PRESIDENT’S LETTER

By Linda Whiteford [lindaw@chuma1.cas.usf.edu]
University of South Florida

Good news! The SfAA Board of Directors has committed to developing a long-term financial plan for the Society. While one of the operant ideas in the preceding sentence is the word “developing,” another important concept is the commitment the Board has expressed in this endeavor. With the support of the Society’s Business Office, we will begin to develop a plan to protect the Society from over dependence on traditional revenue streams by diversifying our income generation mechanisms.

In the past, the Society has been dependent on monies generated primarily by the annual meeting, membership subscriptions, library journal subscriptions, and investments. Each of those revenues streams will continue to be significant to the ability of the Society to underwrite low subscription rates for students, the Society’s various awards, and the management service provided by the Business Office. However, with the help of the Board and the membership, we hope to position the Society to be competitive in fund-raising with large donations and other funding sources.

We are just beginning this initiative. During the Board meeting of the Society in November we will further discuss the idea and move toward a Board Retreat in March 2004 dedicated to this issue. We would certainly welcome any ideas or advice from the membership, particularly those of you who have some experience in this arena. The success of any of our endeavors depends on the support and insight from the membership. So, please let us hear from you if you can help.

Equally exciting are the preparations for the Annual Meetings (March 29-April 4). Ann Jordan from the University of North Texas is the Program Chair, and the theme for the meeting is one of particular significance for applied and practicing anthropologists: “Social Science and Advocacy”. The meeting hotel is the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas and we expect “ya’ll” to be there! There will even be a dance on Friday night.

IN THIS ISSUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SfAA President’s Letter</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invisibility</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The NEWSLETTER Debate on “Capital”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty and IQ</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minding Your Business</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPO News</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian Committee Seeks Reinstatement</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report From the HO Editor</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report From the PA Editors</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the Desk of Will Sibley</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News From the Publications Committee</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Committee Report</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAPA Highlights</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SfAA Membership Committee</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Consortium for Practicing & Applied
  Anthropology Programs (COPAA)              | 11   |
| Public Policy TIG                          | 11   |
| The International Committee: 2004 Meetings | 12   |
| Call for Nominations 2004 Margaret Mead
  Award                                      | 12   |
| Message From the SfAA Secretary            | 13   |
| Announcements                              | 13   |
| From the Editor                            | 13   |
| HO Editor Search                           | 14   |
Avoid the rush and buy your dance tickets now. They are available online from the SfAA Website <www.sfaa.net>. As they used to say in Texas and Chicago about voting: do it early and do it often. See you there.

INVISIBILITY

By Paul Durrenberger [epd2@psu.edu]
Penn State University

Anthropology often causes us to see what would otherwise be invisible. Certain rituals do the same thing. I was recently involved in one that did. It started me thinking about why some people do such rituals to bring the invisible to attention, and others are content to let the invisible remain well out of sight.

When Suzan Erem and I started writing about hospital workers in Chicago, we described them as invisible workers—the people you never see that keep the hospitals working by changing air filters, cooking food, moving charts and patients around, keeping elevators running and water flowing. It is these workers and many like them that Service Employees International Union (SEIU) District 1199/P represents in Pennsylvania. With a grant from the National Science Foundation, Suzan and I are studying the differences between more centralized and less centralized unions such as 1199/P. When we were invited to attend the annual meeting of workplace leaders of the state, we were glad of the ethnographic opportunity.

The meeting was lively and when a hurricane reached inland to cut the power at the hotel in the middle of the night, we continued without the benefit of electricity. The hotel staff managed to offer a hot breakfast that they'd prepared in the kitchen of another hotel.

There were workshops and speeches and raffles and lots of discussion. Suzan and I talked to people and took notes and urged everyone to complete the surveys we’d included in their packets. We were learning how this union actively encourages its members to be the union. That’s a far cry from allowing them to passively use their union dues to buy insurance against unjust treatment on the job or loss of benefits. It requires them to be visible to their bosses.

We see a powerful statement of class at work in our land and we see how it permeates our culture to make the phenomenon of class as invisible as the workers who make our system work. In making workers invisible, we make class invisible.

In the past I have sat in on negotiating sessions and seen invisible workers negotiating against what seemed to me to be impossible odds for their next contract. I have heard them discussing with each other the possibilities of a strike and whether they had enough fuel and food laid in at their houses to weather it. All were white women. When one said to the group, “...but what do I know, I’m only a kitchen worker,” the others chimed in and said, “Without us, this place couldn’t function. Without us to clean and cook....”

One evening at the annual meeting, I sat with a group of African American workers. When a white waiter brought us our supper, one woman said, almost embarrassed, “I’m not used to being waited on.” The waiter smiled and said, “Relax and enjoy it.” Good waiters and waitresses are invisible. They don’t say, “Hi I’m Mike, I’ll be your wait-staff-person this evening...” and interrupt you every ten minutes to “see if everything is all right.” They just keep your glass and your breadbasket full and come if you signal that you need something.

On the last evening, everyone was gathered in a large ballroom for the final dinner. I sat with the workers from the negotiating team of the hospital. After supper, the second officer of the union, whose long service and elevation to a new role in the labor movement was being celebrated, announced that people would pass through the diners to collect money for a tip for the hotel workers.

In a few minutes, she called for the hotel workers to come up front and line up. He then presented them with more than $900 to standing applause. Everyone knew these weren’t even union workers. It didn’t matter. Tears were streaming down the faces of some of the hotel workers. They had moved from being invisible workers to being the center of attention for a brief moment. Everyone they had served recognized their work and their value as workers.

That can be a moving experience.

Later, Suzan pointed out that such a gesture, while not always so dramatic, is common at union meetings. This raises the question of why it is so uncommon in other venues. I’ve never seen academics do such a thing. People may leave tips at the tables, or take up a tip from the table. But to bring the staff workers up to the front of the hall, to present them with the
collection, to recognize them, for everyone to stand up and clap? That I had not seen.

I wondered why. One answer is that invisible workers understand the phenomenon of invisibility and the power of being made visible if only for a brief moment of recognition that your work counts and that someone has seen it and appreciates it. That’s a powerful statement.

