I. Section Officers

Position: President
Name: M. Diane Hardgrave
Email: mdhardgrave@smu.edu

Position: Past President
Name: Stephen D. Glazier
Email: SGlaz1234@aol.com

Position: Secretary/Treasurer
Name: Amy Smith
Email: anthroamy@sbcglobal.net

Position: Board Member
Name: John Baker
Email: JohnBaker@vcccd.net

Position: Managing Editor, Journal
Name: Hillary Webb
Email: hillaryswebb@comcast.net

Position: Board Member
Name: John McGraw
Email: jmcgraw@ucsd.edu

Position: Board Member
Name: Edith Turner
Email: elt9w@cms.mail.virginia.edu

Position: Board Member
Name: Claudia Weiner
Email: jimsonweek54@yahoo.com

II. Status, Activities and Accomplishments this year

1) Provide the most recent membership numbers and list any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership:

Number of Members: 301

Factors affecting Membership:

The November 30, 2011 report from the AAA stated that SAC had a total membership of 301
consisting of 88 professional members, 144 student members, 20 associate members, 24 retired members and 24 international members and 1 lifetime member. Student membership continues to increase with a minor reduction in professional members. This trend has persisted over the past several years in addition to a marked increase in overall membership in the spring and a drop in membership in November. Membership outreach associated with our Spring conference in addition to membership renewal cycles appear to be factors but this has yet to be substantiated. A sub-committee of SAC Board members has been established to compare AAA and sub-section membership trends with those of SAC in an effort to understand membership fluctuations and ultimately elucidate strategies of increasing membership.

2) * Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets, if applicable). Also list any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances:

**Financial Balance:** 39,314

**Publications: (if applicable)**

Our journal, Anthropology of Consciousness (AoC), continues to be published on schedule with virtually all past issues available through AnthroSource. A steady stream of submissions to the journal was maintained largely due to the online submission process. Managing Editor, Hillary Webb and Assistant Editor Tanya Collins developed guidelines for future guest editors to preserve the continuity and quality of the journal.

SAC considered the possibility of making AoC an exclusively online journal and conducted an in house survey of members regarding their preference. It is clear that the membership prefer a hard copy of the journal. Given our focus on increasing membership, the current journal format will remain.

**Factors affecting Finances:**

According to the Statement of Net Assets through November 30, 2011, the fund balance for SAC is currently $39,314. The SAC Executive Board passed a budget for 2012, which included total revenues of $10,295, and expenditures of $11,277. The difference ($982) is to be taken from the SAC fund balance. The increase in expenditures represents initiatives passed by the Board in support of SAC’s governance and lower membership costs.

Specifically, travel reimbursement for the President to attend the SAC Spring conference and AAA Fall meetings; travel reimbursement for the Managing Editor to attend AAA Fall meeting, and travel reimbursement for the Secretary/Treasurer to attend SAC Spring meeting. The Board agreed to the reduction of Regular membership dues from $30-$25. Additional Board approved initiatives included an expansion of advertising; a raise for Assistant Editor; and a shift to a more conservative estimation that the SAC will break even on Spring conference expenditures.

3) * List the titles of your Section's AAA meeting invited sessions, co-sponsored sessions, and any special events your Section sponsored or in which it participated. Check with your program chairs if needed: When providing session information please note if these are invited, volunteered or co-sponsored.
Session Type: Invited  
Session: Wednesday, 11/16: Shifting Consciousness: Towards A 2012 Paradigm

Session Type: Invited  
Session: Thursday 11/17: The Confluence Of Virtual And Real: Tidemarks Of Change In The Evolution Of Social Life

Session Type: Invited  
Session: Friday 11/18: SAC Invited Session: Landscape, Politics Of Representation And The Sacred: Traces, Tidemarks And Transformation In Literate And Oral Spaces

Session Type: Invited  
Session: Saturday 11/19: Anthropology Making A Mark: Examples Of Public Outreach, And Security, Surveillance, And The Olympics

Other Events:

The SAC 2011 Distinguished Lecture was presented on November 18, 2011 by Daniel E. Moerman who spoke on the topic of Placebos.

Bonnie Glass-Coffin was awarded the SAC Distinguished Article Award by membership vote for her publication, "Shamanism and San Pedro through Time: Some Notes on the Archaeology, History, and Continued Use of an Entheogen in Northern Peru."

4) * Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?  

