1. Status, Activities, and Accomplishments

- **Membership Numbers** have remained relatively stable during the year with a high of 536 members in October, 2007. This number represents a 3.27% increase over October, 2006. Of these members, 314 are regular members and 222 are student members. Nearly 30% of the membership is unique to BAS-these members do not belong to any other AAA sections. Approximately, 23% of BAS members also belong to the EAS and 13% belong to GAD.

- **Financial Balances** for 2007 were reported by Dr. Douglas Crews, BAS Secretary-Treasurer. As of October 31, 2007 net assets for the General Fund were $21,877 (2006, $20,177) and the W.W. Howells Endowment was $23,244. (2006, $23,192). We are faced with a situation of deficit spending and the executive committee voted to increase dues. This increase was voted on by a quorum of members at the Section meeting. The new dues structure will retain the $5 fee for student members and increase regular membership to $20.

A continuing concern remains the amount of the endowment for the W.W. Howells award. This is the fifteenth year of the award and it was suggested by Karen Strier, Chair of the award committee that we engage in a campaign to increase the endowment by asking BAS members to contribute $15 to the fund in honor of this anniversary.

Food for the Executive Committee lunch, Student Reception and evening Reception with bar service continue to represent our major expenditure for the year. These costs continue to escalate. Reimbursement for Executive Committee Members attendance at the annual meeting was retained at a maximum of $300.

**AAA Meeting Highlights**

a. 2007 **W.W. Howells Book Prize** was awarded to Dr. Nina Jablonski (Penn State University) for *Skin: A Natural History*

b. 2007 **Distinguished Lecture** was presented by Dr. A.T. Steegmann, Jr. The title of the lecture was Survival in the Twilight of the Gods: Anthropology and the New Age of Disorder

c. 2007 **Student Prize** was presented to Bethany Turner of Emory University. Her paper was entitled: Life Histories, population dynamics and status at Machu Picchu, Peru.
d. Dr. David Himmelgreen, **Program Chair**, assisted in organizing the BAS sponsored and co-sponsored session. We thank the session organizers and participants:

- ‘Say what you mean and mean what you say’: Paleoanthropologists honor their mentor
- Challenges and trade-offs in human pregnancy
- Biological anthropology takes on the world: A glimpse into current topics and trends
- The application of biological anthropology: addressing social and health inequalities in an increasingly complex world
- Constructivist evolutionary anthropology: Beyond nature vs. nurture

e. The **Reception** followed the distinguished lecture. We were asked by the AAA to move the date of our reception and lecture from Thursday to Friday to accommodate Alan Goodman’s presidential address. We had less people this year than last, perhaps due to the date change.

f. The **BAS website** remains operational. Dr. Jim Bindon is looking for a replacement Webmaster.

g. We sent several messages to members via the **listserv** that AAA maintains. This seems a very good and useful way to inform members of upcoming events.

h. Dr. Virginia Vitzthum continues to edit the **AN BAS columns**.

i. Dr. Karen Strier who has chaired the **W.W. Howells Book prize** committee will be stepping down after this year. Dr. Sarah Stinson has agreed to replace her.

### 2. Important action points

A. **Amended by-laws** by voice vote at the annual meeting

1. The position of secretary/treasurer will now be a three-year position

2. We have designated a position of Past President for one year following the two years of service as President. The Past President will also be entitled to a $300 reimbursement for attending the annual meeting.

3. We will retain annual dues of $5 for student members and increase dues to $20 for regular members. We will continue to
monitor membership to see if this affects overall numbers of members

B. We welcome Dr. Nina Jablonski to the executive committee of the BAS. We also welcome Dr. Debra Martin as Program Chair elect. Dr. Martin will take over coordinating the BAS program and symposia next year.

3. Future plans or activities

- In this year’s election we will have candidates for positions of President-Elect, Member-at-Large and Student Member
- BAS members were also nominated to run for AAA wide offices
- We will continue to maintain communication with our members via the listserv.
- We will encourage our members to present papers and sessions at the AAA annual meeting

4. Future concerns

Our major concern is membership and our ability to offer our members enough programming to encourage them to attend the meetings. We will work with the AAA program committee to ensure that our programs are spaced evenly during the meetings... We feel we would also benefit from additional sponsored or co-sponsored sessions that could attract members.

With thanks to the Executive committee (Drs. Dufour, Bindon, Crews, Weinstein, Kuzawa, Himmelgreen, Vitzthum, Strier, Thompson, Martin, Jablonski, Lieberman).
Respectfully submitted,
Trudy R. Turner, BAS Chair