

Social Change.” Student representatives Nick Welcome and Janell Robles are working with Councilor Walter Little to write the history of SLACA for the website. If you can help with this project, please contact Nick at [nick\\_welcome@yahoo.com](mailto:nick_welcome@yahoo.com). I encourage you to keep sending job announcements and other important messages through the discussion list, moderated by Walter Little.

As you may recall from last year’s presidential message, we implemented a spring meeting in collaboration with SfAA. While we will collaborate with them this year, the membership directed me to inquire with a few other organizations that many felt might be more conducive to their attendance. I will keep you updated on my conversations over the next few months. Currently, submitting papers under SLACA for the SfAA Annual Meeting allows our members to only pay the conference registration fee without having to pay membership fees to SfAA. In 2010 we held the first Kearney Lecture in Responsible Anthropology in Merida, honoring Michael Kearney. I thank Lynn Stephen and Carole Nagengast for participating with me. Our reception in Merida was a huge success and we awarded Gabriela Kovats-Sanchez (San Diego State U) and Courtney Kurlanska (SUNY–Albany) the Whiteford Graduate Student Prize in Applied Research. Please encourage your graduate students to submit papers for the Roseberry Nash Award and the Whiteford Prize in Applied Research.

The membership also voted to participate in the new AAA public education initiative, recommending a theme of global warming. Jane Henrici was given the task for creating a proposal. We also voted to budget \$250 to be used toward community-based functions each year at the annual meeting.

We voted to increase the number of journal issues to three per year at an additional cost of \$7,000 to the section. Our editor, Andrew Canessa and Wiley-Blackwell have submitted our application for inclusion in the Social Science Citational Index (SSCI), a process that can take up to two years. Members were encouraged not to post journal articles directly into online course software for class use but rather to include the link to give the journal credit for downloads.

I appreciate every idea and suggestion that you all send me throughout the year—please keep it up. We look forward to seeing you at our spring meeting with SfAA, March 29–April 2 in Seattle.

#### Whiteford Graduate Student Award

SLACA announces its 2011 Whiteford Graduate Student Award in Applied Anthropology. The award is to help two students attend the 2011 SfAA/SLACA in Seattle, March 29–April 2, 2011. The deadline is February 15, 2011. Please address queries and send papers to Walter E Little at [wlittle@albany.edu](mailto:wlittle@albany.edu).

*Please send any comments, suggestions and ideas, including photos for future columns, to Annelou Ypeij at [j.lypeij@cedla.nl](mailto:j.lypeij@cedla.nl) or to Cedla (Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation), Keizersgracht 395-397, 1016 EK Amsterdam, Netherlands.*

## Society for Linguistic Anthropology

JAMES STANLAW AND MARK ALLEN PETERSON,  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

### Report on the 2010 SLA Business Meeting

By James Stanlaw

The SLA annual business meeting proved exciting again as there were plenty of good things to discuss (and later drink to, at the cash bar).

Secretary-Treasurer Angela Reyes reported that SLA’s net assets increased substantially over 2010. Major sources of income include the publishing arrangement with Wiley-Blackwell for *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology (JLA)* and membership dues. Expenses included the website, business meeting reception, and prizes and awards. Starting in fall 2010, SLA now commits funds annually for course releases for the *JLA* editor. Membership has remained steady for the past decade, with 682 members in 2010 compared to 688 in 2000.

This year *JLA* editors Paul Manning and Miyako Inoue handed over their responsibilities to Alexandra Jaffe (editor-in-chief) and Paul Garrett (associate editor). The journal is doing well, meeting all production schedules and maintaining the competitive acceptance rate of 20–25%. *JLA* was given 130 online pages to use in 2011 for supplementary material for printed articles or possibly expanded special issues. Again, it recommended members encourage their students to download *JLA* articles from AnthroSource, as download statistics are included in AAA’s fund allocation model. *JLA* will go to ScholarOne, an online submission system.

