ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ANTHROPOLOGISTS (ABA)
2009 Annual Report Submitted by Kimberly Eison Simmons, President

STATUS, ACTIVITIES, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Overview
The ABA Executive Board includes: Kimberly Eison Simmons, President; Raymond Codrington, President-Elect; Dana-Ain Davis, Past President and At-Large Member; Kevin Foster, Past President and At-Large Member; Willie McKether, Secretary/Treasurer; Marla Frederick, Program Chair; Micah Gilmer and Karen Williams Student Representatives; Elizabeth Chin, General Editor; John Jackson and Deborah Thomas, Co-Editors, Transforming Anthropology; Shaka McGlotten, ABA column editor, Anthropology News. This was the composition of the executive board at the time of the AAA meetings. We will have new student representatives, General Editor (listserv and website), ABA column co-editors in Anthropology News, and co-editors of Transforming Anthropology in 2010.

During 2009 ABA had several projects:
* ABA Legacy Scholar Awards (new award), chaired by Janis Hutchinson
* The Vera Green Award, chaired by Aimee Cox
* Continued fundraising for The Gwaltney Fund
* The Works-in-Progress Mentoring Project, organized by Riche’ Barnes and Kevin Foster

Membership and Dues
At the end of November, ABA had a total of 298 members (186 regular and 112 student). We have been discussing ways to increase membership with Riche’ Barnes (Membership Chair). The ABA dues rate for regular members is $40.00. The student membership rate is $10.00.

Communication with Members (Listserv and Website)
We experienced some communications difficulties shortly after the 2008 annual meetings when the ABA listserv was migrated to the AAA server. Some ABA members were inadvertently removed and non-members were added. Elizabeth Chin, ABA General Editor, tried to resolve the issue over the course of the year. Collectively, we tried to reach members to have them re-subscribe to the listserv, but we still had difficulties with other section members being added (and wanting to be removed). During the 2009 business meeting, we circulated a sign-up sheet and recreated the listserv after the meeting. While we were able to resolve this issue in January of 2010, we went through much of 2009 with a partial list that hampered communications and had an impact on planning and organizing sessions. In early 2009, the Executive Board responded to this situation with the listserv by creating an ABA Facebook page for members and friends of ABA.

Another issue we addressed at the meeting in 2009 was the website. Like the listserv, it was to be migrated to the AAA server, and the website needed to be updated. Much of
this work was done shortly after the meetings. Marilyn Thomas-Houston managed the website, and we worked with her to transfer files to the AAA server. Raymond Codrington, President-Elect, and Lisa Myers at AAA worked to migrate the website and update the content (http://www.aaanet.org/sections/aba/htdocs/index.html).

**Finances**
At the beginning of the year, we had $36,169.82, and by the end of November, our net assets were $52,316.66 in large part because of the revenues generated by *Transforming Anthropology*.

**Elections**
We did not have any elections in 2009.

**AAA Annual Meetings**
ABA sponsored the following sessions and events meetings in Philadelphia:

* A Discipline of Cowards? Race, Racism, and Anthropology (Roundtable)
* African American Islam and the Primacy of Identity
* Negotiating Racial Identity in Africa and the US
* From Identity to Mobilization: Changes in the Afro-Caribbean Diaspora
* The End of Blackness?: Notes from the Field on U.S. Racial Politics
* ABA Legacy Scholar Award Ceremony, Reception and Cash Bar
* Alternative Freedoms: Vantages from Historical Archaeology
* Mapping Hybridity
* The Ends of Authority? Allies, Competitors, Natives, and Aliens in Community and Academic Collaboration
* Autoethnography, Ethics, and Context: Reflections on Methods, Writing and Disciplinary Boundaries in an Age of Post-Racial Rhetoric
* ABA Works-in-Progress Mentoring Session (The Works-In-Progress mentoring session paired Ph.D. students with “seasoned” ABA mentors to meet and discuss their respective projects).

