

Report of the President 2009-2010
Society for Archaeological Sciences
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1. 2009 Elections. In 2009, SAS elected Dr. Patrick Degryse as our new President-elect (2011-2013)/Vice-president (2009-2011).

2. R. E. Taylor Poster Award. SAS was unable to award the R. E. Taylor Poster at the SAA 2009, as it had done for more than ten years. It was agreed with the SAA to offer the award as of 2010 and officially announce it in the SAA Archaeological Record. At the SAA, the award will only offer as part of the prize a subscription to the newsletter and the money bonus, exempting from it the regular membership to our association that had been offered in the past.

Despite that the initial agreement was for the students to submit their posters in advance through the SAA webpage at the end this was not possible. The submission will be under the control of SAS, having the students submit to us directly. This is a better procedure as it gives us the opportunity to interview the students something that cannot be done if we follow the SAA earlier January submission for competition. To award the 2009 R. E. Taylor Poster Award, the competition was advertised through our webpage, as a "Spring" competition, inviting submissions presented at a professional venue in April 2009.

2009. R.E. Taylor Award Recipient: Lesley D. Frame (University of Arizona, Heritage Conservation Science Program): "Technological Change in Southwestern Asia: Comparing Metallurgical Production Styles and Social Values during the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age."

A note was prepared for the SAA Archaeological Record to advertise the R. E. Taylor Poster Award. This should be done every year around June.

2010 R.E. Taylor Award Recipients: Elizabeth Sonnenburg, Joseph Boyce, Eduard Reinhardt and Aubrey Cannon. Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction and Water-Level Fluctuations: Implications for Understanding of Paleoindian and Archaic Archaeology in Southern Ontario.

Dana Rosenstein and James Feathers Luminescence Dating of Samples from Recent Contexts in South Africa. Both have been informed and their reward will be given once Rob Sternberg is back from Europe in May 2010.

Claire Smith, President of World Archaeology Conference (WAC), is very interested in establishing a closer collaboration with SAS and it is interested in offering the R. E. Taylor poster award during WAC's international congress taking place every four years. Contrary to the SAA, the President of WAC does not object to SAS offering a membership subscription to the winner. Adrian Burke could follow up in maintaining our liaisons with these societies to encourage the award at WAC.

3. Publications.

a) Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences Journal. During the 2009 meeting it was agreed to support and endorse this new journal and to allow our members to

subscribe at a discounted rate through their membership fees in SAS, as is currently done for JAS and Archaeometry. Robert Tykot was behind negotiations with Springer. The SAS logo will be printed in their journal. We will offer this journal to our members at a discounted \$40 US rate.

b) The Encyclopedia of Archaeological Sciences Project with Wiley-Blackwell. During the SAA in St. Louis, MO, Rosalie M. Robertson, Senior Editor of Anthropology and Archaeology, at Wiley asked if SAS would have some interest in coordinating an Encyclopedia of Archaeological Sciences. The project will include a printed book (covering the basics of archaeological sciences [physics, chemistry, statistics, etc]) that can serve as a teaching resource and one can carry around, linked to an A-Z specialized reference source (the Encyclopedia) that will be printed and can be updated on line, and an online resource of basic exercises or experiments. Rosalie Robertson promised to send the proposal in time for the ISA meeting.

4. SAS Bulletin 2010. Dr. Jay VanderVeen, faculty member in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Indiana University-South Bend, joined our team as our new Editor of the SAS Bulletin in 2009. Together with Christian Wells, our past editor, Jay VanderVeen worked closely in the production of the final two issues for 2009.

5. Joining SAA-Council of Affiliated Society. Despite our interest in joining CAS, SAA, at the end this was not possible because we are not a regionally based society.

6. ISA. 2010. The 38th International Symposium of Archaeometry (ISA 2010) was scheduled to take place in Tampa, Florida between May 10-14th, hosted by the Laboratory of Archaeological Science, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida, having Robert Tykot as Chairman. Robert Tykot is evaluating the publication of the ISA 2010 proceedings. The Taylor Poster Award is offered at ISA.

7. Membership Development. After many years of service, AJ Vonarx had to leave her position at SAS early fall 2009. Many of the proposed actions in the 2009 Minutes could not take place in full. According to AJ Vonarx, SAS is experiencing its lowest membership of the last fifteen years, mostly due with 1) the current economic recession, despite the low cost of membership, 2) the growth of other small archaeological organizations that encourage cross-disciplinary work and the development of specialty groups within large organizations, a problem shared by the SAA too, and 3) the lack of visibility of our association in the last few years. In her report, AJ Vonarx related the situation to the critique that our current image apparently promotes an interest only in science and technology, without emphasizing the anthropology behind it.

