

Section Annual Report Form

Briefly provide the information requested on the form below. If the question does not apply to your Section, please note that it is “not applicable” instead of leaving it blank.

Council for Museum Anthropology (CMA)

Please try to keep the responses to questions below as succinct as possible

I Please provide, names and e-mail addresses of the Section officers and board members during the period covered:

Name	Email
Alex W. Barker, President	barkeraw@missouri.edu
Candace Greene, Vice President	greenec@si.edu
Margaret Bruchac, Secretary	Margaret.bruchac@uconn.edu
Gwyneira Isaac, Treasurer	isaacg@si.edu
Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh	Chip.C-C@dmns.org
Kimberly Christen	kachristen@wsu.edu
Dan Swan	dcswan@ou.edu
Joshua Bell	aravea@gmail.com
Kathleen Adams	kadams@luc.edu
Morgan Perkins	perkinmb@potdam.edu
Catherine Fowler, Past President	csfowler@unr.edu

Note that the bylaws changes resulted in elimination of the VP position; now the equivalent office is President -Elect. Some email addresses have changed, and I have provided the current addresses even though these do not represent addresses or affiliations during the report period.

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 356 (up from 319 in November 2009)

Factors affecting Membership:

In general we believe the ability of all AAA members to access journals has eroded our nominal membership. Conversely, it may be increasing readership of our journal, *Museum Anthropology*. We are discussing several ideas to increase membership, and particularly to increase student recruitment/retention.

- 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: \$71,131.98 (up from \$59,827.72 in 2009)

Publications: (if applicable) \$5660
(positive variance between 2010 budget and actual expenses, as of November 2010)

Factors affecting Finances:

Overall our finances are healthy because of the Wiley-Blackwell contract and revenues generated through our publications/shared publication revenues. Several years ago we were in a very precarious position, and the change is remarkable. We continue to try and operate on a balanced or revenue-positive basis, and husband our fund balances against leaner times we foresee ahead.

- 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 or co-sponsored and if the latter please list them.

Sessions:

1) **APPLYING NEW THEORIES TO OLD THINGS: MUSEUM RESEARCH TODAY** (invited session)

2) **THE CIRCULATION OF MUSEUM OBJECTS** (invited session)

3) **THINGS IN MOTION: OBJECT HISTORIES, BIOGRAPHIES, AND ITINERARIES** (invited session, co-sponsored with Archaeology Division)

4) **MAKING MEANING WITH OBJECTS: COMMUNITY PROCESSES AND MUSEUM PRACTICES** (organized session from volunteered papers)

5) **MUSEUM ETHNOGRAPHY IN THEORY AND PRACTICE** (reviewed session)

6) MOMENTS AND MOTIVES: THE CIRCULATION OF OBJECTS INTO ART MARKETS, MUSEUMS AND EXPOSITIONS (reviewed session)

7) CIRCULATING THE INTANGIBLE THROUGH THE TANGIBLE: TOWARDS A NEW CONCEPTUALIZATION OF MATERIAL CULTURE ETHNOGRAPHY AND MUSEUM ANTHROPOLOGY (reviewed session)

8) MATERIALITIES IN/OF CIRCULATION: MATERIAL CULTURES AND SOCIAL LIFE (reviewed session)

Other Events:

CMA annually hosts a reception for current and prospective CMA meetings. The 2010 reception was at the New Orleans Pharmacy Museum, and was well-attended.

4). List spring meeting activities (if applicable): not applicable

5) 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):

Title of Award	Date	Recipient	Affiliation	Project/Paper/etc
CMA Student Travel Award	AAA Annual Meeting	Suzanne Godby Ingalsbe	Indiana University Department of Folklore	"Circulating the Past and Future Through Museum Artifacts"
CMA Student Travel Award	AAA Annual Meeting	Danielle Merriman	University of Denver Department of Anthropology	"Community Museum or Tourist Shop?: Local Contestation of Museum Meanings in Costa Rica"
Michael Ames Award for Innovative Museum Anthropology	AAA Annual Meeting	Jim Enote	Director, A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center , Zuni	

6) Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following:

1) Undergraduate and/or graduate students:

While no formal mentorship programs are currently in place, the new CMA Student Travel Awards are helping to bring students to the meetings and increase their engagement with members further into their careers; it serves as a limited and informal venue for mentoring.

