

## Council on Anthropology and Education 2008-2009 President's Report

*Prepared for*

The Council on Anthropology and Education Executive Board  
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association  
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*By*

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I had four major goals in representing CAE as president during this transitional year:

1. Making CAE's structure more transparent on our Web site and through other media.
2. Enhancing mentoring and membership recruitment mechanisms to ensure diverse organizational leadership.
3. Advancing CAE policy initiatives.
4. Facilitating tighter linkages with other AAA sections and professional organizations such as AERA and SfAA

We made significant accomplishments in all of these areas, but there remain significant challenges and much work to be done. This report outlines our activities and accomplishments over the past year, new initiatives, challenges, and future plans. Although this is the "President's Report," the accomplishments are collective and reflect the dedicated efforts of the CAE Board, the CAE Executive Leadership Team, and many other CAE members.

***Making CAE's structure more transparent.*** Silvia Nogueron was recruited as CAE Web master, and began working with us in December 2008. She has done an outstanding job, and in April 2009, a newly formatted and **updated CAE Web site** was launched. The site includes easily accessible information on CAE's mission, structure, listserv, policy initiatives, awards, announcements, and ways to become involved with our section. If you haven't been to the Web site lately, please check out the new look and information at <<http://www.aaanet.org/sections/cae/cae-home.html>>. Silvia also created a **CAE brochure** based on the Web site, which highlights who we are, what we do, and ways to become involved in CAE.

In addition, in March 2009, we transferred from the H-Net listserv to a more flexible listserv maintained by AAA (aaasec\_cae@binhost.com). Communication flow is now much more straightforward and there is no need for a volunteer list manager (with deep appreciation to CAE Board member Dorothy Aguilera for undertaking this job for many years). And, with support from *AN* Column Editor Steve Biolostok, we have used the **AN column** to keep members abreast of new happenings ("What's New[s] in CAE," spring 2009; "Welcome Back, and Looking Forward," October 2009), and AAA program events (Bryan Brayboy and Mariela Nuñez-Janes, November 2009).

To further enhance transparency and inclusivity in CAE leadership positions, in January

2009, an **Ad Hoc Committee on AEQ Editor Appointment Procedures** was appointed to review current bylaws on the *AEQ* editor's appointment and make recommendations for changes consistent with the principles above. Committee members included Rosemary Henze (chair), and past *AEQ* editors Katie Anderson-Levitt and Sofia Villenas. The committee's recommendations are slated for discussion at the December 2009 CAE Board Meeting.

**Enhancing mentoring and membership/recruitment and retention mechanisms.**

CAE has one of the strongest mentoring programs in AAA. Mentoring is a thematic strand throughout our Annual Meeting programs, and this year was no exception. Guided by Program Co-chairs Bryan McKinley Jones Brayboy and Mariela Nuñez-Janes, and by 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Member-at-Large Kris Gutiérrez, CAE is sponsoring the **Works-in-Progress Session, Graduate Students of Color Mentorship Program, New Scholar Poster Session, New Scholar Invited Session**, and a panel on **"The Role of the (Student) Researcher in Ethnographic Methodologies."** In addition, seven **New Scholar Travel Stipends** were awarded.

In addition, the CAE Executive Leadership Team created the **CAE Presidential Early Career Fellowship Program** (see attached). Pending Board discussion at the December meeting, the fellowship program will be launched in 2010.

In 2009, the AAA Section Assembly (SA, composed of heads of all AAA sections) organized the **Task Force on Membership** and **Task Force on Mentoring**. The task forces reflect section-wide interest in expanding membership beyond traditional university-based anthropology, mentoring new scholars, and making the annual meetings more meaningful and accessible. As chair of the Mentoring Task Force and CAE's representative on the Membership Task Force, I gathered input from CAE members and across AAA sections on these issues. As the responses came in, it became evident that CAE and AAA need to work on membership and mentoring simultaneously. The cost of attending the Annual Meeting is a major impediment to our efforts in both areas; additional challenges include the perceived irrelevance of the field to public policy, the need to bring more practitioners into the organization, overcrowded Annual Meeting schedules with competing sessions, and the absence of mechanisms to sustain mentoring relationships within and across sections. Additional recommendations that came out of these reports:

1. Offer a one-day Annual Meeting registration rate. (CAE also recommended a "guest pass" for first conference registration.)
2. Allocate one registration fee waiver per section to bring an international or community speaker to the Annual Meeting.
3. Create a task force to identify strategies for recruiting historically underserved constituencies. (CAE recommended a recruitment initiative for historically Black and tribal colleges.)
4. Include a mentoring section in the Annual Meeting program to highlight mentoring and professional development sessions.
5. Create a section-wide student travel fund; sections would donate funds on a sliding scale and AAA's Student Caucus would set clear, transparent guidelines to distribute the funds.
6. Provide dedicated AAA staff time to coordinate mentoring activities.