Why we don’t see such ritual statements more often? One answer is that, except for other invisible workers, the people who eat in hotels or banquets do not think about making invisible workers visible. In a ritual that so infrequently happens, or in its lack, we see a powerful statement of class at work in our land and we see how it permeates our culture to make the phenomenon of class as invisible as the workers who make our system work. In making workers invisible, we make class invisible. At least some unions don’t do that.

THE NEWSLETTER DEBATE ON “CAPITAL”

By A. Hamilton Mencher
Resource Optimization Consultant
Lima, Peru

In petroleum exploration one ends up with a dry hole, non-commercial “shows,” or commercial production. Further drilling to define the extent of the deposit provides engineers with estimates of proven reserves, probable reserves, and possible reserves.

But no one I know calls petroleum “Natural Capital” or a “Non Renewable Natural Capital.” The term used is “Natural Resource,” just as on page 7 a reference is made to a publication called “Cultural Resources Management.”

I suggest that the use of the term “capital” is part of a long standing attempt to ride on Karl Marx’ semantic coattails, rather than use a more embracing, yet flexible word like “resource.” Unlike the word “capital,” “resources” has no commercial or monetary connotations.

In the last Newsletter M. Singer (p.3) argues that “social capital” is akin to “politicking,” using one’s abilities, gifts, or relationships (easily recognized as resources) to pursue personal satisfaction of some kind.

Petroleum provides monetary resources for medical research, sponsoring terrorist groups, or altering the environment. Similarly, Cultural Practices—custom or social organization—may foster, accelerate, or impede the destruction of an ethnic identity. By calling the practices “capital,” there is a monetary inference or undertone that distorts the anthropological sense.

Gardner (p. 4) in that same issue says “…the concept of social capital makes space for agency in the deterministic framework of classic Marxism.” Does this mean that it will help explain why classic Marxism doesn’t work?

The Marxist use of “capital” and the intellectual debates, casuistry and sophistry surrounding the Communist philosophy should not be imitated by thoughtful social scientists, seeking verifiable knowledge and laws governing repetitive social occurrences.

No matter how graceful, how numerous the entrechats, how perfectly formed the body, how sure the corporal movements, I doubt that a five-foot tall dancer would ever be lead male in the Kirov Ballet Company. How much “social capital” might Gardner suggest be needed for such a male to inveigle his way to the nomination.

The Louisiana truckers that Gardner studied appear to have used their cash flow to create favorable conditions to keep and make customers. Profit margins were obviously affected, but a good time was had by all thanks to investing “social capital” to produce deductible expenses.

The English language is rich enough to find the appropriate words. If not, then a word may be invented like “cybernetics” or “cybernatic,” with ascertainable and understandable roots.

“Capital” has connotations of price, of possession.

History, especially anthropological history, repeatedly demonstrates that whatever has a “price” in the Western capitalist sense, the stronger will wrest it from the weaker or, if it is presumed to be owned by the weak, the latter will be forced to sell in order to survive a little longer as a culture.

This is especially true of land and its loss by hunting-gathering or pastoral cultures to speculators, farmers, or colonizers of the encroaching major culture through the latter’s military or political actions.
POVERTY AND IQ

By Merrill Singer [Anthro8566@aol.com]
Hispanic Health Council

From an applied anthropology perspective, what are the notable highlights of the Year 2002, now passed into history? While there are probably many contenders, one stands out as warranting some close attention: the U.S. Census Bureau found that almost 1.5 million people slipped into poverty during 2002. As a result, there are now over 12 million children in the country living in poverty, a rise from 16.4 to 17% of the nation’s children. Overall, about 35 million people in the U.S. live below the poverty line (set at about $18,000 for a family of four). These figures are noteworthy for various reasons, not the least of which is the physical suffering and emotional hardship that accompany low income. But also of importance is the increasingly clear relationship between poverty and IQ, a topic long of concern to educational anthropology and, dating to Boas, to the wider discipline as well.

IQ, of course, is a controversial topic, for several reasons. Of importance here is that, as argued in the 1994 book The Bell Curve by Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murray, and as supported by various studies of variable quality before and since, IQ is believed by many to be controlled in no small measure by the genes. This alleged determinism has been used to argue that there are smarter, dumb and dumber races of humans occupying the planet. Moreover, Herrnstein and Murray argued that cognitive ability has become a more important determinant of social status than social class of origin, adding to a long history of American social science writings that downplay the importance of class in the organization of society.

One is reminded of now (almost) extinct social scientific ideas about women. Gustave Le Bon, a student of Paul Broca’s, for example, asserted in a 19th century treatise that: “All psychologists who have studied the intelligence of women, as well as poets and novelists, recognize today that they represent the most inferior form of human evolution and that they are closer to children and savages than to an adult civilized man. They excel in fickleness, inconsistency, absence of thought and logic, and incapacity to reason.” In passing it bears noting, perhaps, that 19th century prejudicial thinking about gender and race so often lumped together the two groups, white women and African American men, that gentele society was so angrily determined to keep apart.

Newer research on the relationship between poverty and IQ should (but probably won’t) help to put an end to some of the often deadly pseudo-scientific pronouncements that have been used to justify social inequality. Exemplary of this newer work is Eric Turkheimer’s (University of Virginia) study of class differences in the role of genes in IQ. Turkheimer study of IQ scores shows that while genetics may account for differences in the IQ of people from the middle or upper class, among those living in poverty, especially among African Americans living in poverty, social class overwhelms genetics as a determinant of IQ. Without even broaching the issue of how accurate IQ scores are as measures of innate intelligence across ethnic and other social divides, it is evident that poverty robs children of their ability to achieve and to succeed.

 Needless to say, such findings poke serious holes in the arguments of who have used the The Bell Curve to attack the utility of programs like Head Start. Again one is reminded of Gustave le Bon on women. He wrote, “A desire to give them [women] the same education, and, as a consequence, to propose the same goals for them, is a dangerous chimera...” Indeed, there is a chimera afoot, but not the one Le Bon asserted. Rather, it is the chimera found in assertions that class is inconsequential in human affairs.

