ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY
IN OCEANIA

Newsletter #133 April 2009

IN THIS ISSUE
I. From the Editor ................................................................. p. 1
II. From the Chair ................................................................. p. 2
III. Pacific Islands Scholars Fund .............................................. p. 3
IV. From the Program Coordinator .......................................... p. 4
V. Recent Journals .............................................................. p. 16
VI. Bibliographic Information ................................................ p. 16
VII. Other Conferences and Events ........................................... p. 17
VIII. Program Coordinator’s Annual Report for 2008 ................. p. 18
IX. Site Coordinator’s Report ................................................ p. 18
X. From the Secretary ......................................................... p. 18
XI. Archivist’s Report ........................................................... p. 19
XII. Special Publications Editor’s Report ............................... p. 20
XIII. Membership Chair Report ............................................. p. 20
XIV. Newsletter Editor’s Report ............................................. p. 20
XV. Treasurer’s Report ........................................................ p. 21
XVI. Web site Manager’s Report ............................................ p. 21
XVII. Biographical Information for Board of Directors Nominees .... p. 22
XVIII. Honorary Fellow Nominee ......................................... p. 23
XIX. Obituaries..................................................................... p. 24

I. FROM THE EDITOR
As always, I am most appreciative to all of you who sent in contributions for the Newsletter in a timely manner. As this is my final issue as Newsletter Editor, I would like to extend my gratitude to our new Program Chair, Laura Tamakoshi, and to her predecessors, Roger Lohmann and Mary MacDonald each of whom has been of great assistance in providing critical components of the Newsletter. Equally, Jan Rensel’s editorial efforts have given every issue of the Newsletter an unmistakable patina, and Kathy Creely’s up-to-date membership lists and labels have ensured proper delivery of all Newsletters. In addition, the College of Letters and Science at MSU has generously provided funding for two able assistants during my tenure as Newsletter Editor. I am grateful for that institutional support as well as for the assistance of Samantha Brockman, with the current and recent issues, and for Jayde James’ prior help in publishing the Newsletter.

The next issue of the ASAO Newsletter, the September 2009 issue, will be published by Jamon Halvaksz. Materials for that issue must be received by August 20. They should be mailed to:

Jamon Alex Halvaksz
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Sincerely,
Laurence M. Carucci
Retiring Newsletter Editor
II. FROM THE CHAIR

It is a real honor and a privilege for me to serve as first European Chair of the ASAO Board of Directors this year. Since I joined the association in 1991, I have admired the smooth organization of the ASAO and enjoyed the congenial atmosphere at conferences which in my view is truly conducive to intellectual exchange and innovation. In addition, I think that the non-hierarchical makeup of our small-scale anthropological community is another attractive feature of our meetings. Our most recent conference in Santa Cruz again testified to that effect. In the ASAO, Santa Cruz shall probably be remembered not only as an interesting city in the midst of beautiful surroundings, but also as the location where in 2009 a range of interesting sessions took place, with graduate students and full professors participating in discussions on an equal basis.

The current board constitutes a good team that is energetically working on a number of important topics. Last year, the association signed an agreement about the publication of our Monograph Series with Berghahn. This year, we are pleased to announce a new agreement about the publication of our Distinguished Lectures in Oceania. The editors of this journal have undertaken to publish ASAO Distinguished Lectures each year for the next five years, when the agreement is subject to review. Needless to say, we are excited about this arrangement, negotiations for which were initiated by our past chair, Dan Jorgensen. It will make our Distinguished Lectures not only available and accessible to a larger audience, but it will also enhance the contribution by ASAO to Pacific Studies and cultural and social anthropology in general.

The agreement with Oceania about the annual publication of our Distinguished Lectures also has implications for our Special Publication Series. Although this series published a small number of highly influential ‘special publications’, not many Distinguished Lecturers took up the challenge to convert their presentations into a mini-monograph. For that reason, too, the board has decided to merge the Special Publications Series into the new Monograph Series under the terms of our contract with Berghahn, which also entertains the publication of single-authored monographs.

On the publication front, the board is also examining the possibility of making out-of-print titles of ASAO monographs available as open access electronic publications and thus to develop our own ePress in the future. All but three ASAO monographs are currently out of print and might thus be included in the electronic re-publication initiative, although we need to sort out copyrights issues first. Rupert Stasch, our Monograph Series Editor, and Jo Recht are delving into the past of ASAO’s publication history with four different publishing houses (Hawai’i, Michigan, University Press of America [now held by Rowman and Littlefield] and most recently Pittsburgh). ASAO ePress is to be continued...

Most of the changes mentioned above will also have to be included in the bylaws, which are in their current form rather outdated anyway. The emergence of electronic means of communication especially has changed the operations of the board and the association to such an extent that it has now become inevitable to revise the bylaws. In the course of the year we are planning to request for your approval of some changes that will, for example, formalize our procedures for organizing the annual elections of new board members through an electronic ballot.

This year the elections of the board will again be conducted by an electronic ballot in the same way as we did over the past two years. Nominees for the Board are:

- Aletta Biersack
- Natacha Gagné
- Roger Lohmann
- Marc Tabani
We will also be considering the nomination of Robert Tonkinson for an Honorary Fellowship. Further on in the newsletter you can find short biosketches of the nominees for the Board as well as a more detailed proposal to elect Tonkinson as Honorary Fellow. The list of voters for these elections will be closed on May 1st, and only those who have renewed their membership by then will be able to vote. In May, members will be sent an e-mail message with a link that will take them to the ballot on a server. We will continue to print and mail paper ballots to members who do not have e-mail addresses. Voting will close on June 1st.

Next year we will meet in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, just across the river from the US capital (for more details, see Mike Rynkiewich’s report elsewhere in this newsletter). Adrienne Kaeppler, Curator of Oceanic Ethnology at the National Museum of Natural History, which is part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, has accepted our invitation to give the Distinguished Lecture. The topic of her talk will be announced by Lamont Lindstrom in a forthcoming Newsletter, in which more detailed information about the meeting and the meeting site will also be made available. Those of you who are planning to organize a new session at next year’s meeting, please make sure to publicize your proposals in the September issue of the Newsletter, so that possible participants have some time to prepare their contributions properly.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the possibility of nominating distinguished scholars in Pacific anthropology for an Honorary Fellowship before November 1st. At the same time, I hope that in the course of the year some young people will volunteer to become officer of our association. The Membership Coordinator, the Secretary, and the Site Coordinator have all indicated a wish to step down from their position at the meeting in Alexandria next year. Please think about taking on one of these responsible positions so that we may continue our intellectual exchanges in a stable organization.

Toon van Meijl

III. PACIFIC ISLANDS SCHOLARS FUND

Applications and Awards Information

The Pacific Islands Scholars Fund supports two types of awards. The bulk of our award funds go to Travel Awards, which are allocated through a competitive process in which applications are due annually in early September. In most cases these awards cover the cost of round-trip airfare. Awards also provide meeting registration and a year’s ASAO membership. Mini-Grants allow us to further encourage participation in ASAO sessions by Pacific Island scholars and extend our recognition for their valuable contributions -- they provide meeting registration fee waivers and a year’s membership in ASAO. Mini Grants are awarded to Pacific Islander participants who are taking an active part in one or more sessions, either by serving as organizer, presenting a paper, or making a presentation in another format. Further information on application procedures is available on the ASAO Web site.

Report following the 2009 Meeting, Santa Cruz, California

This year’s PISF Committee consisted of Ty Tengan and Ping-Ann Addo continuing as members at-large, Tevita Ka’ili representing the Board, and myself continuing as chair.

Travel Awards
We received 6 applications for travel awards by the November 1, 2008 deadline. We recommended five of these to the board for travel support. Subsequent to our recommendations, two applicants withdrew, leaving us with three awardees, all of whom were approved by the board and all of whom attended the Santa Cruz meeting. These were: Marcellin Abong (Director, Vanuatu Cultural Center), Fiona Hukula (Papua New Guinea, PhD...
candidate, Univ. of St. Andrews, Scotland), and **Terri Leo-Mauu** (Samoa/NZ, Pasifika Liaison, Unitec New Zealand, Auckland).

Besides travel assistance, each of our three recipients also received, from ASAO general funds, $200 toward hotel costs, and attended the board-hosted luncheon on Thursday, 12th February. In all, $4,383 in travel grants was awarded for the 2009 meeting, leaving us approximately $2,500 in carryover toward next year’s PISF awards.

**Committee Makeup**

Tevita Ka’ili, board representative for 2008-09, rotated off the PISF committee and Ty Tengan stepped down after several years as an at-large member. I want to thank both Ty and Tevita for excellent service – malo! The new board representative for 2009-2010 is Elfriede Herman and our new at-large member is Michael Goldsmith. A warm welcome to both. Ping-Ann Addo will continue on as an at-large member (thanks!), and I will continue as chair. Judith Schachter has volunteered and been welcomed by the board as the new PISF chair who will take over from me following the 2010 Alexandria meeting. She will work with our group this year and thus be familiar with our processes.

*We thank ASAO members for their generous contributions which support ASAO’s travel awards – and we encourage all to donate as this year goes on. These funds make a big difference in the professional lives of our young Pacific Islands colleagues. For those who pay taxes in the USA, donations to the PISF are tax deductible.*

*Keith Chambers*

**I. FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

**GUIDELINES FOR SESSION ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS**

ASAO is characterized by social informality and collegial cooperation regardless of rank. At the same time, the rigorous examination of data and ideas in ASAO sessions is designed to lead to high quality, publishable sets of comparative papers on topics of importance in Pacific anthropology. The format of ASAO sessions differs from those at many scholarly meetings where individual papers are presented. Instead, ASAO sessions feature the ongoing give-and-take required for penetrating intellectual examination of difficult, yet vital, issues.

ASAO sessions are of three types:

(A) **INFORMAL SESSIONS** involve the informal sharing of ideas to determine whether there is common ground for further inquiry. Anyone who has relevant data is welcome to attend and participate. If such sessions generate enough interest, participants make plans to develop and share lists of bibliographic references, draft and circulate papers, and discuss them (possibly via e-mail) in preparation for the next stage (see below).