Our business meeting was held on Friday, December 4, 2009, from 12:15 – 1:30. Here is a copy of the agenda:
ABA General Business Meeting  
Friday, December 4, 2009  
12:15-1:30 p.m.  
Philadelphia, PA

Agenda

1. Welcome  
   Kimberly Eison Simmons

2. Secretary/Treasurer Report  
   Willie McKether

3. *Transforming Anthropology*  
   Deborah Thomas and John Jackson

4. Program Chair Report  
   Marla Frederick

5. ABA Listserv and Website  
   Elizabeth Chin and Raymond Codrington

6. Award Updates:  
   Vera Green Award  
   Aimee Cox  
   Gwaltney Award and Fund  
   Dana-Ain Davis  
   Legacy Scholar Awards  
   Kimberly Eison Simmons

7. WIP Mentoring Session  
   Riche’ Barnes and Kevin Foster

8. Nominations  
   Dana-Ain Davis

9. Announcements  
   * SANA/ABA Conference  
     Raymond Codrington  
   * *Decolonizing Anthropology*  
     Faye V. Harrison and Kimberly Eison Simmons  
   * 40th Anniversary in 2010  
     Kimberly Eison Simmons  
   * Archives  
     Raymond Codrington

10. Open

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2009 ABA Legacy Scholar Awards  
Janis Hutchinson, Chair  
Recipients: Drs. George Bond, Johnnetta Cole, and Audrey Smedley

Friday, December 4, 2009  
Grand Ballroom Salon II, Courtyard Marriott  
6:15-7:30 Award Ceremony  
7:30-8:30 Reception
The Vera Green Publication Award Committee decided to make the award every two years. The next award will be given in 2011. This award is named after Vera Green, the first president of ABA, and is awarded to a junior scholar whose work links the discipline in a practical application. The recipient’s winning paper is published in *Transforming Anthropology*.

Once again, ABA held its reception in conjunction several sections (SANA, AFA, ALLA, SLACA and SOLGA).

Kimberly Eison Simmons announced that AAA is working to publish *Decolonizing Anthropology* again. Faye V. Harrison is working on updating the new publication, and Simmons is working on the preface. The goal is to have the book available at the AAA meetings in New Orleans to help celebrate the 40th anniversary of ABA.

During the business meeting, additional funds were raised to establish the Gwaltney Fund. This is an unrestricted prize fund that was established as a scholarship fund in 1999 that honors the life and intellectual legacy of John L. Gwaltney, author of *Drylongso*, who died on August 29th, 1998. The original stipulation was for ABA to raise enough money to create a $10,000 endowment. During 2007 a fundraising campaign brought the total up to $5,881.62. In 2008, we held another Gwaltney Fund Campaign at the annual meeting and were close to having the amount necessary to begin disbursing funds. In December of 2008, we had raised $9,472.00. We raised additional funds at the 2009 business meeting bringing the total to more than $10,000.00 (enough to create the endowment).

This scholarship is for research and/or writing that reflects the theoretical and methodological legacy of native anthropology as demonstrated in Gwaltney’s work and will be awarded to assist young scholars (defined as ABD or those who have not held the position of Assistant Professor for more than two years) who are current ABA members at the time of application. The prize will ranges between $500 and $1,500 per year.

We established a new award, The ABA Legacy Scholar Award, to honor senior ABA members. We had an award ceremony, reception, and cash bar. This year’s recipients were George Bond, Johnnetta Cole, and Audrey Smedley. Janis Hutchinson chaired the event. Here is a copy of the program:
The Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA)  
2009 Legacy Scholar Awards Program  
Friday, December 4, 2009, 6:15 p.m.  
AAA Annual Meetings, Philadelphia, PA

Procession of ABA Legacy Scholar Award Recipients by Voices of Africa:  
Dr. George Bond  
Dr. Johnnetta Cole  
Dr. Audrey Smedley

Welcome – Kimberly Eison Simmons, ABA President

The Occasion – Janis Hutchinson, Chair of the ABA Legacy Scholar Awards Committee

The Recipients: A Retrospective  
George Bond presented by Roger Sanjek  
Johnnetta Cole presented by Riche’ Barnes  
Audrey Smedley presented by Shomarka Keita

Performance by Voices of Africa, Nana Akosua Baakan Agyiriwah, Managing Director

Cash bar reception (7:30-8:30 p.m.)
Transforming Anthropology (TA)

Our journal, Transforming Anthropology, is available through AnthroSource. Deborah Thomas and John Jackson are co-editors of TA. The journal has several articles in the pipeline and has done extremely well. Deborah and John have done an excellent job as co-editors seeking submissions, working with authors and reviewers, and representing TA/ABA. Plans are underway to name new co-editors of the journal for 2010.

FUTURE PLANS

ABA plans to do the following in 2010:

- Increase membership
- Publish a new edition of Decolonizing Anthropology
- Update the ABA website (after the migration to AAA server)
- Reestablish the ABA listserv
- Co-sponsor a spring conference with SANA (April in Denver)
- Plan special events for the 40th anniversary of ABA in New Orleans (AAA Annual Meetings)

OTHER ITEMS