As of April 15th, Dr. Michael Gregg has officially become our new Vice President for Membership Development, even if he started working for SAS as soon as his nomination came up at the end of 2009. His background in marketing makes him an ideal member to reposition SAS. Michael Gregg has redesigned a new logo, appearing in our webpage, Bulletin and flyers. The flyers were distributed at different editorial booths, including those specializing in the applied sector, and during key sessions.

This priority situation is now being addressed seriously and together with Michael Gregg, we have discussed several lines of action to reposition ourselves as a leading organization. However, this requires commitment and hard work from all of our Board members, if indeed we need to revert this tendency, loyalty to our goals is an essential component but we need to demonstrate it with different strategies and actions, but mostly, with everyone's efforts.

Among the actions that have been suggested and have been taken care of:

- a. Improve our identity. Destiny Crider and Sandra López revamped our webpage immediately in late spring to portray a more human face to our association. This webpage will have to be improved now that Michael Gregg is part of our team.
- b. Closer contact with our membership. A welcoming statement was prepared by the President to communicate our goals and statement.
- c) A blog and wiki were created by the General Secretary, Robert Sternberg being very successful, as of spring 2010, Lisa Sonnenburg (Taylor Award Winner 2010) will help Rob Sternberg.
- d) A single list of members have been composed in May 2010, by Michael Gregg, Rob Sternberg and Jay VanderVeen as key researchers in other countries are no longer members because we lost track of their information.

Actions that could not be followed that were suggested as part of our meeting given that AJ Vonarx had to leave SAS earlier than expected:

- a) Have the President call those that did not renew their membership and invite them to rejoin SAS. b) Interview our membership on the importance to be part of our association and interview our Board.

8. Budget Approval. SAS approved the budget for 2009 and reviewed the 2008 finances. Total assets for 2009 are on the order of \$37, 000 US. SAS approved the General Secretary to request help from a professional accountant or an accountant student to use more formal accounting practices in presenting the annual SAS budget.

9. Webpage. It was approved in 2009, to continue hosting our webpage through Bluehost for another two-years. SAS listserv is the primary portal for information distribution to our membership. Destiny Crider notices that not all users are members. Members are not receiving communication through the listserv, partly attributed to a technical problem due to bouncing of former subscribers.

Actions planned: a) Invite members to subscribe to SAS listserv again either individually or through a bulk message. b) Detect unregistered membership and invite them to join SAS. c) Consider setting up a membership directory.

10. SAS Reorganization. If SAS is to become a formal professional association and leave behind its voluntary status, given the series of events taking place in our surroundings and the trajectory shaping SAS. It was recommended at our General Meeting that we should position ourselves as a professional association but structural and organizational changes need to take place that need to be discussed. The presence

of SAS is growing and voluntary work, in some cases, is not enough to meet effectively all the needed tasks. If we really want to make SAS a leading society, we need to revise our organization chart, our channels of communication, our internal procedures. We cannot continue centralizing activities in one person. This has proved to be problematic when this person is absent, is in the field, or goes through an emergency. We simply are unable to act or do the needed tasks. We need to appoint clearly who can take decisions in such cases, even when it comes to our finances. Given the increasing responsibilities I have encountered over the last few years, I can conclude that it is not only a matter of wishing to position SAS as a leading organization, we need to have the power to change.

11. Linking with other associations.

Since I took office as President of SAS, I have been invited to attend the Presidents' Breakfast, hosted by the on-going president of the SAA. It is indeed a *petit* committee sharing major concerns surrounding archaeology, our own specific goals and the making of new initiatives to improve the professional and educational aspects of our discipline.

In 2010, I was interviewed by Daniel Minisini for his miniGeology video blog to talk about the relation between archaeology and geology. Interviews were linked through our blog too by Rob Sternberg.

The need for an ethics committee

However, the way SAS is organized right now prevents us from acting when a joint initiative is put together with other archaeological societies. SAS has never had an active role in defending heritage issues. Last year, SAS joined other societies to stop the Christie's auction affair signed by the President. All societies have an ethics committee with whom to discuss the joining of an initiative, except SAS.

Also, the interviews given address ethical issues. The position we are in calls for the integration of such committee and this was an idea that was very welcomed during our General Meeting. An **ethics committee** and guidelines are needed. It was recommended to send this idea for approval to our business meeting and if approved the President would write a proposal.

Future plans for SAS

a) A SAS conference meeting. Patrick Degryse and I have envisioned having a conference exclusively for SAS through a Humboldt Kolleg, having the potential to take place in different parts of the world and support both scholars and students.

b) SAS scholarship. Patrick Degryse's future action as President of SAS is his establishing of a scholarship that could promote a research stay for students at different laboratories.