Informal Sessions are of two types. Impromptu Informal Sessions can be announced at the Opening Plenary Session of the annual meeting and posted on the bulletin board in the registration area during the meeting. These sessions do not have pre-arranged meeting locations but may meet in available conference rooms, participants’ rooms, or local cafes. The second type of Informal Session may be announced at the prior year’s meeting, proposed in the ASAO Newsletter or on ASAONET, or otherwise pre-arranged. *To appear in the full schedule of the annual meeting, which is published in the December Newsletter, announcements of Informal Sessions must be submitted to the Program Coordinator by November 1 (see Timetable).*

The level of organization for Informal Sessions varies. Participants are not required to write papers in advance, although it is helpful to session organizers if people advise them of their interest beforehand. If planned with sufficient lead time, some Informal Sessions may be well organized, with precirculated abstracts or papers and, perhaps, be only one or two papers shy of meeting the criteria for a Working Session.
Thus time given to Informal Sessions will vary depending on the number of committed participants or people indicating an interest in the topic, and the level of organization of the session. Ordinarily, scheduled Informal Sessions will be given no more than three hours of meeting time, and most will receive only one and a half hours.

**B) WORKING SESSIONS** are based on prepared papers that are briefly summarized (NOT READ) during the session. Abstracts, if not drafts of papers, must be precirculated among session organizers and participants. Most of the meeting time during the session is allocated for discussing common themes, with an eye toward finding coherence and preparing for a second round of writing.

Session organizers can be imaginative in how they organize Working Sessions. Participants should respond to and make constructive suggestions on each other’s papers. If complete drafts are precirculated, some organizers assign people to read particular papers and prepare commentary ahead of time; some have participants present each other’s papers, allowing the authors time afterward to clarify points and respond to questions. One or more invited discussants can be helpful at this stage, but again, only if complete drafts of papers are circulated in advance.

Working Sessions form the heart of ASAO meetings and require considerable time for the discussion of provocative ideas, the analysis of different approaches, and the search for core themes. Accordingly, Working Sessions are ordinarily given first priority when meeting time and space are allocated. Time will be allocated according to the number of participants attending and presenting papers.

A minimum of seven participants presenting papers in person at the meeting is required for Working Session status. A list of participants, paper titles, and copies of their abstracts must be sent to the Program Coordinator by the November 1 deadline (see Timetable). Sessions that do not meet these criteria by the November 1 deadline will appear on the Program of the Annual Meeting as Informal Sessions.

**C) SYMPOSIA** are sessions that normally have met at a lower level of organization at least once before. Papers must be precirculated among the session organizers, participants, and any invited discussants. Contributors do not read their papers but discuss the key issues that arise from them. Conversation in the session focuses on those issues and provides a constructive critique that contributes to building a coherent set of papers or book chapters.

Time should be set aside during the Symposium to discuss whether and how to pursue publication. Options include the ASAO Monograph Series (which has an informal right of first refusal for volumes arising from ASAO sessions) or other academic publishers; a special issue of an appropriate journal; or separate publication of individual papers.

Some Symposia may require only an hour and a half to wrap up unfinished business, while others may need as much as six hours to discuss issues, themes, and future plans. Symposium organizers should advise the Program Coordinator of their time requirements.

The presence of seven participants with precirculated papers is required for full Symposium status. A list of participants, paper titles, and copies of the first and last pages of their papers must be sent to the Program Coordinator by the November 1 deadline (see Timetable). Sessions that do not meet these criteria by the November 1 deadline will appear on the Program of the Annual Meeting as Informal Sessions or Working Sessions, according to their level of preparedness as judged by the Program Coordinator.

**Responsibilities of Session Organizers:**

1) Submit the required information about your session to the Program Coordinator by the March 20, August 20, and November 1 deadlines. (See Timetable for Session Organizers and Participants.)

2) Assist any Pacific Islands scholars who are interested in applying for support from the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund. (See PISF Guidelines.)
3) Advise the Program Coordinator by **no later than November 1** of any particular scheduling needs (e.g., late arrivals, early departures, or potential conflicts with other sessions).

4) Advise the Program Coordinator by **November 1** of audio-visual or other special needs. The hotels are responsible for providing equipment for those with disabilities. In all other cases, however, the rental of equipment from hotels is quite expensive for ASAO. Session organizers should encourage their participants to make their own arrangements for costly equipment.

5) Send the Program Coordinator your contact information, and advise of any changes during the year.

6) Plan to attend both the Opening Plenary and Closing Plenary Sessions at the annual meeting. All session organizers are expected to deliver a Closing Plenary Report on the results of their sessions and future plans. If the organizers cannot be present at the Closing Plenary, they should appoint one of the participants to deliver the report. A written copy of the report must be sent to the Newsletter Editor before the **March 20** deadline.

**Responsibilities of Session Participants:**

1) Please respect the deadlines for your particular session and your session organizer’s responsibility for meeting the overall deadlines (see Timetable). Submit and circulate your abstracts and draft papers on time. Advise the organizer well in advance (**before the organizer’s November 1 deadline**) as to whether you will be able to attend the session in person.

2) Members should limit themselves to participation in **no more than two sessions**, preferably at different levels. In the past, problems have sometimes resulted from members participating in multiple sessions. For the ASAO format to work, contributors must give their sessions their undivided attention. Multiple participation creates scheduling conflicts, which often disrupt sessions and distract contributors. If you must be in more than one session, please send the Program Coordinator a note indicating your priority. First priority in case of scheduling conflicts will go to session organizers and discussants. However, since ASAO sessions are lengthy and relatively few in number, there is no guarantee that scheduling conflicts can be avoided.

All correspondence to the Program Coordinator should be sent to:

Laura Tamakoshi, 338 West Union Street
West Chester, PA  19382; tel (610) 429-9213

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**Timetable for Session Organizers and Participants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>INFORMAL SESSION</th>
<th>WORKING SESSION</th>
<th>SYMPOSIUM</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>March 20</strong></td>
<td>to Program Coordinator; announcement of proposed session</td>
<td>to Program Coordinator; report on informal session held at annual meeting; call for papers, deadlines, etc.</td>
<td>to Program Coordinator; report on working session held at annual meeting; next steps, deadlines, etc.</td>
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2009 ANNUAL MEETING SESSION REPORTS

FORMAL SYMPOSIA

Artifacts of Imagination and Innovation in Pacific Oceania
Organizer: Roger Ivar Lohmann
Our session included six presentations and three contributors in absentia. Roger Lohmann provided an introduction and Joel Robbins presented a closing commentary on the papers. In all, there were 30 participants in the room. We discussed the distinction between autonomous and intentional forms of imagination, which generate creation and innovation in material, performative, and ideational forms. Among the topics we discussed are the invisible content in art works, conflicting beliefs about revelatory versus imaginative creativity, strategic use of mementoes to manage changing memories, portrayal of attitudes toward historic positionality in performances, and the use of objects to express affiliation and ethnic identity in rituals. We intend to undertake another round of revisions and seek publication as a special issue of a journal.

Roger Lohmann, Trent University, 2000 Simcoe St. N., Oshawa, ON, L1H 7L7, CANADA; <rogerlohmann@trentu.ca>

Indigenous Struggles and Issues in Oceania today
Organizers: Marie Salaün and Natacha Gagné
In our session, ten participants presented their papers and one participant’s presentation was read in absentia. The session was well attended. Jonathan Friedman, who was our discussant for this year’s session, presented a commentary on the papers and the general coherence among them. He highlighted the common themes of the papers and the important elements to consider as we now move towards publication. The participants in the session reached a consensus around the importance of looking closely at the conditions and contexts under which the notion of “indigeneity” is mobilized locally as well as at the ways that indigeneity is thought of in local categories. Jonathan Friedman mentioned that the added value of the session is in the collective effort to carry out a grounded and ethnographically detailed analysis of the categories related to indigeneity. We collectively agreed to undertake another round of
revisions and seek publication. Two publications will normally result from the session, one in French and another one in English.

Marie Salaün, Université Paris Descartes, Faculté SHS, 45, rue des Saints-Peres, 75 006 Paris, FRANCE; <salaun@ehess.fr>
Natacha Gagné, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Ottawa, 550 Cumberland (388), Ottawa ONTARIO KIN 6N5, CANADA; <natgagne@uottawa.ca>

Spectacles of Historical Identities: Changing Mortuary Rites in the Insular Pacific
Organizers: David Lipset and Eric K. Silverman

The session in Santa Cruz excelled. Presenters included Larry Carucci, Nancy Lutkehaus and Joshua Bell in the morning and then Anita Von Poser, Eric Silverman and David Lipset in the afternoon. Discussions were detailed and enhanced by helpful commentary offered from Martha McIntyre, Margaret Jolly and Fred Errington. A salient relationship that emerged during discussion concerned mortuary rituals to the state and modernity. In some contexts – such as the Marshalls (Carucci) and the Purari Delta (Bell) – funerary rites have been heavily transformed. There, death rites are part of a wider identity politics that arises from epical historical/political narratives of disjunction between the locality and modernity. But in other contexts – such as Manam Island (Lutkehaus), the Murik Lakes (Lipset), and possibly Kayan village (Von Poser) – mortuary rites seem to constitute an “as if” setting where the state and modernity are displaced by ‘the local’ and an intense sense of continuity. Among Iatmul (Silverman), by contrast, funerary rites seem to be conservative for folks who mainly live or embrace the village, and transformative for those who reside in town and aspire to the middle class.

We collectively agreed to pursue publication as an ASAO monograph with Berghahn Press. The ASAO monograph editor, Rupert Stasch, has encouraged us to submit the volume. To this end, Robert Foster has kindly agreed to serve as the discussant.