These recommendations will be taken up by the Section Assembly at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

With CAE membership down from 1,000 in the 1990s to less than 600 members in 2009, there is an urgency to these mentorship and mentorship efforts. In consultation with the CAE executive leadership team, I recommend **two immediate steps for the Board's consideration:**

1. That each committee be charged with **increasing its membership by 25%** (and/or recruiting 10 new members) in 2010.
2. That the Board establish an **Ad Hoc Committee on Membership** to: (a) assess membership trends, (b) work with the CAE leadership, membership, and across sections to determine ways to increase membership, and (c) create a 2010-11 action plan for the recruitment and retention of CAE members.

***Advancing CAE's policy initiatives.*** Positioning CAE for greater policy advocacy and impact has been a priority of our organization for some time. The goal this year was to disseminate and build on the reports of the **ad hoc policy task forces** composed by Past Presidents Perry Gilmore and Norma González (for those reports, see <<http://www.aaanet.org/sections/cae/policy.html>>). Growing out of the recommendations of those reports, the kick-off for two new policy initiatives will occur at the 2009 Annual Meeting: (1) the **CAE Collaborative Analysis Network (CAE CAN)**, a consortium of CAE scholars and practitioners working simultaneously to address crucial education policy issues in multiple sites using ethnographic methods; and (2) the **Policy Engagement Working Group (PEWG)**, a consortium of CAE scholars and policy activists who will build on the work by the ad hoc policy committees and CAE CAN to strategically disseminate CAE policy expertise.

With "Race To the Top" and attendant high-stakes accountability schemes slated for reauthorization in 2010, CAE needs to continue to press for a more visible authoritative policy presence and voice. How we might do this is discussed in an article authored by Bryan Brayboy and me for a **December 2009 theme issue of AN on Anthropological Futures:** "No Anthropologist Left Behind? Reclaiming an Anthropological Voice in Education Policy Reform."

Following are **additional policy-related recommendations** for the Board and broader CAE membership to consider in the coming year:

1. **Policy sessions** at the 2010 Annual Meeting, organized in conjunction with AAA's Interest Group for the Anthropology of Public Policy (IGAPP) and other sections, which would include policymakers from New Orleans (the 2010 meeting site) and elsewhere.
2. An **Anthropology in the Public Interest publication series** to disseminate timely and "public-friendly" policy pieces written by CAE members (including CAE CAN and PEWG) through electronic and print media.

***Building bridges with other AAA sections and sister organizations.*** We have made concerted efforts to strengthen linkages with AAA sister sections this year, including work within the **Section Assembly** (Membership and Mentorship Task Forces), **joint receptions**

at the Annual Meeting, and a **jointly sponsored CAE-SLA Presidential Session, *Ethnography and Language Policy***. We have also made inroads with **AERA**, working especially with Division G Vice President Alfredo Artiles, President Carol Lee, and incoming President Kris Gutiérrez. There is more that can be done to facilitate stronger linkages with **SfAA**; one challenge here is the fact that SfAA's Annual Meeting often conflicts or overlaps with the Annual Meetings of AERA and the American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL). Strengthening these connections will continue as a CAE priority with activities planned by incoming CAE President Bryan Brayboy and incoming President-Elect Katherine Schultz.

**Additional Activities in 2008-09:**

- Working with AAA Controller Suzanne Mattingly and CAE Treasurer Peter Demerath to oversee the CAE budget.
- Organizing CAE action in support of labor groups to change hotel venues for the 2009 AERA Annual Meeting.
- Convening a CAE Executive Leadership Team teleconference (May 2009) and in-person meeting at Arizona State University (September 2009) to address pressing CAE issues, and to brainstorm and plan 2009-2010 CAE activities and initiatives.
- Working with the CAE Mission Committee to support the election of new members and the articulation of its structure and charge.
- Supporting the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on *AEQ* Editor Appointment Procedures.
- Assisting 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Member-at-Large Tricia Niesz (who has done a superb job!) with the CAE Nominations Committee, the Spindler Award Committee, and the Outstanding Dissertation Award Committees.
- Keeping the membership abreast of timely education and anthropology developments, events, and life passages via the CAE listserv.
- Organizing a Presidential Session, special events, and various CAE meetings and mentorship and membership recruitment activities for the 2009 Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Teresa L. McCarty*  
3 December 2009