National Association of Student Anthropologists
2008 Annual Report
Prepared by Jason E. Miller, 2007-08 NASA President

NASA experienced a strong year of development as we focused on our core offerings as a section and expanded opportunities for students at the annual meeting.

Membership and Finances:
According to the September 2008 figures, NASA membership currently stands at 661 compared to 753 in 2007. This number is within the general trends of membership numbers for the section, however, NASA continues to strive to reach out to more students as one of its goals in 2009. As of November 2008, NASA’s net assets stand at $8,935, slightly less than the same time last year. However, this does not include funds that NASA raised through offering workshops at the annual meeting which will raise the year end budget slightly over the same time last year. NASA's primary expenditures continue to be travel and award monies, including the Carrie Hunter Tate Awards and the Travel Awards, used largely to offset the cost of annual meeting attendance for members. NASA, in accordance with our bylaws, offers travel monies to all incoming and outgoing officers who: a) attend the annual meeting, and b) certify that their trip hasn't been provided via another source of travel monies (i.e. university grants, other travel awards, etc.). In 2008 NASA modified its dues structure to a flat rate of $5.00 in order to enhance program offerings and relieve budget tensions. Additionally, NASA was very successful at raising funds through offering workshops at the annual meeting. NASA plans to expand offerings in this area in 2009.

AAA Meeting Activities
NASA enjoyed a particularly active year with strong representation at the 107th meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Once again, NASA was able to find a “home” on the program for all of the student submission—something we have been able to do for some years now. The NASA Program Chair was Marcy Hessling.

Sessions
The NASA Program Co-Chairs and Committee organized one of the largest and most diverse slates of activities for the AAA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA. NASA sponsored or co-sponsored six sessions at the annual meeting including three invited paper, one invited poster and two roundtable sessions. Session topics included teaching with technology, Environmental Anthropology, Graduate Student Collaboration, youth, health, tourism and the understanding of self among others. In particular, over 60 conference attendees attended the teaching panel.

Workshops
Marcy Hessling was once again the principle organizer for the eighth annual NASA/AAA Mentor Workshop, which continues to be a successful way of pairing students with faculty from a variety of fields. Over 50 students registered for the workshop, which was facilitated by eight mentors. The workshop was free this year, a change that was instituted in 2007.

In addition, for the first time NASA offered a both a publishing and a CV workshop led by well established anthropologists, charging $10 for NASA members and $20 for non-members. Both
workshops were extremely well attended (over 30 each). NASA plans to expand these offerings in the future.

Other Activities
NASA offered the annual “Student Orientation to the AAAs” which was attended by approximately 30 students. The orientation offered an interactive presentation about the history of the AAA and NASA, the structure of the annual meeting and tips for making the most of the meeting (i.e. tips for talking with senior anthropologists, tips for getting around DC and tips for submitting papers for next year’s meeting). The orientation was created and given by NASA President Jason Miller and Graduate Representative John Trainor.

NASA published the second “Student Guide to the AAAs” a print document which featured information of interest to students including maps of the local SF area and tips from local students as to low-cost things to do while in SF. The Guide also included student related program content such as a summary of student focused session that were not sponsored by NASA and those that were. 100 brochures were printed and all were distributed. The guide was produced by NASA President Jason Miller. NASA intends to continue creating and publishing guides to upcoming AAA meetings, and has discussed posting the document on the AAA website with Richard Thomas and Bill Davis.

Finally, NASA hosted a student party that was attended by about twenty students. The party began at the host hotel and moved to a local eatery at the conclusion to continue conversation and networking.

Awards
This year NASA awarded its $100 Travel Awards to Eric Cunningham (Hawaii), Krissy Hudgins (USC) and Rocio Petersen (Oregon). NASA also awarded the Carrie Hunter-Tate award to Bianca Gandolfo (Diablo Valley College) and Kristin Klingaman (Durham).

Communications and Outreach Efforts
NASA continues to struggle with communication and transition between officers. Due to the sometimes transitory nature of students, it is sometimes difficult to ensure that officers fulfill their commitments to the organization. NASA spent a great amount of effort improving communication and striving to meet deadlines. I believe we were very successful in our efforts with much greater accuracy and follow through than in previous years.

Anthropology News
In addition to the above information, NASA offers a monthly column in Anthropology News edited in 2008 by Jenny Chio. The column contains information of interest to student anthropologists as well as information about NASA, its calls for papers, awards and other programs. The column serves as a major source of recruitment and communication with members.

NASA Opportunities List
NASA also operates a listserv with over 1,000 members. This listserv is utilized to post information of interest to student anthropologists as well as to communicate with members.
NASA has been in discussion over the last several years with the AAA about combining forces and having one student listserv that would reach all students thus superseding the need for the NASA Opportunities List. These conversations are ongoing, but hopefully a decision will be made within the 2008-2009 year as to the future of this list.

**NASA Website and NASA e-Journal**
For many years NASA has also operated a website with information important to our membership. The website is maintained by our web development committee, chaired by Mel Marsh. This site contains contact information for our officers as well as information on joining NASA, NASA activities and NASA calls for participation in various capacities. Additionally, NASA is in the process of launching a peer-reviewed e-Journal as part of our website. The first issue of the journal will launch in 2009.

**Future Activities**
1. Increase membership to more accurately reflect the number of students within AAA
2. Create an online NASA E-journal/newsletter as a forum for student research and work
3. Continue to evaluate our mission and goals.
4. Work to achieve financial sustainability while maintaining NASA’s high membership value / Offer expanded membership participation/benefits
5. More effective officer transition
6. Continued emphasis on communicating opportunities to members,
7. Institutionalization of the Student Representative Forum within the AAA and effective communication of student perspectives on current issues of AAA leadership.

**2007-2008 NASA Officers**
- **President** Jason E. Miller
- **President-elect** Marcy Hessling
- **Secretary-Treasure** Melinda Bernardo
- **AN Editor** Jenny Chio
- **e-Journal Editor** Marc Hebert
- **Webmaster** Mel Marsh
- **Undergraduate Reps** Madeline Kerins
  - *unfilled*
- **Graduate Reps** Sandhya Ganapathy
  - John Trainor