David Lipset, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota, 395 HHH Center, 301-19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA; <lipse001@umn.edu>
Eric K. Silverman, American Studies and Human Development, 200 The Riverway, Wheelock College, Boston, MA 02215, USA; <esilverman@wheelock.edu>

WORKING SESSIONS

Diaspora, Identity and Incorporation
Organizers: Alan Howard, Jan Rensel, and Michael Lieber

Our session consisted of nine papers with two additional ones presented in absentia. Mike Rynkiewich acted as discussant and presented a set of suggestions for revising the papers. He identified four common themes, including shifting centers of diaspora (different views of center and periphery); generational differences in diaspora; diaspora and tradition (how tradition is selected, prioritized, adapted and deployed in diaspora); and diaspora and institutions (how particular institutions fare in diaspora). The papers were pre-circulated, with each participant presenting a commentary on one other paper in addition to discussing their own. Approximately 50 observers were present, many of whom participated in the discussion. We decided to go on to a symposium next year with the goal of producing a publication. Revised papers are due by September 1.
Dumont in the Pacific
Organizers: Mark Mosko, Joel Robbins, and Serge Tcherkézoff

This session explored the relevance of the theoretical work of Louis Dumont for the Anthropology of the Pacific. We had ten papers, two of which were presented in absentia. The papers took up four theoretical themes: 1) values and the relations they establish between cultural elements; 2) the nature of specific values (e.g. individualism, relationalism, holism); 3) the difference between hierarchy and stratification (or between religion and politics; 4) the importance of contexts and levels in explaining how plurality is handled within cultures. We found at this session that participants most often used Dumont’s ideas to more deeply engage the details of their Pacific ethnography. For the symposium session next year, we will ask people to develop their papers further to ask how their ethnographic analyses can also be seen to enrich Dumont’s theoretical legacy.

Mark Mosko, Department of Anthropology, RSPAS, ANU, Canberra ACT 0200, AUSTRALIA; <mark.mosko@anu.edu.au>
Joel Robbins, Department of Anthropology – 0532, University of California, San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0532, USA; <jrobbins@weber.ucsd.edu>
Serge Tcherkézoff, Maison Asie-Pacifique, Campus Universitaire St. Charles, 3 place Victor Hugo, Marseille 13003, FRANCE; <serge@pacific-credo.fr>

En/Gendering Violence in Papua New Guinea
Organizers: Christine Stewart and Dorothy Counts

This year’s session, having already been through one Working Session, resembled a Symposium. Of nine participants in total, two were unable to attend in person, but have been participating in e-mail discussions and a detailed commenting process over the last year. We have eight good papers and an excellent Introduction by Margaret Jolly, all which we recapped largely for the benefit of our surprisingly large audience. We have expanded our theme, from Dorothy Counts’ original publication on domestic violence, to cover a broader spectrum of community violence, and our field has narrowed from pan-Oceania to Papua New Guinea. So this year, we’ve changed the name of the session to ‘En/Gendering Violence in Papua New Guinea’.

Our papers deal with various forms of violence and the processes which engender violence. They examine the ways in which these forms of violence are gendered, and the strategies developed by individuals and institutions in an attempt to cope with gendered violence. Topics include mythical origins; the gendering of witch-killing and the cultural perceptions which legitimize some forms of gender violence; the influences of economic development, Christianity, the introduced legal system, and donor aid. We discussed our common themes and linkages, and resolved that this is our last session. After some further work, we plan to go on to publication, hopefully as an ASAO monograph. Revised papers are due to the editors Christine Stewart and Jean Zorn by 15th June.

Dorothy Counts, 15130 Old Mission Rd., Oyama, BC, CANADA V4V 2A9; <countsD@shaw.ca>
Christine Stewart, Gender Relations Centre, Research School of Pacific & Asian Studies, Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, AUSTRALIA; <christine.stewart@anu.edu.au>
The Working Session was relatively successful. By way of investigation, the session set out to inquire into the emergence of the new general ta-va, time-space theory of reality developed by Mahina and Ka’ili. In doing so, it paved the way allowing for the formulation of a ta-va, time-space theory of Moana anthropology based on Moana cultures. The terms ta and va are pan-Moana concepts and practices, English for time and space.

Mahina set the session in motion by offering a critique of the new general ta-va, time-space theory of reality in terms of both its general and specific tenets. Herein, Mahina reflected on the much more refined, in-depth yet complex and beautiful notion of Moana, examining its form, content and function in the wider context of both temporality and spatiality, within the relationships between Moana cultures and Moana anthropology as a social activity and a disciplinary practice respectively. This was followed by Ka’ili, who demonstrated its specific application to his subject matter of investigation relating to the Tongan diaspora; Addo in relation to the social organization of production of the Tongan fine art of bark-cloth-making; Nuhisifa Seve-Williams in the field of Moana education; Alexander Mawyer who explored with Mangarevan space-time cultural and linguistic notions; Dianna M. Georgina with respect to Samoan ta-va sense of culture and selfhood; Pamela Rosi in view of ta-va underpinnings in the art works of internationally renowned Moana artist Shigeyuki Kihara; Terri Leo-Mauu in connection with time-space basis of Moana material art of tattooing; and Ernie Olson in conjunction with kava as a socio-cultural and ceremonial practice of some ta-va significance.

As a full-day session, it attracted a total of nine papers, with attendants and participants around twenty people on average at any one time throughout the day. Several of these audience members were, themselves, Moana scholars. The reactions, questions, and contributions of all in attendance added to a sense of community and harmony which Mahina and Ka’ili outlined as a central aim in Tongan practice. Given the critical focus on the ontological and epistemological ta-va, time-space of the session, not only as the common medium in which all things are, in a single level of reality, and the fact that they are socially arranged in different ways across cultures, all the papers somehow came together generally well and, more specifically, on both the abstract and concrete, theoretical and ethnographical levels. The main purpose of the session was to both execute and exact a radical shift of the axis of current anthropological investigation from the epistemological to the ontological, thereby combining both quality and utility of Moana cultures in the development of a critical Moana anthropology. Depending on whether we move towards a publication or a Symposium, there is a need for us to continue to capitalize on the existing coherency amongst the papers in order to see to it that they hang together, inter-locking both the theoretical and ethnographical strands into a unified whole. As for the option of publication, we will explore all possible avenues, turning the collection into either a book or a journal’s Special Issue. We are also in discussions about convening at ASAO 2010 for a Symposium, en route to publication.

"Okusitino Mahina, Vava’u Academy for Critical Inquiry and Applied Research, TONGA
Tevita O. Ka’ili, International Cultural Studies & World Languages Dept., BYU Hawai’i, 55-550 Kulanui Street, La’ie, HI 96762; <kailit@byuh.edu>
Ping-Ann Addo, U Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125, USA; <Ping-Ann.Addo@umb.edu>

INFORMAL SESSIONS

Austronesian Taiwan and other Austronesian Margins
Organizer: Kun-hui Ku
This informal session included 8 committed participants; three developed papers were delivered, including one in absentia, and the rest presented statements during the session on their own research project. Organizer Ku provided an overall introduction to the issues, followed by self-introduction of all participants. In all, there were 16 participants in the room. Our discussion quickly moved away from the image of Taiwan as a marginal place to its central location in the diaspora of Austronesian peoples, the dispersion of languages, and the diffusion of crops by means of sailing vessels into both the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Among the topics we discussed were the nature of Austronesian hierarchy, symbolism, gastronomy, mythology, time and space, and encounters between Austronesian populations and non-Austronesian populations. We intend to move on to a working session next year, with a new title "Austronesian Linkages", seeking to identify the characteristics of Austronesian societies/cultures beyond their linguistic connections, and the possibility to identify less material similarities such as transformations of myth, symbolism and social ranking throughout the Austronesian area.

People who have shown interest include: Tom Gibson, Toon van Meijl, Nancy Pollock, Richard Scaglion, David Blundell, Serge Dunis, Tevita O. Ka’ili, ‘Okusitino Mahina, Gregory Forth, Peter Metcalf and Kun-hui Ku. If you are interested in joining, please contact Ku by 10 August.

Cargo Cults and Other Melanesian Movements: Old Theories and New Realities
Organizers: Marc Tabani and Marcellin Abong
Our session included nine presentations that were all significantly developed, considering that we met as an informal session. The papers were given by Martha Macintyre, Maria Lepowsky, Elfriede Hermann, Lamont Lindstrom, Michael Scott, Joshua Bell, Eben Kirksey, Marcellin Abong and Marc Tabani. The geographic range of the presentations extended from PNG, West Papua, and the Solomon Islands to Vanuatu. Discussion was enlightened also by generous contributions from Margaret Jolly, James Clifford, Joel Robbins and Rick Feinberg, among others, who attended the session, along with 20 other participants and commentators who were present in the room. We discussed with a renewed perspective ethnographic insight into an old issue in the history of Melanesian anthropology: cargo cults, and more generally speaking the analysis of indigenous movements of all sorts. Discussion unavoidably touched on the derogatory and celebratory aspects of the label and theory of “cargo cult”. More significantly, discussion also focused on the social work, symbolization, cultural imaginations and political innovations inherent in these phenomena. The historical contexts of these movements’ eruptions were placed in perspective of their continuities in a globalized world and the intensification of capitalism in rural and urban Melanesia today. Attention was given by most of the participants to the “revolutionary” aspects of the emergence as well as the long-standing continuity of many of these movements.