2) Early career scholars:

Not applicable

3) Independent scholars:

Not applicable

7). 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:

CMA is working actively with the Committee on Practicing, applied and Public Interest Anthropology on the development of its draft Guidelines for Evaluating Scholarship in the Realm of Practicing, Applied, and Public Interest Anthropology for Academic Promotion and Tenure; specifically we're working to help review boards better assess the non-traditional scholarly products of museum anthropologists, such as exhibitions and NAGPRA-related research, which because of its sensitive nature is unlikely to be published in traditional venues. CMA continues to work with SAA on a range of topics, and hopes to coordinate planning for AAA meeting sessions with SVA, with whom it has traditionally had overlapping interests.

8) 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

The CMA website has been redesigned over the past 12 months, with plans for continuing revisions and expansions over the next 24 months. An existing externally-managed CMA listserv is being replaced with a new listserv to better communicate with our members. Occasional emails to members are also generated based on membership rosters provided by AAA staff; these are generally used for section business, although occasionally they are used for informational postings or funding opportunities the Board believes would be of broad sectional interest. An example of the latter would be seeking applicants for SIMA, the Smithsonian's Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology. CMA also uses regular columns in *Anthropology News* and occasional columns in the CMA journal, *Museum Anthropology*, to communicate with its members.

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

Last year a series of bylaws changes were enacted allowing the Board to conduct much business by email and changing the terms and structure of leadership positions

(primarily shifting from a Vice President structure to a President-Elect structure to ensure greater continuity, and adjusting the terms from three to two year terms of office). Board member Morgan Perkins is working on additional bylaws revisions to make Section operations more smooth and transparent, and particularly to facilitate conducting active business between face-to-face meetings.

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

CMA has five main initiatives currently underway. First and foremost is recruitment of new editors for its peer-reviewed journal, *Museum Anthropology*. While the current editors remain in place until 2012, we recognize the need for overlap to ensure a smooth and seamless transition. Second, CMA is reviewing its current membership structure, considering forms of student membership likely to better meet their needs and increase their involvement with the section. That review centers on the pricing structure and real-cost benefits received by members, and is exploring the possibility of low-cost student memberships that receive only electronic versions of section publications and materials. Third, CMA continues to work toward increased academic recognition of museum exhibitions as venues for scholarly research and communication, and broadening the recognition of such products by tenure and promotion committees. Fourth, CMA seeks to work with other sections, societies and interest groups to influence funding agencies; currently few federal programs support curation of anthropological materials, and some like NSF offer no support at all. We hope to increase levels of federal support for museum collections, and in 2010 CMA authored an invited white paper for NSF identifying the need to identify, systematize and fund existing cultural collections as a key challenge for social science over the next twenty years. Finally, and at the most general level, CMA has identified the need to increase its visibility to the discipline as a whole, and increase its perceived relevance to members of the AAA. Board members continue to discuss a series of tactical responses to that need, but the strategic need has been identified and is being addressed. It will be addressed through a range of techniques. As one example, *Museum Anthropology* recently dedicated the entire issue to a 20-year assessment of the impact of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; another example is the new Michael Ames Award for Innovative Museum Anthropology, first awarded at the 2010 AAA meetings.

We also hope to increase membership overall, and are working on a plan to conserve the current balances in our accounts against what we know will be leaner times in years to come.

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 leadership?

The 38 sections represent a wide range of interests and scholarship. That breadth, however, also sometimes limits the effectiveness of the Section Assembly. When each president must return to their boards to canvass them regarding all matters of substance, the ability of the Assembly to respond to any issue in a timely manner is compromised. And if the Assembly makes its voice heard after the debate is over, it is of little consequence. Would it be possible to move--gradually--toward a system where representatives of each section would be able to cast their votes as representatives, rather than having presidents of each section canvass their respective boards before replying on each issue?

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board?

The Wiley-Blackwell contract remains a source of deep concern and division. CMA has benefited financially from the current arrangement, and we are grateful for the resources it has provided to better accomplish our mission. From a purely financial standpoint (and in terms of support for editorial efforts) we are very pleased with it. We also recognize that larger economic trends may make it problematic, and perhaps limit the accessibility of our scholarship. Resolution of the contract status is a key issue, and while we are gravely concerned by the impact of any resolution, we have not achieved consensus regarding the best action for AAA to take.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff?

We're all keeping our fingers crossed that the new association management software deployment goes well.