Many years ago, Franz Boas began an effort to bury the concept of race as a determinant of behavior and of capacity. Since then, many anthropologists have lent a hand to the funeral process. However, the job is far from complete and continues to loom as one of the most important needed applications of anthropological knowledge. In the mean time, as more children fall into poverty, we can expect IQ scores to fall as well, a relationship with dreadful consequences for the children and families involved and for society as a whole. Addressing the causes and consequences of poverty must be a central item on the agenda of applied anthropology. A major SfAA initiative on poverty and its consequences may be one way to insure this issue gets the attention it deserves.

MINDING YOUR BUSINESS

By Jude Thomas May [tom@sfaa.net]
Executive Director, SfAA
University of Oklahoma

The SfAA Office continues to expand with prudence our efforts to facilitate member communication/services through electronic means.

We began the membership dues renewal for 2004 with an electronic notice in early September. This was the third year for this effort. We enhanced the process considerably last year by establishing at our site a very advanced security system. This was in response
to some concerns expressed by members. We followed with an additional electronic reminder. In mid-October, we began the actual dues billing with hard copy invoices. By that time, we had received membership dues renewals from 25% of the membership, slightly ahead of our target of 20% electronic renewal.

We will continue to begin the annual membership dues renewal process through electronic means. This represents a considerable savings in time, materials and postage. More importantly, it provides a convenient choice to members on how to renew membership dues. At the same time, we will also have available dues renewal via posted hard copy invoices.

In addition to our electronic dues efforts, we continue to enhance our electronic communications for the annual meetings. Members may register for the annual meetings online, as well as submit abstracts. While this also provides a savings to the Society, it makes the annual meeting registration and abstract submission more accessible and efficient. By registering online in advance, members can avoid long lines at the annual meeting site.

A new online service that we are developing is the availability of submitted abstracts online for some sessions. Last year, we posted abstracts of a session chaired by Diane Austin. This allowed session participants to review the abstracts in advance, and come better prepared to interact with session presenters. We are expanding this experiment this year, and hope to eventually provide this as a standard service for annual meeting attendees.

As we build our electronic communication systems, we welcome input and suggestions from members. We have advanced tremendously over the past few years, but we are always looking for ways to improve our efforts and provide quality service to our members. Thank you for your continued support.

LPO NEWS

By Carla Littlefield [clittlef@compuserve.com] 
Littlefield Associates
Denver, Colorado

The “Chicago Association of Practicing Anthropologists” (CAPA) meetings recently included speakers from the not-for-profit sector on such topics as video ethnography, and from the for-profit arena on how anthropology plays a role in the workforce. CAPA will have a presence at the AAA meetings in Chicago in November. Look for CAPA members at the NAPA/SfAA table and at a reception co-sponsored by CAPA and Columbia College. For more information on CAPA, contact Michael Chapman at (michael@mindsparkconsulting.com).

The “High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology” (HPSfAA) announces that their Spring Conference will be held in Estes Park, Colorado, April 23-25, 2004. The theme and call for papers will be posted, when available, on the HPSfAA website at <www.hpsfaa.org>.

The “Mid-South Association of Professional Anthropologists” (MSAPA) is working closely with the Department of Anthropology at the University of Memphis to organize a panel of medical anthropologists to present to members on March 19, 2004. The presentation, “Anthropology Outside of the Classroom,” will include four to six anthropologists working in a field outside of academics. Breakout sessions will follow the panel discussion. In the coming months, MSAPA also will hold a public lecture on Islam, a behind-the-scenes tour of the Pink Palace Museum, and a tour of urban revitalization projects.

The “Southern California Applied Anthropology Network” (SCAAN) kicked off its fall season with a presentation by Barbara Pillsbury on her recent work in China. Her talk was titled, “Taking an Interfaith Religious Delegation (Christian, Jewish, Muslim) to China.” She had facilitated a first-time visit of high-level U.S. religious leaders to China to look at ethical issues related to the Chinese government’s family planning program. In November, Barbara will be moving to Washington, D.C. to assume the position of director of the USAID-funded Synergy Project that advances the HIV/AIDS work of USAID and other agencies globally.

In September, SCAAN presented its second annual gift to a deserving group. In 2002, the first donation went to a group of Kacchi musicians: Hindus, Muslims and Sildis; of Kacch, Gujarat, to replace instruments destroyed in the earthquake of 2000. The 2003 award was given to IXIM (Integration of Indigenous Mayas), a non-profit organization serving the Mayan community of Los Angeles. Former SCAAN president, Bob Harman, who has worked with this group for many years, made the presentation at the annual San Miguel Fiesta. IXIM hopes to use the money to attract further funding to promote its Maya youth programs.

SCAAN is planning its First Annual Holiday Gathering for Practitioners and Students to be held on December 7th at Jean Gilbert’s home in Glendale. The event will include a panel of experienced practitioners highlighting their health care efforts in such areas as HIV/AIDS, substance abuse treatment, HMOs,
maternal and child health, and international health. For more information about SCAAN activities, contact Gillian Grebler at (ggrebler@verizon.net).

To communicate about LPO news and issues, please contact the SFAA-LPO Liaison, Carla Littlefield, at the e-mail address above.

AMERICAN INDIAN COMMITTEE SEeks REINSTATEMENT

By Darby Stapp [dstapp@charter.net]
Battelle Memorial Institute

The American Indian Issues Committee is reorganizing and planning to request the SFAA Board reinstate it as a standing committee. The Committee began in 1995 under the Paredes administration. Its goal was to draw upon SFAA’s longstanding relationship with Indian communities to bring anthropological knowledge to problems facing American Indians today.

The Committee met annually at each SFAA Annual Meeting, attended by a variety of SFAA members with an active interest in working with tribal communities. The full vision of the Committee never materialized, and in 2003, the SFAA Board disbanded the Committee. Despite the dissolution, the Committee met again at the 2003 Portland meeting, and in a discussion led by Tony Paredes, discussed its future. The approximately 30 attendees, including several tribal members, expressed interest in continuing and expanding the work of the Committee. Several believed that Committee status was the appropriate form (as opposed to reforming as a Technical Interest Group), and some indicated that we should prepare a bibliography of SFAA publications and a historical overview of the role of SFAA and its members in contributing to practical problems facing Indian peoples.