We intend to meet again as a Formal Symposium next year; the Pacific-Credo Publications Press (CNRS – Marseilles) may provide us the opportunity to publish a monograph of collected papers. Participants should e-mail draft papers to the organizers by October 15th, 2009 for pre-circulation among session participants and discussants.
Contemporary Political Economies of Sport in Oceania
Organizers: Lisa Uperesa and Paige West
Our informal session began with four short paper presentations which were followed by a longer, open informal discussion about the implications of sport with politics and political economies of scale, organization of new forms of value and capital, and structural inequality. Among the topics we discussed were the role of sport in forging national identity, the professionalization of rugby unions under neoliberal globalization policies, the political economy of fantasy and the creation of value through fantasy formations, sport as social capital, gendered dynamics of sporting practices and the reorganization of local space and time, as well as indigenous and indigenization of sport across the Pacific. There were 13 participants in total, and 6 expressed interest in joining a future session. We intend to propose a working session for next year’s meeting.
The anthropology of the Pacific has historically had a sustained interest in play and games. In the Pacific today organized sports serve as the most prevalent contemporary forms of organized physical activity with institutionalized rules. Sports are expressions of economics, popular culture, youth culture, and politics and the analysis of sport allows for analysis of race, power, gender, and social inequality. Participation in sport varies across the Pacific with participation ranging in meaning. For some sport is waged-labor, for others it is economic development, ritual expression, an arena for conflict mediation, a set of socio-cultural expressions, or just play. This panel contributes to the growing body of work on the anthropological and historical analysis of sport that treats sport as a form of social, economic, and political expression worthy of careful social analysis.
We are interested in political economies of sport not in a narrow or traditional sense of economy, but rather take inspiration from the work of Pierre Bourdieu in considering the multiple forms of capital (cultural, economic, social, etc.) that are implicated in and emerge from participation in sport. We encourage papers that examine how these forms of capital are developed, valued, exchanged, circulated, and invested in different contexts. We also welcome papers that consider sport within different social scales (e.g., from the school or village level to national, regional, and international sporting circuits) and the ways in which these different scales articulate or intersect. Submissions may also focus on how various forms of sporting capital draw upon, sustain, and/or transform social relationships in Oceanic communities.
Abstracts may be submitted to Lisa Uperesa by October 25.

Lisa Uperesa, Anthropology Department, Columbia University, 452 Schermerhorn Extension, 1200 Amsterdam Avenue MC 5523, New York, NY 10027, USA; tel. (917) 684-7707; fax (212) 854-7347; <flu2101@columbia.edu>
Paige West, Anthropology Department, Barnard College, 3009 Broadway, New York City, NY 10027, USA.; tel. (212) 854-9389; fax (212) 854-3332; <cw2031@columbia.edu>

Forests of Oceania: Environmental Histories, Present Concerns and Future Possibilities
Organizers: Joshua A. Bell and Paige West

We would like to thank those who participated in our informal session, and those who expressed interest but were unable to attend. Sixteen people participated making the session a productive forum for discussing the multifaceted issues of forests of Oceania. After a short introduction to the topic, in which we described the impetus for the session, we turned to a discussion of the pre-circulated abstracts we had received which dealt regionally with Papua New Guinea (Crater Mountain, East New Britain, and the Purari Delta), Mangareva and Samoa. These papers, and the open discussions that followed, raised issues dealing with the politics of carbon trading, landowner politics, the violence of and anxieties around resource extraction, the presence and absence of the State and NGOs, consumption and its networks, the role of youth, scale, histories and finally hope. We are proceeding to a working session for next year, and are still open to further expressions of interest. If you would like to participate please do not hesitate to contact us with a statement of interest. We will be circulating a short reading
Global Warming in the South Pacific
Organizer: Paul Shankman
Our session included six presentations with four discussants; about 25 people were in attendance. After an introduction by Paul Shankman, case studies of global warming and its consequences were presented from Tuvalu (Heather Lazrus), Yap (Eric Metzgar), Kiribati (Jamie Bach), Murik (David Lipset), and the Solomons (Jill Nash); the broader topic of environmental refugees was presented by Wolfgang Kempf. Discussants Anne and Keith Chambers, Michael Goldsmith, and Michael Burton provided lively commentary. The session as a whole was ethnographically rich and analytically diverse. Since global warming will continue to be a pressing issue in this region of the world, participants agreed to proceed to a working session at next year’s meeting.

Paul Shankman, Department of Anthropology 233 UCB, University of Colorado, Boulder CO 80309, USA; <paul.shankman@colorado.edu>

Pacific Pasts: Agency, Archives and Artifacts
Organizer: Deborah B. Waite
This informal session included eight participants who were present and three who were unable to attend the conference but who sent in abstracts. One of the three even sent a representative who attended the session. Still another potential participant from the Cook Islands was proposed by one individual who will contact the person regarding future interest in participation. The discussion was very productive, and we voted unanimously to proceed to a working session at next year’s meeting in Alexandria, Virginia. According to the ASAO Session Organizers’ checklist for next year’s meeting, we are obligated to circulate paper titles and abstracts by October. However, we agreed to go one step further and circulate papers, though they can be in draft format if necessary. We felt that we would have more to work with by doing this. This year's informal session actually began last year at Canberra as a very ‘informal’ session. Several of the Australian participants did not continue on with this year's informal session. This didn’t hamper the discussion, but we want to be thoroughly together next year; hence our request for working papers to be pre-circulated by October 15.

Deborah B. Waite, Art & Art History, U Hawaiʻi at Manoa, 2535 The Mall, Honolulu

Vernacular and Culturally Based Education in Oceania Today: Articulating Global, National, and Local Agendas
Organizers: Marie Salaün and Trisha Shipman-Lameier
This informal session was an offshoot of sorts from a working session that took place in 2007. The goal of the 2008 session was to focus on the political issues regarding vernacular and cultural education programs and education reform in the Pacific, instead of the logistics of creating such programs. We had a total of seventeen participants, six of whom presented possible projects for next year. Discussion during the session brought to light the apparent diversity in creating vernacular and cultural education programs, especially in terms of motives. There was a significant amount of interest in continuing the session next year as a working session, focused on the purpose for creating such programs, both economically and

Joshua A. Bell, Natural History Museum, Smithsonian Institution, PO Box 37012, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012, USA; <bellja@si.edu>
Paige West, Department of Anthropology, Barnard College, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027, USA; <cw2031@columbia.edu>
politically, throughout the Pacific. However, due to unforeseen financial uncertainty, Trish will not be able to continue with the session as a co-organizer. At this time, the session will move forward to a working session only if a new co-organizer is ready to take the lead. Anyone interested is urged to contact Marie Salaün as soon as possible.

Marie Salaün, Université Paris Descartes, Faculté SHS, 45, rue des Saints-Peres, 75 006 Paris, FRANCE; <salaun@chess.fr>
Trisha Shipman, Pacific Islands Studies, University of Hawai`i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI 96822; <trishshipman@gmail.com>

Villages and Their Alters in Melanesian Social Worlds
Organizers: Courtney Handman and Rupert Stasch
Our session began with nine presentations based on pre-circulated abstracts, and five presentations by new participants. Two persons who circulated abstracts and who intend to continue with the session were not able to attend in Santa Cruz. About twenty persons attended the session. We discussed possible ways of conceptualizing the overlaps and disparities between the subjects treated in the different papers. Major subjects included villages as precipitates of projects on the part of differently situated actors; villages as elements in wider fields of place-making; villages as lying at the intersection of diverse “top-down” (e.g. state-prescribed) and bottom-up political processes; the relationality of the village category to contrasting or allied practices and categories in its field; and the historical and cultural specificity of the village category and its language, in different settings. Ongoing participants in the panel are going to circulate full papers by October 15th, and the organizers are going to write and circulate a draft introduction based on those papers, preparatory to a Working Session at the Washington, D.C. meeting.

Courtney Handman, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Chicago, 1126 E. 59th St., Chicago IL  60637, USA; <cjhandma@uchicago.edu>
Rupert Stasch, Dept. of Anthropology - 0532, UC San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla CA  92037 - 0532, USA; <rstasch@ucsd.edu>

NEW SESSION PROPOSALS FOR 2010

INFORMAL SESSIONS

Ends of War: Causes of Peace in the Pacific
Organizer: Roger Ivar Lohmann
This session will explore the causes and methods of ending warfare and promoting peace found in Oceania, past and present. The goal of the session is to document spatial and temporal variation and patterns in Pacific war-ending and peacemaking, and to identify practical lessons with potential for cross-cultural application. Participants are encouraged to present holistic, general anthropological analyses rather than restricting themselves to the purview of social anthropology/ethnology. Scholars with relevant data working in any of the four subfields of anthropology or in other disciplines are invited to participate. If you are interested in participating in the session, please send a title and abstract of a paper you would like to develop to the organizer by October 20, 2009.

Roger Lohmann, Trent University, 2000 Simcoe St. N., Oshawa, ON, L1H 7L7, CANADA; <rogerlohmann@trentu.ca>

From Romance to "Reality": Representations of Pacific Islands and Islanders
Organizers: Nancy Lutkehaus and Judith Schachter
This informal session will explore notions of the island Pacific, as island places and peoples have been represented over time and from different cultural perspectives in memoirs, travel
accounts, biographies, journals, journalism, documentary film, and reality TV. Some questions we might raise include: What have been the dominant tropes and metaphors generated by and that also constitute these perspectives? What have been the transformations of these tropes over time? What have been the contexts for these transformations? We intend to cover all areas of the Pacific. We especially welcome the viewpoints of Pacific Island scholars on the ways in which the islands have been represented, both by Pacific Islanders themselves and by visitors over several centuries. If you are interested in participating, please get in touch with both Nancy and Judith.

Nancy Lutkehaus, Department of Anthropology, USC, Grace Ford Salvatori 126, Los Angeles CA 90089; <Lutkehau@usc.edu>
Judith Schachter, Department of History, Carnegie Mellon, Baker Hall 240, Pittsburgh PA 15213-3890; <jm1e@andrew.cmu.edu>

Spatial Orientation
Organizers: Alex Mawyer and Rick Feinberg

Over the last century, explorations of space and cognition as they relate to social organization, symbolism, rank, and navigation have been a central feature of Oceanic anthropology. Hocart’s account of “dual organization” in Fiji’s Lau Islands, Malinowski’s description of Trobriand village structure, and Firth’s sensitivity to the role of space in the everyday of Tikopian practices figured prominently in work by Levi-Strauss, Sahlins, and others. Similarly, studies by such figures as Gladwin, Alkire, Lewis, and Finney have drawn attention to complex conceptualizations of space in Oceanic way-finding. Over time, preoccupation with binary conceptualizations of space gave way to an appreciation of “multiple models” – implicitly in works by Levi-Strauss (1967) and Sahlins (1976), then more explicitly by Shore (1996) and contributions to Bennardo (2002). Still more recently, a series of ASAO sessions have examined the connection between time and space (or ta and va) in Polynesia. We plan a session at the 2010 meeting that will build on all these efforts by exploring spatial constructs in Pacific communities and their relationship to cognitive processes as revealed in mental maps, linguistic representations, and navigational techniques. Anyone interested in participating may contact either of the organizers. If we get enough interest the session could be upgraded to a working session.

