1. Accomplishments during 2004

a. Retaining our membership. Our greatest accomplishment during 2004 probably was the fact that we managed to retain our membership, which oscillated around 750 members during the year, in spite of the fact that our Board was stationary. We had a peak of 779 members in March and ebbed to 734 members in July, a decrease from which we are slowly recovering. We hope that the new Board will be able to bring up the membership numbers again, and maybe to increase them in 2005. I believe that much of our membership has stayed because of the excellent work of Jean Rahier, our Journal's Editor, who has transformed JLAA into a high quality publication with a professional image.

b. The SLAA program for the AAA meetings. A second reason why our membership has continued to support our section has been, no doubt, the good quality of our section's program for the AAA meetings, ably coordinated by Prof. Igor Ayora-Diaz, from the Autonomous University of Yucatan (UADY). It was most unfortunate that the San Francisco meetings were cancelled and moved to Atlanta, because we had a very impressive and exciting academic program. Our Board had asked Prof. Ayora-Diaz to coordinate the program committee for SLAA’s AAA conference program. Although he was not a member of our Board, he took the task with utmost seriousness and commitment. The committee included Beth Conklin and myself. We reviewed and ranked the 13 sessions and 36 individual abstracts submitted to SLAA, which we grouped into 6 new sessions. We accorded invited status to three sessions, and made our suggestions for the inclusion of 19 sessions in the AAA conference final program. Our Conversation across the Americas special session was to feature renowned Indigenous leader Nina Pacari, Professor of Law, from Ecuador. Prof. Pacari has held important positions in the Ecuatorian Congress and was Minister of External Affairs in 2003. She had accepted to fly to San Francisco as our guest. Unfortunately with the move to Atlanta most of our sessions, including our Conversations special event, were cancelled.
c. Our journal. Our journal has been running smoothly. As per our Journal Editor's report (see attached report), the Journal of Latin American Anthropology (JLAA) received 17 manuscripts for review in 2004. JLAA is now publishing book and film reviews. We are getting ready to be part of AnthroSource as of 2006. Our current Editor, Jean M. Rahier, will stay in charge of JLAA until 2007.

d. Changes in governance and mission (Re-launching SLAA). The last few months have been of intense work, as the current interim Board has put much effort into re-launching the Society for Latin American Anthropology. I became Acting President of the Society for Latin American Anthropology on September 28 of 2004, because our Board's term had expired and we had no elections for the past two years. Our section was out of order, and Suzanne Mattingly, AAA comptroller, along with Kim Baker, the AAA sections' liaison, asked us to put order in our society.

The new, Interim SLAA Board was then conformed from existing and active board members as follows:

Gabriela Vargas-Cetina, President
Guadalupe Rodriguez-Gomez, Secretary
Ramona Perez, Treasurer
Beth Conklin, Councilor
Jeanne Simonelli, Councilor
Jean Rahier, Editor of the Journal of Latin American Anthropology

We had also invited Paige McDougall to serve as student representative, but after a few days she declined and at present we have no student representatives on the SLAA Board.

Our current Board has been busy since designing a new philosophy and mission for our section. We want to make SLAA one of the most exciting and theoretically solid ones within the AAA. We are thinking of ways to better support graduate students, supply our members with teaching materials, highlight the work of our senior members and create an environment of solid scholarship to be reflected in our annual meetings at the AAA conference, and in our journal. We also want to change the definition of Latin America itself for the purposes of our society, including the Caribbean, first generation migrants from Latin America in other
parts of the world, and the ways in which Latin America is conceived of and experienced anywhere in the planet. We want to retain our current members, increase our membership and expand the distribution and readership of our journal. Also, we want SLAA to include anthropologists, archaeologists, linguists and physical anthropologists, since we hold a view of anthropology as a broad, four-field discipline based on a holistic comprehension of culture and society. We would like to have a closer relationship and communication between the Board and our membership.

In practical terms, what this all means is that we have to organize elections, update our website, set up a listserv, and find the best way to project our journal and re-think the composition of our Board. We have put together a slate of candidates for the 2005 elections, and we are thinking of how the new composition of our Board should reflect our new philosophy and mission. We have also agreed to have our Journal in AnthroSource. All this also means that we have to take a hard look at our finances and find ways to support our activities and our journal and its transition to AnthroSource.

e. SLAA finances
We ended the year with a surplus of approximately US 25,000 (see attached detailed report by our treasurer) but this will be applied to our joining of AnthroSource in 2006. Our main sources of revenue are membership fees, independent journal subscriptions and royalty income donated by Whiteford and Whiteford. Our fees are within the middle range of most similar societies, but will probably need to be increased to meet the new demands posed on us by AnthroSource-related expenses. We are worried about our finances in this new context and are looking for other possible sources of revenue.

2. Future plans or activities
   a. Projects under way. As expressed above, we are in the process of creating a list serve, updating our website, organizing elections, reconfiguring our Board, changing our mission and driving philosophy and expanding the definition of our membership. Thanks to many of you who responded positively to our test email in the fall. We want to design teaching tools and find ways to support graduate students and highlight our senior members. At least part of this will have to take place through the AAA conference SLAA program, which we intend to re-design so as to better reflect our new goals and mission.
b. Collaboration with other sections. So far we've had an agreement with the Association for Latina and Latino Anthropologists (ALLA) that one of the members of their Board will sit in our executive and business meetings, and one of our Board members will sit in theirs. Also, we had organized a joint cash-bar reception with ALLA for the San Francisco meetings, which unfortunately had to be cancelled for the Atlanta meetings. We envision possible collaboration with other associations of Latin Americanists, including LASA and perhaps with anthropological associations focusing on Latin America, such as the annual Congreso de Mayistas and the Congreso de Latinoamericanistas. However, we think that our first task is to put order in our society so that we are in the position to engage in exchange with other sections and international associations.

