We will **rewrite our By-Laws** when the new Governance Commission changes are adopted.
- We will have more frequent communication with the **BAS Graduate Student members** about the Student Prize, Student Reception and other matters.
- We will collaborate with other sections to put forth names for **AAA-wide offices**.
- **Recruitment efforts will target AAA members** as well as members of other professional organizations.
- **The new Chair-elect** is Dr. Darna Dufour, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0233 303- 492-6061 Darna.Dufour@Colorado.EDU

3. Chief concerns and issues

- We are concerned about the impact of the changes in dues structure, AnthroSource and the Governance Commission recommendations on BAS membership and finances.

With great thanks to the Executive Committee (Drs. Turner, Bindon, Crews, Weinstein, Kuzawa, Himmelgreen, Vitzthum, Strier and Ms.Thompson) I respectfully submit the 2006 Annual Report,
Leslie Sue Lieberman