Alex Mawyer, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Lake Forest College, 555 N. Sheridan Rd., Lake Forest, Illinois 60045, USA; tel. 847-735-5239; <mawyer@lakeforest.edu>
Richard Feinberg, Department of Anthropology, Kent State University, Kent OH 44242 USA; tel. 330-672-2722; <rfeinber@kent.edu>

WORKING SESSIONS

Identity Issues and Ethno-Racial Categorization in the Pacific
Organizers: Pauline McKenzie Aucoin and Michael Goldsmith

The main goal of this proposed working session will be to consider how/where race ideologies have been constructed and put into practice in the Pacific and whether there are differences among them in terms of their application of the political processes of distinction, differentiation, and valorization that underlie the production of economies of race. We will discuss how categorization (status as European, Indigenous, or non-European/non-Indigenous) articulates with citizenship, status, land and other rights in British vs. French colonial frameworks. This would enable us to consider how ideologies based on typology encompass racial as well as other forms of categorizations that are evident in the Pacific, and how these have articulated with race-ethno ideologies in wider colonial, historical, and global contexts.

Please send statements of interest to Paula Aucoin by September 15, 2009.
Photographing Pacific Islanders
Organizers: Eric Silverman and Kathy Creely

This proposed working session seeks to explore a new topic for ASAO: the relationship between photography and Pacific Islanders both historically and in the contemporary era. The doubled meaning of the session title alludes to photographs of Pacific Islanders, and the uses of photography by Pacific Islanders. We thus envision four categories of papers: (i) historical analysis of anthropological and other photographs of Pacific Islanders; (ii) historical and contemporary uses of photographs and photography by Pacific Islanders themselves; (iii) theorizing photographic practices for Pacific anthropology; and (iv) the role and transformations of photographs and photographic practices in, and by, Pacific museums, archives, and other institutions. In short, we are interested in critical, theoretical, and historical analyses of how anthropologists and others have photographed Pacific Islanders, and how Pacific Islanders themselves use and practice photography. Ideally, we want participants to pre-circulate mini or draft papers (say, 5000 words) prior to the session. Each participant will present their paper at the session, and then receive critical comments. We encourage any and all interested members to contact Eric and Kathy with their ideas as soon as possible.

NOTE FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

This is a reminder from your ASAO program coordinator that the next newsletter deadline for session organizers is AUGUST 20. I need organizers to send me updated descriptions of new and ongoing sessions by August 20 so they may be included in the September newsletter. Updated descriptions should include any deadline reminders. Session organizers and participants should review important session guidelines and timetable information on the ASAO web site <www.asao.org>.

Laura Zimmer Tamakoshi

V. RECENT JOURNALS

Oceania Newsletter, Number 53, March 2009. This issue is available on the web at the site of the Centre for Pacific and Asian Studies at the Radboud University in Nijmegen, Netherlands (http://cps.ruhosting.nl/)

Issue Number 53 includes the featured selection: Thinking through Things: Theorising Artefacts Ethnographically, reviewed by Marianne Riphagen.

The Contemporary Pacific, Volume 21 (#1) 2009, is now available. It contains the following articles and dialogue pieces:

Beyond “Migration”: Samoan Population Movement (Malaga) and the Geography of Social Space (Va)
Sa’iliemanu Lilomaiaava-Doktor
The Red Wave Collective: The Process of Creating Art at the Oceania Centre for Arts and Culture
Katherine Higgins

A Well with No Water
Brij V Lal

The “Sea of Little Lands”: Examining Micronesia’s Place in “Our Sea of Islands"
David Hanlon

The issue also features the art of Lingikoni Vaka‘uta; political reviews of Micronesia and Polynesia; and ten book and media reviews.

To purchase this issue, or for subscriptions to The Contemporary Pacific, contact the Journals Department, University of Hawai‘i Press, 2840 Kolowalu Street, Honolulu HI 96822; telephone 808/956-8833; Web site http://www.uhpress.hawaii.edu/journals/cp/; e-mail uhjpourn@hawaii.edu The journal may also be accessed online (if your institution subscribes to Project MUSE): http://muse.jhu.edu/

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION


The topic of religious and ritual change, including conversion from one modality of practices to another, has emerged recently as a prime focus of scholarly attention in anthropology and related disciplines. Conversion to Christianity is one focus that has developed within this broad and dynamic field of investigations. This edited volume is a unique set of studies that explores this field further, with a doubly innovative approach. First, the chapters represent a collaboration of leading scholars from Taiwan and from the USA and Europe. Second, the studies involve a comparative dimension, juxtaposing work done among indigenous Austronesian minorities in Taiwan and work done in the Pacific Islands (Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands). Within this collection of essays, common processes of change are evident, the importance of specific histories is revealed, and analytical and theoretical issues are probed and reviewed, demonstrating their relevance to the overall dimensions of comparison.


Today, most indigenous Fijians are Christians, and the Methodist Church is the foundation of their social and political lives. Yet, as this thought-provoking study of life on rural Kadavu Island finds, Fijians also believe that their ancestors possessed an inherent strength that is lacking in the present day. Looking in particular at the interaction between the church and the traditional chiefly system, Matt Tomlinson finds that this belief about the superiority of the past provokes great anxiety, and that Fijians seek ways of recovering this strength through ritual and political action—Christianity itself simultaneously generates a sense of loss and the means of recuperation. To unravel the cultural dynamics of Christianity in Fiji, Tomlinson explores how this loss is expressed through everyday language and practices.


This is a collection of 12 interpretations of Pacific mythology paying tribute to French anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss. Written in English, the book is available free for downloading from the Internet at the Web site of Haere Po Editions Tahiti (www.haerepo.com).
Oil Fire and Fate: The Sinking of the USS Mississinewa (AO-59) in WWII by Japan’s Secret Weapon, by Mike Mair. SMJ Investments LLC, 2008.

This work is a comprehensive history of Ulithi Atoll and WWII. The U.S.S. Mississinewa was a T3-S2-A3 Auxiliary Oiler, commissioned on May 18, 1944. The role of the U.S.S. Mississinewa was to refuel ships, while underway, in the South Pacific during WWII. She, along with the other Auxiliary Oilers, played a crucial role in keeping combat vessels supplied with fuel.

On November 20, 1944, the U.S.S. Mississinewa was struck by a Kaiten (Imperial Japanese Navy manned suicide torpedo with a 3,418 lb. warhead), became totally engulfed in flames and subsequently sank with a loss of 63 U.S. Sailors and one Japanese Kaiten pilot. The sinking was captured in still photographs by Sid Harris, a sailor aboard fleet tug, Munsee.

Please see the following Web site for ordering information: http://www.ussmississinewa.com

VII. OTHER CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

HÜLILI: Multidisciplinary Research on Hawaiian Well-Being
CALL FOR PAPERS, VOL. 6
Hülili (bridge or ladder) brings together ancestral knowledge of the past and current issues that affect Hawaiians today. Hülili highlights theory, practice, and research on Native Hawaiian issues from such diverse disciplines as education, health, sociology, culture, and economics. Articles from emerging and established voices emphasize the importance of native people telling native stories to preserve native values and ways of knowing.

Recent years have been a pivotal time for Native Hawaiians. As Hawaiian issues gain momentum locally and nationally, one thing is clear: The Hawaiian voice matters and that voice is growing. Understanding and amplifying the native voice is a central objective of Hülili.

At this time, we are accepting papers for Volume 6. To be considered for this volume, we request papers be submitted by June 1, 2009.

To request manuscript guidelines, email spire@ksbe.edu.
To view previous volumes of Hülili, visit www.hawaiidigitallibrary.org
For questions, please call Shawna Medeiros at 808.534.3962.

SPI / Research and Evaluation
Kamehameha Schools
567 South King Street, Suite 400
Honolulu, HI 96813
Email: spire@ksbe.edu

VIII. PROGRAM COORDINATOR’S ANNUAL REPORT

At the end of the 2009 conference in Santa Cruz I turned the program coordinatorship over to Laura Tamakoshi. I would like to acknowledge Laura’s engaged and active shadowing of my activity over the year. She is well prepared to take over. I’d like to thank my fellow officers and the board members who have readily stepped forward when needed to solve one or another issue. Somehow, working together, the organization almost magically seems to keep operating. This year the program included three symposia, four working sessions, and eight informal sessions for a total of 15 sessions. This represents a drop from 2008’s 19 sessions (the 2007 had 16 sessions, and 2006 had 20 sessions). No AV requests were made by the November 1 deadline, though a few late requests were made in the week before the meeting, after arrangements had already been made. I would like to remind all meeting participants to heed and take responsibility for meeting all deadlines. This year I again invited meeting participants to bring offprints of their recent articles for free distribution in the book display room. I also invited 45 presses to send books, journals, and fliers for the display room. Finally, I am
grateful to Kathy Creely, Mike Rynkiewich, and Mary McCutcheon for their efforts securing local arrangements for the meeting.

Roger Lohmann, Former Program Coordinator

IX. SITE COORDINATOR REPORT

Our 2009 ASAO meeting in Santa Cruz, CA was well attended, the University Inn was comfortable, and there were plenty of choices outside the hotel for conviviality. Though transportation to and from the airports took some organizing, Airport Express was timely and courteous.