1. Other items

a. AnthroSource. As stated above, we are worried about the strain that the transition and residence of our journal in AnthroSource will bring to our section's finances. We have not raised our dues for several years but we find worrisome the proposition of doing it now, while we are still trying to put order in our section and have an elected Board in place. We see that institutional subscriptions to our journal will cease to be a source of revenue for us, since libraries will now subscribe to all journals through AnthroSource. We want to look for ways to keep and increase institutional subscriptions, and this is something we would like to discuss with AAA staff and with the relevant AAA officers.

Acknowledgements
I want to thank the past and current members of our Board for their trust in me and for all the hard work of the last couple of months. Thanks also to AAA staff, who have been very helpful during this transition. At SLAA we are looking ahead as we organize ourselves to re-launch our society and journal, organize elections and get ready to enter the new phase of the AAA marked by the association’s greater advocacy involvement and the consolidation of AAA journals in a single electronic database, AnthroSource.

Society for Latin American Anthropology
Treasurer’s Annual Report
2004
Prepared and Submitted by Ramona L. Pérez, Treasurer
December 2004
The SLAA has had a stable year in terms of membership, income and expenses. We are currently at 755 members of which 234 are students and 43 are international members. In comparison to 2003, we have had a slight decline in student memberships and a growth in regular members. Unfortunately, we no longer receive data on the number of separate subscribers to the JLAA and so are unable to predict budgetary data based on this source of income. It is our intent to request this data be made available as it is crucial to the question of future finances, an issue outlined below.

While this data is being prepared and submitted before final accounting for the year is available, I anticipate that we will have fewer expenses than normal due to the cancellation of the Annual Meeting. We were budgeted to spend $4350.00 in travel and meeting costs that will not be spent. This money will roll over into the 2005 annual budget. We originally projected an income of $23,535.00 and expenses of $20,991.00, leaving us with reserves of $2544.00. We are slightly under budget in both areas and anticipate an increased reserve of approximately $6800.00. As outlined in the Annual Report from Jean Rahier, Editor of the Journal of Latin American Anthropology, we are gearing up for the transition from independent journal production to the UC Press. This is an extremely expensive move and one that will not only drain all of our existing reserves but challenges us to locate new sources of revenue. Our current surplus of approximately $25,000.00 will be consumed by this new arrangement in 2005. We have not received projected figures for production costs and are currently unable to determine our future costs. We have been advised that we will need to substantially increase our membership fees or look to other resources in order to maintain the Society and the Journal. If in fact our expenses will double due to the movement of the Journal, then we must either double our membership or look for many more revenue sources.

We currently have three sources of income: membership fees ($20,000.00 +/-), independent journal subscription fees ($3400.00 +/-), and royalty income donated by the Whitefords that is used as travel grants ($1300.00 +/-). Small sums are received from the sale of our mailing list, purchases of back issues of the JLAA, and occasionally, royalty permission fees. Our current fee structure is:

- Member $35.00
- Student $20.00
- International $20.00

Of the sections offering journals as part of their membership, we are
in the mid range with fees ranging from $25.00 (Museum Anthropology) to $68.00 (Medical Anthropology Quarterly). In terms of student and international members, however, we are on the high end. A $5.00 increase in general membership would produce an annual revenue increase of $2250.00, while a $5.00 increase across the membership spectrum would produce $3750.00 in additional revenue. In 2003 we had approximately 130 library subscribers to the journal, data for 2004 in unavailable but has been requested. A library subscription increase is inevitable and is being determined by UC Press. It is unknown at this point how this increase in subscription fees will affect our revenue to expenses. However, if we increase our membership fees across the spectrum then we would still need to raise approximately $20,000.00 in additional fees. I hardly see this coming from an increase in library subscription costs (based on existing known numbers this would mean a minimum increase of $154.00 per library subscription). As Jean noted in the JLAA annual report, advertisers' fees should be an additional source of income but it does not appear to be one that we can anticipate in the immediate future.

In terms of other expenses, the Society has very few obligations aside from those of the Journal that have already been outlined in Jean's report. Non-Journal operating expenses include:

Joint Reception with ALLA $1000.00
Travel Grants (speakers) $2000.00*
Travel for International Board $2000.00*
Travel & Promotion for JLAA $2500.00**
Executive Board Luncheon $ 200.00
Miscellaneous Postage & Telephone $ 200.00
Storage $ 50.00

There are very few areas where we could cut costs without jeopardizing our international participation. It is extremely important that we help offset the costs of travel for our international guest speakers in the Conversations Across the Americas session, our international board members, and graduate student representatives.

It is recommended that we work more directly with the Controller of the AAA to determine our actual costs of journal production so that we may make more informed decisions as to our future. Our current reserves should be sufficient to cover the additional costs associated with the changes in the production of the Journal for 2005; however, additional sources of revenue must be located and implemented during 2005 to cover these increased expenses in 2006 and beyond.
Respectfully submitted,

Ramona L. Pérez, Ph.D.
Treasurer, Society for Latin American Anthropology

*Travel grants are calculated at 75% of the airline cost and do not include any per diem or hotel expenses.

**Travel costs are associated with participation by the JLAA editor at conferences in Latin America including LASA, the Caribbean scholars' conferences, etc., and are intended to promote the Journal. The budget includes promotional materials such as flyers, postcards, submission data, etc.