Since the Portland meeting, the Committee has developed the following goals to include in a proposal to the SFAA Board for reinstatement:

- Establish and nurture a network of applied anthropologists with expertise in issues currently affecting American Indian communities.
- Provide guidance to the SFAA Board and general membership on areas where action is needed (legislative needs, policy evaluation, graduate training, etc.).
- Assemble and organize anthropological contributions from SFAA and other publications relevant to current American Indian issues, as a way to create a memory bank and draw upon past work.
- Interact with American Indian organizations and develop a process for anthropologists to comment on policy issues being addressed by these organizations.
- Furthering interdisciplinary knowledge and public awareness of the historic role of anthropology and anthropologists in advancing understanding of American Indian peoples and in providing technical expertise for the amelioration of practical problems and issues faced by American Indians in the modern world.

The Committee will function as a loose confederation of SFAA members interested in participating or benefiting from these goals. Those interested should contact Darby Stapp at (dstapp@charter.net) or (509) 627-2944. A gathering will take place at the 2004 Annual Meetings to be held in Dallas, Texas.

REPORT FROM THE HO EDITOR

By Donald D. Stull [stull@ku.edu]
University of Kansas

As I sit here on this glorious fall day, watching the changing foliage, it suddenly occurred to me that we should be thinking about the November issue of the Newsletter. Consequently I am writing to inquire whether this will give you sufficient time to bully some first-year graduate student into crafting a column on the history of HO.

Mike Whiteford, e-mail, October 12, 2003

How could I refuse such a challenge? Missing punctuation, typos, and all. And since “three’s the charm,” I decided to bully HO’s “newbie” editorial assistants into introducing themselves. I have been remiss in not doing this earlier (and not thinking of an easy way out of my writing responsibilities sooner). Some of you have already had the distinct pleasure of working with Jim Dick and Christina Bolas over the past year. Brian Lagotte joined our membership this fall. Jim and Brian are currently writing their master’s theses and Christina will be defending hers by the time you read this. All three will be giving papers in Dallas on their research (as will our other editorial assistant, the venerable Shawn Maloney). I hope you’ll have an opportunity to say hi-howdy to them in Big D. Here they are in their own words, in the order of their appearance.

Jim Dick’s baloney: If cornered, my research interests would be regionalism and local economies.
My thesis is based on fieldwork in Marysville, a small town in north-central Kansas, where I spent most of the summer living in a pop-up camper in the city park. I chose Marysville because I wanted to understand how people in a small, Midwestern town cope with a shrinking population and economic decline.

I was drawn to anthropology because of its practical and empirical capacities. Anthropology has an applied focus that stands out among the social sciences, and SFxAA is strong evidence of this. Working for *Human Organization* has only strengthened my conviction that academic research has practical implications for policy and action. But working for *HO* has had other tangible consequences as well. I am certain that professors who are considering the editorship of *HO* are thinking about the opportunities it will provide for students in their departments.

The opportunity for income is no small matter for a poor graduate student, but the mentor relationships that develop between the editor and graduate assistants may be more significant. It has been for me. Also, being exposed to the variety of research is an eye-opener. There is no area of human endeavor that cannot benefit from the anthropologist’s gaze, and this is evident in the manuscripts *HO* receives every week. Being exposed to these manuscripts is an unusual opportunity and it is a privilege to work for the society.

Christina Keibler Bolas: Christina has been an editorial assistant for *Human Organization* for almost a year. She is interested in the cultural aspects of food, and for her thesis she studied food pantries in Lawrence, Kansas. Her thesis focuses on how the pantry system functions within the community, provides insight into chronic use, and makes pointed recommendations to improve community donations and volunteering.

Christina’s long-term goal is to write about anthropological topics for a general audience. She is currently improving her writing skills and submitting manuscripts to nonacademic publications. Christina believes anthropology should be—and by its very nature is—for those who read the *National Enquirer* no less than for those who read *Human Organization* [of course in many cases they are one and the same].

Christina (who has a B.S. in horticulture and an M.S. in forestry from the University of Illinois) hopes to direct her efforts to ethnoconsumerism and food. She wants to study the culture of whiskey producers, compare it to whiskey consumers, and carry this comparison to other popular American beverages and foods such as wine and chocolate. Christina’s goal is to make people more aware of how their food choices affect others and increase realization of class discrepancy using something everyone is familiar with—food.

Brian Lagotte: Brian is a second-year master’s student. Before coming to KU he taught English as a second language in Japan for four-and-a-half years. At 6’3”, the first native phrase he learned was “Ouch. Damn. My head.”

Both a love of teaching and an interest in comparative studies shape Brian’s thesis research, which examines teacher-training methods up to World War II and the effects of the education reforms during the subsequent American occupation. His dissertation will explore the same topic during the 1980s, when Japan’s education system could do no wrong, and today.

Brian’s other interests include the theoretical, and not so theoretical. He is interested in the epistemology of anthropology and ethnographic validity—how do anthropologists justify their findings. Brian’s newest research question is: Why aren’t more anthropologists poker champions? Perhaps some of you can enlighten him in Dallas.

**REPORT FROM THE PA EDITORS**

By Jeanne Simonelli [simonejm@wfu.edu]  
Wake Forest University  
Bill Roberts [wcroberts@smcm.edu]  
St. Mary’s College of Maryland

Jeanne and I returned from our summer fieldwork in Chiapas and The Gambia, respectively, this past August and resumed our positions as department chairs at Wake Forest University and St. Mary’s College of Maryland. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming American Anthropological Association meetings in Chicago, and talking with you about the opportunity to contribute to a future issue of *Practicing Anthropology*.

Gretchen Schafft, one of the founding members of the Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists (WAPA), has been working closely with Jeanne on an upcoming issue of *PA* that will be a tribute to our recently deceased friend and colleague, Muriel (Miki) Crespi. See the September issue of *Anthropology News* for an elegant obituary written by Shirley Fiske that details Miki’s many personal and professional contributions to applied anthropology. Miki inspired and assisted many aspiring
anthropologists. I first met her in graduate school, and later grew to know her better as I became more involved in WAPA and the SfAA. She created a niche for many applied ethnographers during her tenure at the National Park Service, an organization of great interest to anthropologists, as Jeanne knows from her work in Arizona. A part of Miki’s legacy lives on at St. Mary’s College, where undergraduate anthropology students can benefit from the many books she donated to the department from her personal collection several years back.