Our 2010 ASAO meeting will be at the Crowne Plaza, Old Town Alexandria, 901 North Fairfax Street (www.cpoldtownalexandriahotel.com). The dates are February 9-13, 2010. The hotel offers a complimentary shuttle to Ronald Reagan National Airport and the Metro, and complimentary Internet connections in the rooms. Old Town offers a number of restaurants and bars within easy walking distance. The area includes a number of interesting sites, and of particular interest to us will be the Smithsonian Institute. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

Mike Rynkiewich

X. FROM THE SECRETARY

2008-09 was my fourth year in the office of secretary. The first three years were marked by change due to division of the original secretary/treasurer office into separate secretary, treasurer, and membership coordinator offices. The year just ended compares as a year of stability. This allowed improved attention to several of the routine secretarial tasks, for example those related to board discussions and decisions (by email) during the year and submissions for recognition of edited volumes and special journal issues as ASAO publications. A full list of the routine tasks completed and comments on the status of two special tasks follow.

Routine tasks

1. Responded to inquiries from members and nonmembers *
2. Sent letters of appreciation to major donors to the Pacific Island Scholars Fund *
3. Took minutes of the 2008 board meeting and opening and closing plenaries
4. Prepared a series of draft minutes for review by board members and officers
5. Prepared copies of bylaws and minutes of past board meetings for distribution to new board members and officers
6. Prepared certificates for presentation/mailing to newly elected honorary fellows
7. Invited and processed submissions for recognition of edited volumes/special journal issues as an ASAO publication
8. Maintained a file of board discussions and decisions (by email) between the 2008 and 2009 meetings and drafted a summary for review by board members *
9. Prepared an agenda for the 2009 board meeting
10. Updated the secretary’s “to do” list

* Jointly with other officers and/or board directors.

Special tasks

1. Bylaws amendments
   Work related to revision of the association’s bylaws was the primary special task during my first three years as secretary. This year, Chair-elect Toon van Meijl took on the task of a
general review and revision and Past Chair Naomi McPherson monitored specific assignments. I provided electronic copies of the original (1993) bylaws and a current (2008) draft incorporating previously approved amendments, compiled a reference list of on-hold (approved) and ongoing amendments, and assisted with the review of specific sections.

2. Excerpts from minutes of annual meetings that reflect policy decisions – compilation and distribution to board members and officers. This task was last done in 1996 so a sizable backlog exists. I planned to pick it up during 2006 and again during 2007 and 2008 but was not able to. I hope to give it priority during 2009.

I thank Chair Dan Jorgensen, Chair-elect Toon van Meijl, and Past Chair Naomi McPherson for their significant advice and support throughout the year and my fellow officers for needed collaborations. I am grateful to Catherine Paceley, Department of Kinesiology and Community Health, and Amy Fahey, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for important technical support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Armstrong

XI. ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

The ASAO Archives are housed in the Pacific Collection of the University of Hawai‘i’s Hamilton Library. They consist of historical documents from the association’s early years (including in its first incarnation, as the Association for Social Anthropology in Eastern Oceania [ASAEO]) as well as the meeting records, officers’ reports, and membership directories for those years when directories were published. Board and officers’ correspondence files can be accessed by written permission of the board; the other materials (reports, etc) are matters of public record and are in the open files. When I add files to the archives I must also update the individual file finder lists as well as the overall collection list.

Jan Rensel

XII. SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS EDITOR’S REPORT

James Clifford (Professor of History of Consciousness at the University of California at Santa Cruz) presented the 2009 ASAO Distinguished Lecture. Originally titled, “Articulating, Performing, Translating: Native Heritage Politics in Oceanic Alaska,” Professor Clifford invited the audience to invent their own titles for the talk as he had considerably transformed this into an analysis and appreciation of the impact of previous ASAO Distinguished Lecturer (1993) Epeli Hau’ofa’s work within Pacific and cultural studies. As you will read elsewhere, ASAO has instituted a new arrangement with the journal Oceania to publish its Distinguished Lectures each year, as appropriate. We expect that Professor Clifford’s lecture will be the inaugural publication in this new endeavor.

Finally, no expenditures were made this year from the Special Publications account and just under $7500.00 remains available to support future publication and also future Distinguished Lecturers. The Board established a new policy that ASAO will cover travel expenses for future lecturers, as needed, in addition to the modest honorarium that each currently receives.

Lamont Lindstrom
XIII. MEMBERSHIP CHAIR REPORT

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP FOR 2008: 326 (An increase of 37 over 2007)

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF ALL MEMBERS:

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Canadian membership by province: 22 Total
British Columbia 10
Ontario 7
Quebec 4
Saskatchewan 1

United States membership by region:
Northeast, 62
Southeast, 17
Midwest, 37
West and Hawaii 88

Kathryn Creely

XIV. NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

Three issues of the ASAO Newsletter were published in 2008 including #130 (April), #131 (September), and #132 (December). These issues included all reports from the 2008 Annual Meeting in Canberra and proposals for the 2009 Meeting in Santa Cruz. It has been a pleasure to work with Roger Lohmann for the past three years since Roger always provides timely and well organized program materials to be published in the Newsletter. Equally, Jan Rensel and Kathy Creely deserve special thanks for their critical contributions to the final proofreading and distribution components of newsletter publication. I also wish to thank the College of Letters and Science at Montana State University for an extension of funding for a student editorial assistant to help with the Newsletter. As Newsletter Editor, I continued to be ably assisted by Samantha Brockman who graduated from Montana State University in May, 2008.

During the past year we have increased the number of members who subscribe to the electronic version of the Newsletter, and have slightly decreased the number of copies placed in the mail. Each copy mailed, of course, costs ASAO a substantial sum (approximately $3.50 per copy [per issue] for a U. S. mailing; $4.00 per copy for Canadian members; $5.10 per copy for most other non-U. S. zip code destinations). Clearly it will be necessary to continue to produce white paper versions of the Newsletter in the future. Institutions serve as important repositories of these materials and some members do not have access to dependable computer facilities to download the Newsletter. Nevertheless, the Board may wish to consider a surcharge to cover the cost of printed Newsletters for those members in a position to pay such fees.
As many of you will recall from last year’s meeting in Canberra, it is my plan to retire from the position of ASAO Newsletter Editor following the April 2009 issue. Fortunately, Jamon Halvaksz stepped forward in the eleventh hour as a volunteer to serve as the upcoming Newsletter Editor beginning with the September 2009 issue. All materials to be published in upcoming ASAO Newsletters should be sent to Jamon. I am honored to have served as ASAO Newsletter Editor during the past several years and appreciate the patience and indulgence of ASAO readers during the time of my editorship.

Laurence Marshall Carucci

XV. TREASURER’S REPORT

General Fund Summary

The balance in the ASAO general fund on January 1, 2008, was $47,627.22 and the balance for December 31, 2008, was $51,273.48.

PISF Summary

The PISF portion of this balance was $5304 at the beginning of the year and $6714.07 at the end of the year. Donations to PISF amounted to $4478 over the course of the year. The PISF food challenge accounted for $525 from 17 donors. Some of the foods celebrated were turkey tail sashimi, baked feathery noddy birds, and fully gestated megapod eggs.

Additional notes

We have two new policies that make payments to ASAO much easier. First, we accept checks in foreign currencies. Our bank deducts $5 for the currency exchange, but the convenience for our members is worth it. Second, we accept payments through Paypal. Paypal extracts a small percentage from payments but the system is efficient both for payers and for our bookkeeping.

Mary McCutcheon

XVI. WEB SITE MANAGER’S REPORT

During the year I updated the website as required to reflect session reports from the 2008 meeting in Canberra, session announcements provided by the Newsletter Editors and Program Coordinator, and information concerning the 2009 meeting in Santa Cruz provided by the Program Coordinator, and the Site Coordinator. The pre-registration form and PISF application form for the Santa Cruz meeting were uploaded in PDF format. Employment opportunities relevant to the membership have been posted as they were drawn to my attention.

My major project for the year was scanning all the back issues of the ASAO Newsletter back to the organization’s beginnings in 1967 when it was known as the Association for Social Anthropology in Eastern Oceania. I am grateful to the board of ASAO for providing funds for me to purchase a bulk scanner for that purpose. The archives have also been updated to include all the newsletters in PDF format through the year 2007 (in compliance with the plan to add newsletters one year after their publication so that members maintain the benefit of having current newsletters that are unavailable to non-members). A photo album has been added to the archives with pictures from the Canberra meeting.

During the month of January 2009 the website received an average of 92 visits per day (up from 73 per day for January 2008), with an average of 268 pages observed. The average monthly statistics for 2008 are 2326 visits and 7841 pages observed.

As always, I would be happy to hear from members of the Association regarding ways to improve the website, and would appreciate being informed of any errors, misspellings, or bizarre experiences you might have when visiting the site.

Alan Howard
XVII. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FOR ASAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

Aletta Biersack

I did my graduate work at the University of Michigan. My doctoral research project focused on kinship among the Ipili speakers of the Paiela valley, PNG highlands, a project that still intrigues me, when properly cast. My present focus is on gold mining and its dynamics. Two mines concern me: the Mt. Kare mine, just south of the Paiela valley, where exploration has been ongoing for over 20 years now, and the Porgera mine, lying just northeast of Mt. Kare and in the Ipili speaking Porgera valley. I have published on historical anthropology (Clio in Oceania, ed., A. Biersack), regional ethnography (Papuan Borderlands, ed. A. Biersack), and political ecology (“Ecologies for Tomorrow,” ed. A. Biersack, and Reimagining Political Ecology, ed. A. Biersack and J. Greenberg).

