

SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Report on *SAS Bulletin*, 2008

In 2007, four issues of the *Bulletin* were published: Volume 30(1), Spring 2007; Volume 30(2), Summer 2007; Volume 30(3), Fall 2007; and Volume 30(4), Winter 2007. In addition, Volume 31(1), Spring 2008 has been published and mailed to the membership earlier this year, and Volume 31(2), Summer 2008 is in press at the time of this report.

Mailing of the *Bulletin* in 2007 stayed on schedule, being sent on or close to February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. All materials were accepted and processed by the submission deadlines posted on the website (January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15). I am happy to report that submission of material for the *Bulletin* is up (even more so from last year), resulting in more material than we can regularly accommodate with our current allocation of 32 pages. Still, since submissions ebb from time to time, I do not recommend increasing the page allocation.

Each issue of the *Bulletin* continues to be converted to PDF format and to be made available to the public on SASweb with the assistance of Destiny Crider. The PDF version of the *Bulletin* is in color; the print copy is not.

The organization of the *Bulletin* continues unchanged. After my editorial on the cover, the first pages always contain time-sensitive material including employment opportunities; awards, fellowships, and training; conference news and announcements; and other news items. These sections are followed by two or three short (ca. 1500 words) research articles. The articles are then followed by news from the associate editors in their respective columns. The *Bulletin* always ends with the meetings calendar.

The current associate editors include Charlie Kolb (ceramics), Nora Reber (archaeological chemistry), Roger Doonan (archaeometallurgy), Gordon Rakita (bioarchaeology), Deb Huntley (book reviews), Greg Hodgins (dating), Jane Entwistle (geoarchaeology), and Apostolos Sarris (remote sensing and GIS). Rachel Popelka-Filcoff produces the meeting calendar.

Last year I reported that, due to changes in the ownership and administration of our international shipping agent, the *Bulletin* was averaging as long as one month for issues to reach the membership. I am happy to report that the company has since been sold and bought once again, and is now under the aegis of Pitney Bowes, a major international shipper. As a result, I believe that the issues are arriving to their destinations in a more timely fashion. Nonetheless, I suggest that international members be polled (perhaps via SASnet) to determine the intervals between shipping and receiving.

The costs of printing and shipping have increased slightly, making each issue of the *Bulletin* approximately US\$0.65 more expensive to produce. If the trend continues, we may have to consider moving to a PDF-only version that is e-mailed to the membership (unless members specifically request the hardcopy). We might even consider at this time asking members to make a choice of either soft or hard copy. The advantage to receiving the soft copy would be speed of

delivery. Libraries, labs, and other institutions could still opt to receive the hard copy. This might save the Society hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars per year.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I announce my upcoming retirement as Editor of the *SAS Bulletin*. My last issue will be 32(4), Winter 2009. I will have served the Society as Editor for five full years (or six years if my time as co-editor, with Rob Tykot in 2004, is counted). This is admittedly rather advanced notice, but it is important to start thinking about a replacement and making sure the training and transfer is smooth so that the publication quality and schedule remains uninterrupted.

Submitted by E. Christian Wells, Editor
SAS Bulletin, Newsletter of the Society for Archaeological Sciences
April 9, 2008