One of our goals as editors is to act expeditiously on the manuscripts and proposals for thematic issues you sent us over the summer. Thus far, the majority of your contributions document the success you have enjoyed and the many real world contributions made by applied anthropologists and practitioners. We know there is a great deal to be learned from your successes, but we are also interested in hearing from anthropologists whose projects were, if not outright failures, not judged to be successful. We feel that it is equally important to learn from our shortcomings and failures, as it is to celebrate our successes. As you have seen in the last four issues, we have included a small section with discussion questions about each of the articles that can be used to prompt student thinking in the classroom.

We are very excited about the interest you have shown thus far in the journal, and encourage you to contact us about your ideas for ways we can continue to improve it. We’d also like to hear from you about whether you’ve found the journal more useful in your teaching. Please contact us at above addresses.

FROM THE DESK OF WILL SIBLEY

By Will Sibley [Shadyside@aol.com]
WAPA Correspondent and Past President of the SfAA

WAPA continues to prosper under the Presidency of Rob Winthrop, with interesting programs offered monthly in downtown D.C., preceded with supper for those interested and drinks afterwards for those so inclined. Normally meetings are held the first Tuesday each month. Come join us!!

With Antoinette Brown, I am working this year as co-chair of the WAPA Praxis Award. This is awarded every other year for a notable project in applied anthropology. As I write, the selection jury is “out,” with a deadline at the end of this month for their choice. The award will be presented (including a modest check) at the WAPA session that follows the NAPA business meeting at the AAA in Chicago in November.

I hope I might see many of you in Chicago next month at AAA. Along with some much more distinguished (elderly) colleagues, I’ll participate in a session organized by the geezers, aka Association of Senior Anthropologists. John Singleton and Wally Goldschmidt will be commentators. I’ll talk about becoming a sewer anthropologist, as I moved toward interests in application and in technology-society relationships.

NEWS FROM THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

By Barbara Rylko-Bauer [basiarylko@juno.com]
Michigan State University and

Nancy Schoenberg [nesch@uky.edu]
University of Kentucky

The Publications Committee has had a change in leadership, and Nancy Schoenberg is the new chair. Current members also include Hans Baer, Laura DeLind, Michael Paolisso, Barbara Rylko-Bauer, as well as Paul Durrenberger (Board liaison), and the various SfAA editors: Michael Whiteford, Donald Stull, Michael Angrosino, and Jeanne Simonelli and Bill Roberts. The committee has been focusing its attention on the search for a new editor-in-chief for *Human Organization* and this is progressing well.

Current Monograph Series editor, Michael Angrosino, is working with a subcommittee to draft a mission statement and action plan for the series, to be submitted for approval by the SfAA Board at the 2004 spring meetings. In other news concerning the Monograph Series, former editor Pat Higgins (who graciously agreed to continue working on the publications that she was involved with during her term) reports that the upcoming volume, *Human Rights, Power, and Difference: The Scholar as Activist* (edited by Carole Nagengast and Carlos Vélez-Ibáñez) is nearing completion. The most recent monograph, *The Dynamics of Applied Anthropology in the Twentieth Century: The Malinowski Award Papers* (edited by Thomas Weaver), is available in electronic format on the SfAA website.
STUDENT COMMITTEE REPORT

By Jon Poehlman [poehlman@helios.acomp.usf.edu]
University of South Florida

New Student Web Page: The SfAA Student Committee is pleased to announce the development of an official student committee section on the SfAA website. You will find a link to the “Student” committee pages <http://www.sfaa.net/committees/students.html> in the “Committees” section found on the homepage of the SfAA site <www.sfaa.net>.

The “Committee Page” updates you on current student committee officers and their contact e-mails. Feel free to use these links to communicate any ideas, questions, or concerns that you may have as a student member of SFxAA. The “Student Award Page” provides information on award opportunities for student members of the SFxAA. These include: The Del Jones Memorial Travel Award due January 23rd, Peter K. New Student Research Competition due December 30th, and the Edward H. and Rosamund B. Spicer Travel Awards due January 23rd.

Also available for viewing are the “SFxAA Student Committee Bylaws,” past “Student Committee Reports,” and other committee documents. The student site will be updated periodically and we plan to add new pages with additional resources for students in the future. We thank Melina Magsumbol, Neil Hahn, and Anne Ballenger-Hernandez for getting the student pages up and running.

Plans are under way for some great sessions for student members at this year’s Annual Meetings, taking place in Dallas (March 31 - April 4, 2004). Student events in development include: “Student Conference Welcome and Orientation,” “Got Grants? An Information Session for Students Searching for Research Money,” “Student Opportunities in the SFxAA: Student Committee Business Meeting” and “SFxAA Past Presidents & Students Luncheon.”

Look for these and other great activities for students at this year’s meeting. Start planning now so that you can attend. The annual meetings are a great way to learn about the many great things going on in applied anthropology, network with peers, and enhance your professional skills.

If you are planning on attending this year’s meeting and are interested in the work of the Student Committee or just want to help out with this year’s meeting, there are opportunities for both. The committee will be filling one or more officer positions at this year’s meeting. Further, we are always looking for volunteers to help with various events at the meeting. Contact Jennifer Wies (jwies2@uky.edu) or Scott Lacy (lacy@fulbrightweb.org) for more information.

NAPA HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Liebow [Liebow@battelle.org]
NAPA President

In 1983 Thriller (Michael Jackson) and Synchronicity (The Police) beat out the soundtrack from Flashdance as the best selling record albums of the year, while vying for the Academy Award’s best film were Terms of Endearment, The Big Chill, The Dresser, The Right Stuff, and my favorite of the bunch, Tender Mercies. My all-time sports hero, Grete Waitz, won the fifth of her nine consecutive New York City marathons. And growing out of a late night conversation in a Chicago hotel room that year, NAPA was formed. It is only fitting that we will be back in Chicago this month to celebrate NAPA’s 20th anniversary at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association.