Roger Ivar Lohmann

I am an associate professor of anthropology at Trent University. I earned my Ph.D. in 2000 at University of Wisconsin-Madison. I have participated in ASAO meetings regularly since Pensacola, 1998. I edited a volume that arose from a series of ASAO sessions (Dream Travelers: Sleep Experiences and Culture in the Western Pacific, 2003). My organizational experience includes serving as ASAO program coordinator from 2006-2009, past terms as vice president and editor of the National Association of Student Anthropologists, and my current work as editor-in-chief of Reviews in Anthropology. My ethnographic research site is Papua New Guinea, among the Asabano. My main research interests include the experiential causes of supernatural beliefs and religious change. This work has resulted in a variety of publications including “Sound of a Woman: Drums, Gender, and Myth among the Asabano of Papua New Guinea” in Material Religion, 2007, “The Supernatural Is Everywhere: Defining Qualities of Religion in Melanesia and Beyond” in Anthropological Forum, 2003, and “The Role of Dreams in Religious Enculturation among the Asabano of Papua New Guinea” in Ethos, 2000. ASAO is a special organization. Our friendly and egalitarian meetings promote deep and extended dialog on the topics that we make centerpieces of our sessions. Furthermore, the organization encourages participants to publish the impressive and collaborative results of this process. As a long-term beneficiary of ASAO, I would be pleased to help sustain the Association as a board member.

Natacha Gagné

is Assistant Professor at the University of Ottawa. She is also a researcher at IRIS (Institut de recherche interdisciplinaire sur les enjeux sociaux : sciences sociales, politique, santé), a joint research institute associated with the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) and the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) in Paris. She did her undergraduate (1997) and master’s (1999) studies in Anthropology at Université Laval. She obtained her PhD in Anthropology from McGill University (2004). Her PhD thesis was entitled Maaori Identities and Visions: Politics of Everyday Life in Auckland, New Zealand. From 2004 to 2006, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the EHESS, Paris and at the Department of Social Anthropology of Lund University, Sweden. She is currently doing comparative research on New Zealand, French Polynesia and New Caledonia. Her research interests are principally in the field of political anthropology and urban anthropology on issues related to citizenship, indigeneity, political autonomy, (de)colonisation, and identity politics. In addition to many articles, she is co-editor of a special issue of the journal Anthropologica entitled (De)colonization as experience and field of enquiry: The work of Eric Schwimmer (2008). She is also co-editor of the book Autochtonies : vues de France et du Québec published in 2009 at the Presses de l’Université Laval. Natacha Gagné was a member of the executive board of the ACSALF (Association canadienne des sociologues et anthropologues de langue française / Canadian Association of francophone sociologists and anthropologists) from 1999 to 2001 and the editor of the association’s newsletter. She attended her first ASAO meeting in Auckland in 2002 and has been a member of the association since then.
Marc Tabani

I am honored to have been nominated for the ASAO Board of Directors. I have been attending ASAO meetings since 2005 and have participated in a number of sessions. At the 2009 meeting I co-organized a session entitled “Cargo Cults and Other Melanesian Movements: Old Theories and New Realities” with Marcellin Abong, Director of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre. In addition to ASAO, I am active in the European Society for Oceanists (ESfO) and serve on the executive board of the Société des Océanistes.

I began studying Pacific anthropology at the University of Paris-X-Nanterre, where I obtained my bachelor’s and master’s degrees. The subject of my master’s thesis was millenarian movements in the Papuan Gulf. I subsequently undertook doctoral studies at the University of Montpellier under the supervision of Professor Alain Babadzan, beginning fieldwork in 1993. My dissertation *Syncretism, Traditionalism and Nationalism in Vanuatu* (2000) explored the politics of identity and indigenous movements in Vanuatu. I have completed over thirty months of fieldwork in Vanuatu; for the last ten years my research has been primarily on the cultic activities of the John Frum movement on Tanna.

Since 2000, I’ve been affiliated with CREDO (Centre de Recherche et de Documentation sur l’Océanie) in Marseilles, first as a Research Fellow and, since 2006, as a tenured Senior Research Fellow. Prior to this, I worked at the French National Library for a decade, where I was the curator for anthropology.


XVIII. HONORARY FELLOW NOMINEE

Robert (Bob) Tonkinson

Lamont Lindstrom and Mac Marshall nominate Robert (Bob) Tonkinson (MA UWA; PhD U. British Columbia) for an ASAO Honorary Fellowship. Bob has been an ASAO member and supporter for many years. In 2002, he delivered our Distinguished Lecture at the Auckland, NZ meeting. Currently, Bob is Professor (and Chair) Emeritus at the Dept. of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Western Australia. Despite his official retirement, he remains an active scholar, drawing on more than forty years of field research at two principal field sites—SE Ambrym, in Vanuatu, and the Australian Western Desert’s Mardu people. He also continues to serve as Editor of the journal *Anthropological Forum*. Bob has, moreover, contributed in various practical ways to the people with whom he has worked. He was, for example, Consultant Anthropologist for the Mardu Native Title Claim that was successfully concluded in 2002, and he has been Deputy Chair of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Canberra.

Bob, in his on-going career, has pursued a range of important interests within Pacific Studies and beyond. These include identity construction, the politics of tradition (kastom), native title issues, Christianity, traditional religious systems, and change, post-colonial sorcery, and more. He has written extensively on both Vanuatu and Australian desert people. In addition to dozens of articles, his publications include three important books about Ambrym and the Mardu including *Maat Village, Efate: A Relocated Community in the New Hebrides* (1968), *The Jigalong Mob: Aboriginal Victors of the Desert Crusade* (1974), and *The Mardu Aborigines: Living the Dream in Australia’s Desert* (1979). Bob, along with Roger Keesing, also edited the first collection of papers on Melanesian kastom which appeared as a special issue of the journal *Mankind* in 1982 and he has subsequently remained engaged within ensuring analyses of the politics of tradition. His deep experience in two field sites has recently led him to return to the classic anthropological concern with cross-cultural comparison, notably of the course of social change in each of his field locations, including the uses and politics of tradition in relation to contemporary political action and current issues of personal and group identity. In three recent essays, for example, he investigated indigenous reactions to the invasion of Europeans; discussed comparative dreams and dream experiences and their status and functioning in the
two cultures; and the different politics of tradition in independent Vanuatu versus metropolitan Australia.

Alongside his own research and scholarship, Bob has assisted and mentored many younger anthropologists and Pacific Scholars in Perth, in Vanuatu, and beyond. His kindness, his good humor, and his steady encouragement of students and younger colleagues over the years have added much to ASAO itself and also to the wider world of Pacific Studies. We believe ASAO’s membership would overwhelmingly support Bob’s nomination to the ranks of our honorary, and honorable, fellows.

_Lamont Lindstrom and Mac Marshall_

**XIX. OBITUARIES**

**IN MEMORY OF JANE CARTER GOODALE, 1926-2008**

**THE ETHNOGRAPHIC LIFE OF JANE C. GOODALE (Jeanette Dickerson-Putman)**

Jane, the second of four siblings, was born in Boston in 1926. Jane was proud of her New England heritage. Her forbearers have been in New England since the 1630s and one branch of the family was even involved in the Salem Witch Trials. An ancestress of Jane’s was part of a student group that was asked by King Kamehameha to come and missionize in Hawai‘i. Her uncle, Eddie Goodale, left Harvard after his freshman year to drive a dog team with Admiral Byrd to the South Pole. Although Jane was not sure if either of these relatives directly affected her choice of an ethnographic life, she has always had a spirit of adventure, a ken for science, a desire to see new places, good poker-playing skills and a deep curiosity to understand how things work. Certainly the fact that both her father and paternal grandfather were physicians contributed to her being strongly attracted to science and the process of discovery. As a young girl she wanted to go to the Gobi Desert and hunt dinosaur eggs. When she got older her paternal grandfather introduced her to detective stories and Jane quickly grew to love the inductive and deductive reasoning required to solve the puzzles put forward in them.

Jane entered Radcliffe as a commuter student in the fall of 1944. When she began her undergraduate education, she was hoping to go for a career in either medicine or geography. It was during her sophomore year that she took her first introductory anthropology courses with Ernest Hooten and Carleton Coon. Carleton Coon’s mentorship captivated her imagination and she worked closely with him until she graduated in 1948. After a brief period as a graduate student in Harvard’s Department of Anthropology, she followed Coon to the University of Pennsylvania where she enrolled as a graduate student in 1950. In later life, Jane felt that Coon’s perspective importantly influenced the way she approached the process of fieldwork and ethnographic analysis.

Jane had long planned on conducting fieldwork in the Hindu Kush area. The course of her ethnographic life changed, however, when Charles Mountford invited Coon to join his National Geographic–funded expedition to study the Aboriginal population of Melville Island. Coon was headed for Afghanistan so he asked Jane if she would like to do her fieldwork in Australia. She overcame a fear of working with Australian kinship and marriage classes and agreed to go. She arrived in Melville Island in 1954 and spent 10 months among the Tiwi before returning to Philadelphia to write her dissertation and take up a full-time job at the University Museum. From the beginning Mountford had decided that she would concentrate her fieldwork on women. At Penn, Ward Goodenough supported Jane’s decision to write her dissertation from a woman’s point of view. Jane received her Ph.D. in 1959. A firm believer in extensive and repetitive fieldwork, Jane undertook additional fieldwork with the Tiwi in 1962, 1980-81, 1986-87, 1995, 1996-97, 1999 and 2002. During the 1962 trip Jane began became a formal advocate for the Tiwi.

Jane’s reputation as an established ethnographer was further enhanced by her fieldwork (both with and without Ann Chowning) in Papua New Guinea, primarily with the Kaulong people of West New Britain, in 1962, 1963-64, 1967-68 and 1974. Jane often said that she might not have become an anthropologist if this had been her first fieldwork experience. The
Kaulong had had little experience with outsiders and this, coupled with a worldview very different from her own New England background, made for some very challenging and sometimes alienating fieldwork.

