

**Submitted By:**

- Karen B. Strier - kbstrier@wisc.edu

**Board Members:**

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- Sara Stinson (W.W. Howells Book Award chair) - Sara.Stinson@qc.cuny.edu
- Kate Pechenkina (Webmaster) - pechenkina@yahoo.com

**Membership:**

**Provide the most recent membership numbers.**

Number of Members: 403

**List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.**

BAS membership as of October 31, 2012 was 403; we assume it will rise by a few dozen to comparable members as in recent years by the end of 2012, but if not, it will be lower than last year. As in 2011, we discussed the membership numbers at both our EC and Business meetings in 2012. We continue to think that reasons for stable or slightly decline in membership pertain to perceptions among biological anthropologists that AAA does not offer as much value as other professional associations. Costs (both time and money) for attending meetings and society dues were also mentioned. We note that about half of our members are students and were pleased that this category of members was not declining. We discussed possible ways of increasing membership.

**Finances:**

**Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).**

Financial Balance: 19,414.32

**Publication Sponsored budgets.**

Not applicable

**List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.**

Balance of \$19,414.32 is based on Secretary/Treasurer information for our balance as of October 31, 2012. We also had a balance of \$24,482.82 in our W.W. Howells Fund as of September 30, 2012. Our BAS balance reflects our revenue from low BAS membership. We have eliminated all food and beverage service for the Executive Committee yet we still barely have enough to cover a modest cash bar reception after our Business meeting and Distinguished Lecture. More members, higher dues, or higher return on our current membership dues would increase our funds.

**Sessions:**

**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.**

**Session Type:** Volunteered

**Session:** MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**Session Type:** Volunteered

**Session:** BIOCULTURAL INSIGHTS INTO LIFE HISTORY AND HUMAN SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

**Session Type:** Volunteered

**Session:** FORENSIC AND BIOARCHAEOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF DEATH

**Session Type:** Invited Co-Sponsored with Psychological Anthropology

**Session:** BRAINS IN THE WILD: THE CHALLENGES OF NEUROANTHROPOLOGY

**Session Type:** Invited Co-Sponsored with Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition

**Session:** CROSSING SAFELY INTO TODDLERHOOD: AN ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON RISKS TO INFANT CARE

**Session Type:** Invited

**Session:** BLURRING THE BORDERS BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH: THEORIZING POSTMORTEM AGENCY IN BIOARCHAEOLOGY

**Session Type:** Invited Co-Sponsored with Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropol

**Session:** DEATH ON THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER: BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL APPROACHES

**Session Type:** Special Events

**Session:** BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY SECTION (BAS) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Session Type:** Special Events

**Session:** BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY SECTION (BAS) BUSINESS MEETING

**Session Type:** Special Events

**Session:** BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY SECTION (BAS) DISTINGUISHED LECTURE BY DARNA DUFOUR; RECEPTION FOLLOWS

**Session Type:** Volunteered

**Session:** OVERLAPPING BODIES

## Awards

**List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.**

**Award:** W. W. Howells Book Award

**Date:** 11/16/2012

**Recipient:** Sarah Blaffer Hrdy

**Affiliation:** UC-Davis (emeritus)

**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** Mothers and Others: The Evolutionary Origins of Mutual

## Understanding

**Award:** Distinguished Lecturer

**Date:** 11/16/2012

**Recipient:** Darna Dufour

**Affiliation:** University of Colorado-Boulder

**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** Anthropological Perspectives on Nutrition Transitions

**Award:** Student Prize

**Date:** 12/10/2012

**Recipient:** Michaela Howells

**Affiliation:** Univ. of Colorado, Boulder

**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** "You Just Have to Wait: The Impact of Marital Status on the Pregnancy Outcomes of Samoan Women" (with co-authors Richard Bender (Univ. of Colorado, Boulder), Darna L. Dufour (Univ. of Colorado, Boulder), John Ah Ching (LBJ Tropical Medical Center), and Bethal Mua'sau (LBJ Tropical Medical Center))

## Meetings

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

No

**If granted, who/what was it/they used for?**

Not applicable.

**List spring meeting activities**

Not applicable.

## Mentorship:

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

**Undergraduate and/or graduate students.**

We encourage students to attend the annual meeting and to apply for the student prize. We have also encouraged our elected Student member to participate in AAA sessions and activities.

**Early career scholars.**

We make an effort to include early career scholars on the BAS ballot and to encourage their election to AAA committees. We also encourage early career scholars to organize sessions and present papers at the AAA meetings.

**Independent scholars.**

Not applicable.

## Outreach:

**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.**

BAS members participated in several sponsored sessions at the AAA meetings. Our Student member, Sarah Livengood, represented BAS in CoPAPIA's Fifth Annual Section Summit on Practicing Anthropology.

## **Communications:**

**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.**

We continue to expand and update our BAS website to include news as well as resources including blog sites of interest to biological anthropologists. We also used our listserve for monthly email blasts to our membership. We deliberately kept these brief, with links to information on BAS and AAA opportunities and deadlines. Members of the BAS Executive Committee are in contact via email throughout the year. Our Newsletter Editor also submits BAS columns for publication in AnthroNews.

## **Governance:**

**Changes in bylaws or governance structure.**

We successfully obtained AAA approval for updated wording of the Guidelines for our endowed fund for the W.W. Howells Book Award.

## **Initiatives:**

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

Our most important initiative for 2013 is to pursue a fund raising initiative to insure that our endowed W.W. Howells Book Award Fund remains viable and can continue to support an annual award. A fund raising letter is being drafted and circulated among the Executive Committee and will then be forwarded to AAA for any necessary modifications and ultimate approval.

We are also hoping to strengthen our ties with other science-oriented sections of the AAA.

Conversations on possible ways to do this were initiated during a break of the Section Assembly at the 2012 meetings. These ideas were discussed separately among different section executive committees, and we hope to work together over the coming year, to plan a joint event or reception for the next meetings.

## **Ask AAA:**

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

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Just to thank all of AAA staff with whom I've interacted, especially Jason Watkins for meeting registration issues, Richard Thomas for sending out the monthly email blasts, and Kim Baker, for always replying so quickly.