We set out in 1983 with the purpose of representing the practice of anthropology and the interests of practicing anthropologists within the American Anthropological Association, to other organizations, and to the general public, and to further the practice of anthropology as a profession.

Six years ago, in a changing professional climate, NAPA members devoted a great deal of energy and time to drafting a five-year strategic plan. The plan was founded on several key assumptions: the organization will remain viable, with a stable membership and funding base; it will continue to work with AAA, other sections of the association, and with SFxAA. With these assumptions, and based on an extensive polling of our membership, we identified seven strategic initiatives to be undertaken:

• To increase career opportunities for practicing anthropologists
• To increase outreach to educational institutions
• To shape a public image for practicing/professional anthropologists
• To create opportunities for professional development
• To increase dissemination of NAPA publications
• To strengthen organizational linkages with AAA
• To enhance linkages with other practice organizations, like the SFAA

We are pleased that many of the action steps and objectives outlined in that plan have been completed. Others remain on-going activities of the organization, and still others require further effort.

But the professional climate continues to change, and we are embarking on a process to update NAPA’s strategic plan. We have asked NAPA members to tell us their views on initiatives that will be of service to the group and to the profession. The governing board has a planning retreat scheduled for November 19. We have organized a symposium involving all of NAPA’s past presidents for Friday, November 21, and we will have a public planning discussion at the annual business meeting in Chicago on Saturday evening, November 22. We are hoping that by the time of the SFAA meeting in Dallas we will have a planning update for the board to consider.

In other news, we are sad to see the elected terms end for Board members Judy Tso and Pat Sachs, and for Secretary Kathi Kitner. Kathi has agreed to become the coordinator for the Mentor program, and Judy and Pat will continue to help with our planning work. We welcome incoming Board members Peg Weeks and Steve Maack, and our new Secretary, Mari Clarke.

And finally, two recent NAPA Bulletins have been so popular that we have ordered extra printings: Volume 20, Careers in Anthropology: Profiles of Practitioner Anthropologists (edited by Paula Sabloff), and Volume 21, Caring for Those in Crisis: Integrating Anthropology and Public Health in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies (edited by Holly Ann Williams). Older volumes now out of print will be available on request through a digital document retrieval service.

Membership gives the Society strength and meaning, thus our most important mission is service to our members. The Membership Committee crafts outreach campaigns to stimulate recruitment and initiatives that enhance the quality of member benefits to promote retention. The current committee includes Co-Chairs Jim Carey (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and Ruthbeth Finerman (University of Memphis), Jeannine Coreil (University of South Florida), Andrew Gardner (University of Arizona) and Tim Wallace (North Carolina State University).

Most Society memberships stem from registration for the annual meeting, making our conferences prime opportunities for enlisting new colleagues and sustaining established members. We have several ongoing mobilization strategies and envision many new proposals as well. We would appreciate your feedback on these and other means to further enhance the SFAA.

During the spring 2003 meetings the committee tested a new campaign to improve access to officers. Editors of Society publications and members of the Board of Directors were issued name badges that included colored ribbons. The ribbons were designed to make officers readily visible for conference participants wishing to solicit assistance, share ideas or volunteer for service on committees. Many agreed that the ribbons improved officer visibility but others were confused about the purpose of the unusual badges. To clarify its purpose, we will publicize the ribbon campaign more widely in the conference program and other venues. We hope you will share your views on this effort to facilitate communication with our elected officials.

Another plan for last spring’s meeting was to distribute a satisfaction survey, which would offer all participants a voice in conference planning. Unfortunately, the survey forms sat out the week at snowed-in Denver airport and never made it to the meetings. We have revised the brief questionnaire in preparation for the spring 2004 conference in Dallas and we urge all who attend to respond to the new survey. Our committee will publish a detailed report on your feedback in the SFAA Newsletter and the Society will incorporate your recommendations into future conference preparations.

In addition to these efforts we hope to expand the list of services available to conference participants. We have asked that the Society assign a dedicated place at the meeting registration desk for help and information, staffed by “trouble shooters” who can manage members’ special needs and requests. In addition, we have proposed that each association participating in the joint meetings be offered their own “hub” where their members can network and distribute news and information. We also encourage all SFAA members to reach out to conference participants representing different organizations. Please help us make everyone feel welcome.

While it seems a cliché, students clearly represent the future of our Society and they are a particularly important focus for membership recruitment and retention. We continue to encourage student
participation in leadership positions within the Society and promote student awards, including the new Student Committee membership award. Proposed new benefits include a separate desk or space where student members can congregate during the conference, meeting survey questions targeted specifically at students, and plans for a free vita preparation workshop for students attending the meetings.

We also envision a system to facilitate mentoring by professional members, a listing of student internship opportunities on the Society website and professional development initiatives that encourage timely recruitment. As a part of this effort, we hope to collaborate with training programs in applied anthropology to sponsor SfAA memberships for first-year graduate students. Students who join the Society early in their training are more likely to attend annual meetings, connect with other students and professionals, engage more fully in our organization and thereby sustain their membership throughout their graduate and post-graduate careers.

Our committee has also concluded that some colleagues employed in non-academic settings receive little administrative support for attending the annual conference and sustaining their membership. To address such potential barriers we have suggested that the SfAA create special sessions, workshops, marketing prospects and conference themes that would appeal to agencies. One example would be a poster session, like that for training programs, which would feature public and private sector agencies, industries and corporations. Such promotional opportunities may encourage administrative support for more practitioners to attend our meetings and remain active in the Society.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Interested individuals are also invited to serve on the Membership Committee. Please contact SfAA President Linda Whiteford through the Business Office to volunteer for assignment.

CONSORTIUM FOR PRACTICING AND APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY PROGRAMS (COPAA)

By Linda Bennett [lbennett@memphis.edu]
University of Memphis

COPAA invites SfAA Newsletter readers to take part in an Open Forum on Faculty Exchanges for Advancing Education and Training in Applied and Practicing Anthropology that will be held at the upcoming American Anthropological Association meetings in Chicago on Thursday, November 20th, 12:15-1:30.

