

## Council on Anthropology and Education 2009-2010 President's Report

*Prepared for*

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

*By*

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I had five major goals in representing CAE as president during the 2009 – 2010 year:

1. Making CAE's structure more transparent on our Web site and through other media.
2. Building more of an intellectual and social community.
3. Advancing CAE mentoring activities, including our members who are from underrepresented communities.
4. Facilitating tighter linkages with other AAA sections and professional organizations such as AERA and SfAA.
5. Creating a Council of Elders and a Council of Youth; the former to guide the organization in times of need and the latter to help us be more dynamic, nimble, and forward thinking.

We made significant headway 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, a doctoral student at Arizona State University (and soon to be Assistant Professor at the University of Georgia), was recruited as CAE Web master (although she is commonly referred to as a web magician), 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. 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. Importantly, the site is dynamic and reflects current and future initiatives, updated contact information, and other ways of connecting members, including through an active listserv.

In March 2009, under Teresa L. McCarty's leadership, 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. Indeed, the web magician, along with the Past President, President, and President-Elect all have approval status of messages coming through, so that communication is effective, efficient, and much more frequent. And, with support from *AN* Column Editor Steve Biolostok, we have used the **AN column** to keep members

abreast of new happenings.

To further enhance transparency and inclusivity in CAE, we have instituted a new member's reception and a session on "How to do the Meetings" hosted by graduate students for graduate students. These meetings include advice on how to approach faculty and "famous people," where to find "free food," how to connect with other graduate students, building a meeting agenda, and making the most of the meetings.

***Building more of an intellectual and social community.*** In the past five years, CAE has gone through an identity crisis, where the organization asked whether or not it should be focused on social justice explicitly, whether or not there was room for people to "just talk about culture" and what kind of organization we want to be. These crises have led to introspection and a call for more connectedness among members. To this end, we worked very hard to get back to our roots and to connect with the committee-structure of CAE. To this end, we hosted two All-Committee events. The first, on Friday, focused on having committees hear from next year's program chair (and President-Elect), Greg Tanaka on theme of next years meeting, to conduct committee business, and to brainstorm ideas for future sessions. The second meeting, on Saturday, focused on putting sessions together and engaging in cross-pollinating committees.

Additionally, we re-structured the Board and Business meetings to be more user-friendly. We opened the last hour of the Board meeting to the membership and asked our program chair, treasurer, Anthropology News editor, AEQ editor, president and past-president to give their reports. In the past, this has taken an hour of our Business meeting and has, in the words of some of our members "deadened" the meeting. We also moved our Business meeting to Friday evening (it has traditionally been on Saturday evening) and intentionally made this meeting one of celebrating the accomplishments of our members. We handed out travel awards, the outstanding dissertation award, acknowledge our first class of the CAE Early Career Presidential Fellows, and awarded the Spindler Award. Additionally, we invited a local scholar/activist, Tracie Washington, to speak to our sections about the work she does as CEO of the Louisiana Justice Institute. Directly following the Board meeting, we retired, as a group, to a local pub where we enjoyed continued conversation over beverages and food.

Finally, we moved the Presidential address from the Business meeting to the following evening in order to build some intellectual connections. Working with Kathy Schultz, CAE's President-elect and Program Chair, we scheduled an evening session where the outgoing President, Teresa McCarty, would have 45 minutes to talk. Her talk was followed by two short commentaries and a question and answer session. The feedback we received on this was that the Friday and Saturday evening events were "fun...interesting...[and] rewarding."

***Advancing CAE mentoring activities, including our members who are from underrepresented communities***

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 Katherine Schultz and Neriko Doerr, and by 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Member-at-Large Trish Niesz, CAE sponsored is the **Works-in-Progress Session, Graduate Students of**

**Color Mentorship Program, New Scholar Poster Session, and New Scholar Invited Session.** 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). Teresa McCarty, in her role as Past-President, led this effort and it was a tremendous success. Indeed, although we budgeted for five Fellows, the applications were so outstanding that we selected 7 Fellows and as many mentors. The first two days of the meetings revolved around a series of activities for the Fellows including: how to publish, learning to say “no” (and “yes” when appropriate or necessary), and general guidance for building a career. The meetings focused on mentoring the Fellows and celebrating their accomplishments.

With CAE membership down from 1,000 in the 1990s to just a little over 600 members in 2011, there is an urgency to these mentorship and mentorship efforts. In consultation with the CAE executive leadership team, I followed up on the previous President's request:

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 2011-12 action plan for the recruitment and retention of CAE members.

**Facilitating tighter linkages with other AAA sections and professional organizations such as AERA and SfAA.**

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), and **joint receptions** at the Annual Meeting. We have also made inroads with **AERA (American Educational Research Association)**, working especially with Division G (Social Context of Education) Vice President Alfredo Artilles, Past President Carol Lee, President Kris Gutiérrez, and Incoming President Arnetha Ball. In fact, at the 2011 AERA meetings, there is a Division G session where one of CAE's members, Margaret Eisenhardt, is giving a presentation followed by commentary from one CAE member and one Division G member. We need to do more to facilitate our connections 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). IN 2011, however, working with Allan Burns, President of SfAA, we organized a panel on “Inspiration” as a presidential session. Along with former president of CAE, Catherine Emihovich, I will represent CAE on this panel. Strengthening these connections will continue as a CAE priority with activities planned by incoming CAE President Katherine Schultz.

**Creating a Council of Elders and a Council of Youth; the former to guide the organization in times of need and the latter to help us be more dynamic, nimble, and forward thinking.** In considering the identity crisis alluded to earlier, I, along with the CAE Leadership team, thought we needed to find a way to consider how to guide ourselves in the future. To this end, I was successful in putting together a Council of Elders. This group, led by Shirley Brice Heath and Courtney Cazden (and joined by Frederick Erickson, Bud

Mehan, Ray Barnhardt, and Harry Wolcott), met with me to discuss future projects. Indeed, we are in the process of formulating a development plan to assist CAE in thinking about how to build membership and maintain strong intellectual and social connections within our section. I was less successful in developing a Council of Youth. Our members who have connections with young people did not attend the meetings and I was unable to move this agenda item forward on my own. Although I am saddened by my inability to fulfill this agenda item, the Council of Elders made great headway in offering guidance for sustaining our intellectual and member future.

**Additional Activities in 2009-10:**

- Working with AAA Controller Suzanne Mattingly and CAE Treasurer Peter Demerath to oversee the CAE budget.
- Convening a CAE Executive Leadership Team teleconference (May and August 2010) to address pressing CAE issues, and to brainstorm and plan 2010-2011 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.
- 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 special events and various CAE meetings and mentorship and membership recruitment activities for the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bryan McKinley Jones Brayboy*  
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