This year the SLA website (<http://linguisticanthropology.org>) has come into its own as a major research and pedagogical presence. SLA digital media editor Leila Monaghan demonstrated the site’s incredible number of resources (maintained with the help of web guru Alex Enkerli). It is an information and link resource, news and announcements clearinghouse, blog, and tool bank. Special tools already available include information on audio equipment, grant proposal writing tailored to linguistic-oriented areas, and video topics of interest to linguists. In the future, as more people contribute, the possibilities are virtually limitless.

The SLA Section Program Committee this year consisted of Jocelyn Ahlers, Don Brenneis, Jennifer Dickinson, Galey Modan, Chantal Tetreault, Anna Marie Trester, Robin Queen, and editor Kira Hall. There were submissions for 38 volunteered panels, 52 volunteered papers, and nine posters. It was a great year for linguistic anthropology: all panels were accepted and five new panels were constructed by the committee from some of the individually submitted papers. After several years of hard work, Kira is passing the editorship on to Jocelyn Ahlers.

The 2010 SLA Student Essay Prize was awarded to Nicholas Harkness (U Chicago) for “Vowel Harmony Redux: A Binary Structure of Attribution in Korean and Its Ideological Framings.” The Undergraduate Student Essay Prize went to Jade Sewa De La Paz (Brooklyn College) for “OMG, Guess What?!! The Indispensability of Gossip in Community Building.” Jillian Cavanaugh presented both winners with \$500, a certificate and \$300 toward travel costs. Lucero Flores Najera, a graduate student (Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología

Social), received a travel grant and registration waiver. Mirko Yukic was the SLA logo contest winner.

SLA President Kathryn Woolard presented the 2010 biennial Sapir Prize. Also on the committee were Samy Alim and Richard Bauman. The committee came away with renewed optimism about the future prospects of linguistic anthropology as there were many fine first books by younger scholars. But this year’s award went to an accomplished “linguistic anthropologist at the top of his game,” Distinguished Chair in Linguistic Anthropology William Hanks at Berkeley. *His Converting Words: Maya in the Age of the Cross* (2010) traces the process of *reducción*—pacification—in colonial Yucatan and how the Maya language became fused with the colonial Spanish. As the committee said, “Hanks reveals in convincing detail the dynamic fusion by which ... linguistic processes ... laid the foundations for the radically integrated social world constituted by modern Maya discourse practices.”

Two books received honorable mentions. Bernard Bate’s *Tamil Oratory and the Dravidian Aesthetic* (2009) received honorable mention for an author’s first book. His analysis of Tamil nationalists’ oratory in election campaigns “innovatively and artfully” interweaved aesthetics, politics and linguistic analysis. Honorable mention for a book by a senior scholar was given to Niko Besnier for *Gossip and the Everyday Production of Politics* (2009). This was an “exemplary piece of linguistic anthropological writing,” drawing on a subtle understanding of how broader politics is linked to the “intimate interactions and the intense localness of gossip” on the Nukulaelae Atoll, Tuvalu.

*Please send your comments, contributions, news and announcements to SLA Contributing Editors Jim Stanlaw ([stanlaw@ilstu.edu](mailto:stanlaw@ilstu.edu)) or Mark Peterson ([petersm2@muohio.edu](mailto:petersm2@muohio.edu)).*

## Society for Medical Anthropology

KATHLEEN RAGSDALE, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

### Highlights: 2010 SMA Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony in New Orleans

By Jeannine Coreil (U South Florida)

SMA President Jeannine Coreil opened the meeting with introductions of the Executive Board and welcomed newly elected officers and members Doug Feldman (president-elect); Lance Gravlee, Juliet McMullen and Diane Weiner (members-at-large); and Rebecca Read (MASA student representative). Coreil reported that the society is financially sound and has a strong and expanding membership base. Although most AAA sections have experienced a decline in membership in the past year, the SMA’s membership of more than 1,280 has held steady and there has been a 15% increase in student membership. This increase has been due in part to a reduction in student membership fees to \$20 that was implemented last year.

Highlights of the year include the joint SMA/SfAA meeting held in Mérida, Mexico, in March 2010, the accomplishments of the Health Care Reform Task Force, promising international initiatives and the continued excellence of our journal, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly (MAQ)*. An outstanding program at the AAA Annual

**Do you have news to share with your Section?  
Contact your Contributing Editor for details!**