The open forum has been organized by Ben Blount (University of Georgia), Ann Jordan (University of North Texas), Barbara Miller (George Washington University), and myself (University of Memphis). Faculty, students, and practitioners are encouraged to come and discuss how we might plan short-term faculty exchanges between campuses. Recognizing the disparate strengths of anthropology programs in terms of their specific areas of expertise in applied and practicing anthropology, COPAA anticipates that such a program would permit greater cross fertilization.

From prior discussions, we have concluded that there is considerable enthusiasm for such a program of short-term exchanges, not just including faculty, but also practitioners. In principal, COPAA would like to foster such exchanges. In reality, however, developing such a program could be very challenging, organizationally and financially. Therefore, in this meeting we would like participants to come with some clear and specific ideas as to how we might make such a program work. We will be collecting information from the participants about how this could be carried off in either their campuses or other ones that they are familiar with. We can approach this in at least two ways, from the vantage point of a potential “traveler” for a short-term exchange or from the vantage point of a potential department with a specific need they would like the “traveler” to fill.

If you have some ideas that you would like to share with the four of us before we see you at the open forum, please feel free to be in touch. Hope to see you there.

PUBLIC POLICY TIG

By Joe Heyman [jmheyman@utep.edu]
University of Texas-El Paso

The Public Policy Committee continues to add resources to its webpage on the SfAA website, <http://www.sfaa.net/committees/policy/policy.html>. First and foremost, we now have a moderated bulletin board (“SfAA Policy Forum”) where applied anthropologists can post statements of their policy expertise or needs for such expertise. We certainly hope that SfAA members will take advantage of this bulletin board to network.

There are several essays newly posted on the webpage, each brimming with insights for doing public policy work. These include a transcript of the “Open
Forum on Policy Effectiveness” held at the 2003 SfAA meetings and thoughtful essays such as “Reaching Policy Makers” and “Social Ecology and Public Policy.” We have contributions from active elders such as Mary Elmendorf and Robert Hackenberg and thoughtful young policy activists such as Ric Curtis and Kevin Preister.

Last, but not least, we continue to add policy syllabi to the website; two contributions with excellent ideas and references are “Anthropology and Public Policy — Robert Emanuel Syllabus” and “Anthropology and Policy: From Colonialism to the Welfare State.” We urge you to browse the site; if you have questions, comments, or contributions, contact Joe Heyman at (jmheyman@utep.edu).

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE: 2004 MEETINGS

By Carla Guerrón-Montero [cguerron@regis.edu]
Regis University

The International Committee has many activities planned for the 2004 meetings in Dallas. The Committee is sponsoring two panels focusing on international issues and advocacy. One of the panels is entitled “Gender, Social Conditions, and Health: an International Perspective on Advocacy.” The goal is to call attention to the impact of international agencies, government policies and donor support through advocacy initiatives. Dr. Mohammad Rahbazi will be the discussant in this session. The International Committee will also sponsor the panel “Tourism, Anthropology, and Advocacy,” in which panelists and participants will discuss a series of issues including tourism, anthropology, and advocacy topics, in countries such as Madagascar, Southern Africa, Belize, Panama, and Guatemala. Finally, we have also organized a roundtable for students entitled “International Career Opportunities for Students.” Students will be informed of the specific steps they need to make to develop a career in anthropology with an international focus.

As usual, we will have a Hospitality Table and social reception to welcome international visitors and members during the first two days of the meetings and our annual business meeting. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the Committee, please join our listserv (intlcomsfaa@lists.uoregon.edu). We post information on international conferences, fellowship, research, and job opportunities in the column “International Opportunities.” If you have any questions or comments, please contact Gisele Maynard Tucker (gmaytuck@aol.com) or Carla Guerrón-Montero (cguerron@regis.edu).

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2004 MARGARET MEAD AWARD

By Will Sibley [Shadyside@aol.com]
WAPA Correspondent and Past President of the SfAA

Margaret Mead, for years among the best known women in the world, was also the best known anthropologist with a particular talent for bringing anthropology into the light of public attention. The Margaret Mead Award, initiated by the Society for Applied Anthropology in 1979, and awarded jointly with the American Anthropological Association since 1983, continues to celebrate the tradition of bringing anthropology to bear on wider societal and cultural issues.

The Margaret Mead Award is presented to a younger scholar for a particular accomplishment, such as a book, film, monograph, or service, which interprets anthropological data and principles in ways that make them meaningful to a broadly concerned public. The award is designed to recognize a person clearly and integrally associated with research and/or practice in anthropology. The awardee’s activity will exemplify skills in broadening the impact of anthropology - skills for which Margaret Mead was widely admired.

Nominees for the award must have received the Ph.D. degree after January 1, 1995 (ten or fewer years ago). Each application must include: (1) the nominee’s curriculum vitae, (2) letter(s) of recommendation describing the accomplishment and documenting its impact on relevant publics beyond the discipline, and (3) other supporting materials, e.g., a book or film.

Nominees’ contributions will be judged using the following criteria: (1) intellectual quality, (2) clarity and understandability, (3) the extent or depth of impact, and (4) breadth of impact. The selection committee is comprised of two persons appointed by the Society for Applied Anthropology and two persons appointed by the American Anthropological Association.

Please send nominations and four copies of supporting materials to the Margaret Mead Selection Committee at the following address: Society for Applied Anthropology, P.O. Box 2436, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-2436. Phone (405) 843-5113; FAX (405) 843-8553; E-mail (info@sfaa.net).

Deadline for receipt of all materials is June 1, 2004. Supporting materials will not be returned unless specifically requested.
The 2004 Award winner will be announced at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Presentation of the Award plaque and stipend will be made jointly by the SfAA and AAA during the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology in Spring 2005.


MESSAGE FROM THE SfAA SECRETARY

By Susan Andreatta, Secretary
[s_andrea@uncg.edu]
University of North Carolina-Greensboro

Our rather wet east coast summer has passed; our farms and gardens are in transition. Tomatoes are finished, but the lettuce is in and thriving. Soon it will be time to plant the garlic and shallots. Hope others are enjoying seasonal changes as well. Autumn brings with it the annual Board of Directors mid-year meeting for SfAA. We will meet on Saturday, November 22nd at the Field Museum. Others who might also be in the neighborhood while attending the AAA meeting are invited to attend. A week before the meeting we will have an agenda available on the SfAA web page. Hope to see many of you in Chicago.