Requested Grant: No

If granted, who/what was it/they used for? (if applicable)

5) List spring meeting activities (if applicable):

The 31st SAC Annual Spring Meeting “Teaching Consciousness” was held from March 23rd to March 27th at the McMenamins Edgefield resort in Portland, Oregon. In keeping with SAC’s long-standing tradition, formal papers were presented during the day and a variety of workshops and experiential events took place during the evening.

6) List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section, if applicable (please provide the title of the award, date presented, and full name, affiliation, and title of the project/paper/accomplishment of the awardees):

Award Title: Distinguished Article Award  
Date: 2011-11-18 00:00:00.0  
Recipient: Bonnie Glass-Coffin
Affiliation: Utah State University
Project/Paper/etc: Shamanism and San Pedro through Time: Some Notes on the Archaeology, History, and Continued Use of a

7) * Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following (e.g., special activities, funding, awards, guidance/advising on professional matters, etc.):

Undergraduate and/or graduate students

SAC continues to value and support the efforts of students who express an interest in Anthropology and specifically anthropological approaches to consciousness. SAC actively encourages students to serve on the Board in addition to submitting papers for presentation. Our success in this area is supported by the high and increasing number of student members.

Early career scholars:

As with undergraduate and graduate students SAC conferences remain a venue for yough scholars to refine their presentation skills and 'test the waters' for a new project, line of research or creative idea they are developing. Guidance and support of this nature is generally informal however many of our current Board members are former student members who have remained with SAC and increased their involvement.

Independent scholars:

SAC remains open to and actively supports the work of independent scholars.

8) Additional outreach efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to other sections, interest groups, and scholarly societies, government agencies, public education/community engagement, and underrepresented minorities:

SAC sought to improve its communication with its members this year. A major advance was the development of an e-newsletter to send members and others who have opted for updates on SAC events. In the fall, in accordance with past years, SAC mailed hard copy material to members, including information on SAC’s sessions at AAA, the 2012 SAC conference, and voting materials for the Anthropology of Consciousness 2011 distinguished article award.

9) Status and use of Section internal communications such as a website, list serve, or newsletter (if applicable): Please list internal communication tools you use and what they are used for:

SAC continues to maintain and upgrade its web site. The web site is also used to post registration and proposal forms for the annual spring meeting. Preliminary programs as well as reminders for AAA and Annual Spring meeting deadlines are also posted. During the past year discussions have considered ways to expand the utility of the website. David Xanatos continues his service as the SAC Webmaster.

In addition to formal mailings, SAC continues to generate membership communication and networking though the informal use of its Facebook page and newly established Twitter account. It is hoped that social networking in this fashion will produce additional interest in
SAC and generate additional membership.

10) Changes in bylaws or governance structure (if applicable):

An off-cycle election was held in the late summer. Four Members-at-Large were elected to the SAC Executive Board for 2011-2013: Mark Flanagan, Bethe Hagens, Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, and Nicole Torres by membership vote. It should be noted that for the first time in many years, the 2011 election had more people running for the positions than spots to fill: 5 nominees for 4 positions.

Hillary Webb indicated early in 2011 that her tenure as Managing Editor will end in 2012. Both Hillary and the Board established a set of requirements for the position and a widely distributed Call of Editor was sent out. Assistant editor Tanya Collins agreed to remain in her position through the transition to the next Managing Editor. In October of 2011 the SAC Board approved the installment of Rebecca Lester and Peter Benson as the new Managing Co-Editors beginning August 2012.

III. What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: Membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?

Spring 2012 Meeting

The 32nd SAC Annual Conference will be held in Boulder, Colorado on February 9-12, 2012. The conference for the upcoming conference is Plants and Consciousness. To date, the Call for Papers on Plants and Consciousness has generated a larger than usual response and holds promise for an unprecedented number of attendees.

IV. Please tell us what your chief concerns and issues are, especially if they are not previously noted:

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the Section Assembly Executive Committee (SAEC)? Please be specific.

As a small sub-section with a peer-reviewed journal, we are always concerned with membership levels and the ramifications of those levels. Several years ago recommendations were made regarding the establishment of an Affiliate Member status allowing non-AAA members to join a sub-section and participate in section annual meetings and other limited membership benefits. This appears to be an option that holds potential for drawing interest and potentially membership in AAA via sub-sections.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board? Please be specific.

The exploration of alternative membership options is recommended as indicated previously. SAC has a history of attracting scholars across several disciplines. It would seem viable to capitalize on this feature. The extent to which individual section membership options are available to such scholars may very well prove to be the extent to which they consider becoming a full member of AAA.
What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff? Please be specific.

Apart from appreciating the work and support of our Section Liason, Member Services and other AAA staff, no recommendations are made at this time.