It is difficult to draw a boundary between Jane’s ethnographic experiences and research accomplishments and her style and legacy as a mentor and classroom teacher. She accepted a full-time position at Bryn Mawr College in 1962 and remained there until her retirement in 1996. One reason she joined Bryn Mawr was because she and Freddy DeLaguna shared beliefs in the importance of solid, repetitive fieldwork and the need to broadly train students in all of the fields of anthropology. They were also concerned to produce the best-trained female students so that they could be competitive in the academic marketplace. Jane emulated Coon in her belief that the student–professor relationship should involve collaboration and mentorship. Jane encouraged her students to learn more about the ethnographic process of description and comparison and the value of long-term research through participation in the ASAO. Jane’s unselfish mentoring resulted in her directing eighteen Masters theses and eighteen PhD dissertations (eleven of which were written by students of Oceania). She was also an outside reader of nine PhD dissertations, eight of which were based on ethnographic research on Australian Aborigine communities. In addition to these accomplishments, Jane taught countless undergraduates, not a few of whom went on to do research in Oceania under the direction of other Pacific Islands specialists and to add to Jane’s ethnographic legacy.

A LOVER OF ASAO (Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi)

I began graduate studies at Bryn Mawr College in the fall of 1977. Given my interest in Papua New Guinea, my undergraduate supervisor at the University of Pennsylvania – Bill Davenport – advised me that not only had “Jane” done research in PNG, she also did miracles with “retreads” (his name for “older” women coming back to campus). I was then an “ancient” thirty-three! Reluctantly leaving the stimulating urban campus of Penn for the more “genteel” Bryn Mawr campus, I quickly warmed to Jane – who insisted on being called “Jane” by her graduate students (at first difficult for them) and who had an obvious love for anthropology, “the field”, her students, and something called “ASAO”. All that fall Jane spoke about the joys of ASAO and the accomplishments of former graduate students. In early 1978, a number of us excitedly joined Jane and flew out to the Asilomar Conference Center on Monterey Peninsula for the annual ASAO meeting. It was at Asilomar that the expression “the Bryn Mawr Mafia” was born. There were well over a dozen of us in attendance – former and current Bryn Mawr graduate and undergraduate students, some working on PhDs at other institutions. At one of the evening receptions, Jane was happily crowing about her brood to anyone who would listen. Standing beside me, one ASAO member growled something about “the Bryn Mawr Mafia”. In spite of its dubious beginning, the name was quickly adopted by Jane and others as something positive.

Preparing to write this remembrance of Jane, I read through some twenty years of early ASAEO and ASAO newsletters archived on the ASAO website. Doing so, I now better understand the spiteful moniker and how much Jane and others loved and contributed to ASAO’s growth as a premier organization of Pacific scholarship. My first surprise was how short ASAO’s history had been in 1978 (Jane made it sound as old as AAA!). According to its very first newsletter (15 May 1967), The Association for Social Anthropology in Eastern Oceania was a small organization of scholars and a very few advanced graduate students focused on comparative study and writing about insular Melanesia (excluding the big island of “New Guinea”), Micronesia and Polynesia. Reading through subsequent newsletters it is evident that Vern Carroll, Bill Davenport, Ward Goodenough and Mike Lieber were important players in the crafting of ASAEO (and later ASAO). In the February 1969 newsletter, however, there is a hint that Jane was on or about to be on the scene: and that is the inclusion of one of Jane’s then graduate students – “Mrs. Judith Huntsman” (Tokelau) – in a brief note on “News of Pacific Research”.

AsAO proper was born in 1970 as 14 out of 18 ASAEO fellows approved its draft constitution and changes and New Guinea was included as being part of “Oceania.” The only female fellow, Ruth Goodenough – a fellow because she was a contributor to ASAO’s first monograph – did not vote. Not surprisingly, given that Jane was Jane and that she knew the ASAEO/ASAO
founders quite well due to her participation in the Philadelphia Anthropological Society (PAS) and AAA, Jane was elected to the ASAO Executive Committee in 1972 (at which point she too became a fellow). In 1972, ASAO held its first annual spring meeting, on Orcas Island in Washington. Another of Jane’s graduate students, DeVerne Reed Smith, was beginning research in Palau, and Jane (Kaulong, Tiwi) co-chaired a symposium with Martin Silverman on Sex Roles in Oceania. The custom of having only one symposium at a meeting was over and in 1973 at ASAO’s second annual conference – again at Orcas Island – ASAO’s three-session format was introduced. By 1977, Australia was included as part of Oceania (do we see Jane, Bob Tonkinson and Michael Howard at work on this?) and yet another of Jane’s graduate students – Fred Myers (Pintupi) – chaired an informal session on Symbolism in Australian Aboriginal and Melanesian Rituals, while Jane chaired a working session on Knowledge in Oceania (a session begun by Mike Lieber and later carried on by Bradd Shore).

In contrast with past meetings (there were only 40 scholars engaged in ASASAO’s first conference at Santa Cruz in 1969), there were over 100 members and “visitors” in attendance at the 1978 meeting in Asilomar. In 1978, Fred Myer’s session had evolved into Ritual Symbolism in Oceania; a session on the meaning of Sibling in Oceania included Judy Huntsman (Tokelau), DeVerne Smith (Palau), Jane (Kaulong), and Annette Weiner (Trobriands); a symposium on Knowledge included Jane and graduate student Robert Rubinstein (Malo, New Hebrides); and DeVerne Smith (Palau) was an important participant in a two and a half day symposium on the role of Anthropology in Contemporary Micronesia. Add on “visitors” such as myself, Debbie Rose, Ali (Pomponio) Logan and other Bryn Mawrters and no wonder the guy was ticked.

I don’t believe we ever matched 1978, but Jane’s Bryn Mawr contingent continued for over twenty more years to be an important part of ASAO. In 1979, Jane was re-elected to the Executive Board and in 1982-83 she served as Chair, a position held at various times since by other Bryn Mawr Mafia including Mimi Kahn (Wamira, Tahiti), Ali Pomponio (Siassi), Michele Dominy (NZ settler societies), and myself (Gende). Over the years, Jane participated in countless ASAO sessions: as participant or audience member, as organizer or co-organizer, often in conjunction with or support of one or the other of her students – Jane Fajans (Baining), Deborah Bird Rose (Yarralin), Jeanette Dickerson-Putman (Bena Bena), Pam Rosi (PNG artists), Bill Donner (Sikaiana) – the list is long. In 1988, Jane became an Honorary Fellow of ASAO and in 1994 she gave the Distinguished Lecture at the ASAO meeting in San Diego. Jane ended that lecture by saying “Long live ethnography!” She could have easily said, “Long live ASAO!” she loved it that much. Sadly, the last ASAO meeting Jane attended was in Auckland in 2002, followed by her last visit to the Tiwi as well. After that her body “rebelled,” as she put it. There were more good times to come (a celebration in her honor at Bryn Mawr College in 2007 and the publication of a festschrift in her honor in early 2008 – Pulling the Right Threads). But nothing as good as an ASAO meeting! Jane sorely missed each and every ASAO meeting in the years after the New Zealand meeting but she enjoyed hearing about ASAO’s ongoing progress, new members, new “visitors”, interesting session topics, and how others of the old guard are doing.

To end on a high note, hug an ASAO member and bring a first-timer to the meeting in Virginia in 2010. It’s something Jane and other like-minded ASAO folks have done and it’s why ASAO continues to exist. In honor of Jane, be a “lover of ASAO”!

I got to know Denise because we both did field work among Western Dani in the highlands of west New Guinea. We did so at about the same time, in the early 1960s. Our field sites were separated by a single watershed. At the time it was unknown to the outside world that the Western Dani formed a very large ethnic group spread over a number of valleys. So we happened to do field work among people with very similar ways of life. Fortunately, that was borne out by our conclusions.
In her dealings with the Dani, Denise showed a great deal of courage, while the Konda valley where she worked was unadministered. After goods had been stolen from her, she resorted to self-help during a public distribution of a marriage payment:

At the end of the distribution I walked up to Terappyn, and made a loud speech, saying that everyone knew that his son had stolen much wealth from me and demanding that Terappyn hand over the [cowry] shell band to me. Terappyn denied everything, including that he had ever heard of anyone named Anamerakkak [his son, the thief], but I had grabbed the shell band and refused to let go. We wrestled over the band for several minutes, hitting and kicking at each other. Surrounding Dani watched with interest, rescuing my dropped camera and notebook and ignoring Terappyn’s shouts for help. Terappyn finally let go of the band and I went home with it, accompanied by neighbors who assured me I had done the right thing.

Indeed, Anamerakkak later offered two pigs in compensation. Denise presented the incident in her PhD thesis, but as a case study, buttressing her point that ‘the proper and expected reaction to theft is aggressive action against the thief’ (1969: 305).

She was then a graduate student in the Yale department of anthropology, supervised by Leopold Pospisil, and gaining her doctorate with her thesis ‘The economics of Dani marriage: an analysis of marriage payments in a highland New Guinea society’ (1969). But she published only parts of it, in edited volumes, in several instances with herself as co-editor.

That she did not publish extensively was, I think, because she saw herself primarily as a teacher. ‘I had rather teach’, she told me at one stage. I admired her for it given the little prestige that teaching brings compared with publishing. And teaching she did. For almost all of her academic career she taught at Temple, for a number of years also in the Temple department in Japan. Lorraine Sexton, once her student, wrote me:

Denise was a gifted and dedicated teacher. I’m grateful for the encouragement she gave me while I planned and carried out doctoral fieldwork in Papua New Guinea, and for the creative way she helped me and my cohort of doctoral candidates. Each of us met not only individually with Denise, but we also met regularly as a group, under her direction, to talk through our analyses and brainstorm about how to solve problems. She maintained her enthusiasm for teaching throughout her career. During her last semester of teaching, I was a guest at her research methods seminar for undergraduate students. I was so impressed with her ability to engage the current generation of students.

Although she twice briefly revisited the Western Dani in the Konda valley, she did not continue her Dani research. Instead, she widened her geographical scope, focusing on gender studies, on art and visual communication. I understand that she recently completed a book dealing with 14th century Japanese women authors. Her death came unexpected. Neil Garvey, her cousin and executor, wrote me that she had been hospitalised due to heart weakness, but that her family had expected that ‘Denise, ever the fighter, would recover her health, as she always had in the past.’ Sadly, this was not to be.

Anton Ploeg
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