ANTHROPOLOGY AND HEALTH – STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITY

Anthropology and Health: Domains of Application in the 21st Century, a course to be offered through the Inter-University Centre for Postgraduate Studies in Croatia, June 13-20, 2004. Location: town of Hvar on the Adriatic Island of Hvar, Croatia. Course organizers from the US: Linda Bennett (University of Memphis), Noel Chrisman (University of Washington) and Linda Whiteford (University of South Florida). People interested in participating please contact Linda Bennett at [lbennett@memphis.edu].

BENNETT HONORED BY UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

Linda Bennett, Past-President of the SfAA, was awarded the University of Memphis’ most prestigious honor, the University Board of Visitors Eminent Faculty Award. She received the award at the Faculty Convocation on March 28th, 2003. Those of us who know her can only applaud the choice the University of Memphis made in recognizing Linda’s outstanding contributions to her discipline, her students, and her friends and colleagues. Linda was President of the Society of Applied Anthropology from 1999-2001, and then later was President of the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (1992-94), and for the past six years she has been the Chair of the Board of Directors of Williams International Adoptions, an organization through which she adopted her daughter, Natasha. According to her nominator, Dr. Barbara Ellen Smith, “While pursuing a highly productive international research agenda, Dr. Bennett also established herself as a valued teacher, advisor and mentor to students in the university’s Anthropology program. Rigorous in her expectations, Dr. Bennett became known for her wide range of expertise, engaging teaching, and responsiveness to individual students’ questions and needs.” We could not agree more. Congratulations Linda!

FROM THE EDITOR

It seems like we just finished the August issue of the Newsletter and I’m shocked to think that snow will have fallen in many parts of the country by the time you receive this. Hopefully, by now many of you have already submitted abstracts for the spring meetings in Fort Worth and I know Ann Jordan and her colleagues are working diligently to put together an enticing and entertaining program.

I was deeply saddened to learn a few days ago that Helen Schuster, a long-time member of the Society, died on October 23 in Seattle. Helen was born in Menominee, Wisconsin, and taught at Iowa State University from the mid-1970s until her retirement a decade ago. Her undergraduate degree was in chemistry and she spent much of World War II working as a chemist in a synthetic rubber plant in Texas. After the war she moved with her family to Seattle, returning to school after listening to a lecture by an anthropologist at the University of Washington. She received her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology in the early 1970s and spent most of her professional career in Ames, Iowa.

Helen was an incredible colleague in so many ways. She was always so upbeat and positive. Simply having Helen around made everyone feel better about themselves. If you talk about optimism, or think about people who see the sunnier side of life, or know anyone who always sees the glass as half full (and getting incrementally fuller), then you know someone with...
many of Helen’s finer qualities. She was not naïve about the human condition, but simply preferred to focus on the positive. Students saw these characteristics in her and loved her for them. Her faculty friends deeply appreciated these features, too.

Helen H. Schuster

Helen was the consummate teacher. To say that she was always prepared and engaged almost trivializes her talents. Even though she might have given the same lecture numerous times, Helen always made sure that she was preparing it as if for the first time. Like a number of us in the old days, Helen taught a wide range of courses for the department. She never shied away from a teaching assignment and welcomed taking on new courses. She also taught a number of team-taught courses that were always enhanced by her participation.

In 1990 Helen retired and returned to the Seattle area. She continued to publish and attend SfAA and AAA meetings. Helen was widely known for her work with Native Americans, particularly her research on petroglyphs and pictographs. She collected art, traveled every chance she got, and was an avid outdoorswoman who enjoyed skiing and fishing. She also was a sports cars aficionada (arriving and leaving Ames in a vintage Datsun 240Z - which she still had when I saw her last spring). We will all miss Helen.

I hope to see many of you at the AAA meetings in Chicago. If not there, we expect many of you will join us this coming spring in Texas. SfAA President Linda Whiteford promises Texas hospitality and a pachanga that will keep members talking for years.

Mike Whiteford [jefe@iastate.edu]
Applied anthropologists understand the value of spreading the knowledge of social science beyond the classroom and into the community. This applied work frequently leads to a position of advocacy. The 2004 meetings will focus on this part of the process: the role of social scientists as advocates. Sessions might address questions like the following. As world citizens, is it appropriate for social scientists to advocate for positions made clear to them as a result of their specialized knowledge? How does that specialized knowledge inform one’s positions of advocacy? How do positions of advocacy inform research, teaching and application? When, as a scientist, is it difficult to take a position of advocacy? How does advocacy impact one’s ethical responsibilities to the profession? What should be the future role of social scientists as advocates in shaping public policy and public debate?

The sessions, panel discussions, open forums, workshops and posters of the 2004 meeting will focus on these questions and others pertinent to the theme of Social Science and Advocacy. The SfAA invites contributions in all areas of anthropological inquiry and social science, especially in environmental conservation and sustainability, agriculture and development, migration and resettlement, health research and policy, education, urban planning and community development, technology and its social impact, ethnicity, gender, and class, business and work, society and the law, ethnic conflict and human rights, and cultural heritage and historic preservation. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the past, present and future role of social scientists as advocates and the implications of this role in research, teaching and application.

Program Chair: Ann Jordan, University of North Texas. For questions about the program or to reach the program chair, please call (405) 843-5113, or email at sfaa2004@sfaa.net.
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All contributions reflect the views of the authors and not necessarily viewpoints adopted by the Society for Applied Anthropology, the institutions with which the authors are affiliated, or the organizations involved in the Newsletter’s production.

Items to be included in the Newsletter should be sent to: Michael B. Whiteford, Department of Anthropology, 324 Curtiss Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1050, E-mail: jefe@iastate.edu. Telephone: 515/294-4729; fax 515/294-1303. The contributor’s telephone number and e-mail address should be included, and the professional affiliations of all persons mentioned in the copy should be given.

Changes of address and subscription requests should be directed to: SfAA Business Office, P.O. Box 2436, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-2436 (405/843-5113); E-mail <info@sfaa.net>. Visit our website at <http://www.sfaa.net/>.