



Council for Museum Anthropology Secretary's Report to the Business Meeting 2011

NOTE: This report includes highlights from the 2010 CMA annual meetings, issues discussed by the CMA Board during 2011, and descriptions of awards given out by CMA at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

2010-11 CMA Officers & Committees:

President: Alex (Alec) W. Barker
President-elect: Howard Morphy
Treasurer: Gwyneira Isaac
Secretary: Margaret (Marge) Bruchac
Board Members: Kathleen Adams, Joshua Bell, Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Jennifer Kramer, Trudy Nicks, Morgan B. Perkins

Nominating: Kathleen Adams, Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Howard Morphy
Digital products: Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Steven Nash
Membership: Joshua Bell, Morgan Perkins, Kathleen Adams
Finance: Gwyneira Isaac, Kay Fowler
Bylaws: Kay Fowler, Morgan Perkins, Gwyneira Isaac
Programming: Gwyneira Isaac, Morgan Perkins, Margaret Bruchac,
Communications: Margaret Bruchac, Kathleen Adams, Joshua Bell
Student Travel Award: Joshua Bell, Trudy Nicks, Morgan Perkins
Michael Ames Award: Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Kathleen Adams, Jennifer Kramer

2011 CMA Election Results

CMA Nominations:

TREASURER (two years) Vote for one: Karl Hoerig
BOARD POSITION #1 (two years) Vote for one: Bettina Arnold; Christina Kreps
BOARD POSITION #2 (two years) Vote for one: Gwyneira Isaac; Mark Turin

Election Results:

On June 13, 2011, election results were certified by the AAA Secretary, Debra Martin, and provided to CMA by AAA Section & Governance Coordinator Kimberley Baker. Results were made public on the AAA website in August and printed in the September *Anthropology News*.

Total CMA Voters: 90
TREASURER: Karl Hoerig
BOARD POSITION #1: Christina Kreps
BOARD POSITION #2: Gwyneira Isaac

Highlights from the 2010 CMA Board Meeting

Communication: Board members discussed the advisability of a CMA listserv, and agreed that a two-way, unmoderated open list with members invited to join (and with others allowed to subscribe at will) would be the best option. Dan Swan agreed to work with Morgan Perkins on this project, while also knitting together the various kinds of web presence currently offered by CMA. Concerns were raised about the frequency of CMA column in *Anthropology News*, which constitutes a primary venue for communicating with CMA members. Barker agreed to draft a column; Communications Committee was asked to define topics for monthly slots; board members are encouraged to contribute columns.

Student Memberships: Joshua Bell and the membership committee agreed to investigate the costs/benefits of low cost student memberships, likely on a no-print-publications basis. Apart from supporting CMA's mission and educational purpose, there are practical advantages: 1) students may become future regular members; and 2) the number of sessions CMA can designate in the annual AAA program is a function of the total number of members, not revenue associated with those members. Increased membership can increase the visibility of museum anthropology among students and faculty.

CMA Finances: Barker inquired, through the AAA treasurer and the CMA Finance Committee, whether any monies could be set aside as a rainy-day fund. Currently the CMA's assets are housed in an investment account as part of the AAA's general funds, with accrued interest going into a general AAA pot rather than being returned to CMA.

CMA Bylaws: Perkins agreed to work on composing possible bylaws changes. The Bylaws Committee is considering wording that would formally allow the Board to create ex officio position or some other mechanism for creating closer ties and communication with selected sections.

CMA Receptions: Gwyn Isaac raised concerns regarding the reception and planning meeting arrangements. Barker proposed creating a calendar and procedural list for the benefit of the Board and incoming members, especially focused on AAA deadlines and processes. Board members decided to move ahead with reception arrangements for the 2011 Montreal meeting, understanding that for many members, the value of the reception is seeing behind-the-scenes (or at least after hours) at another museum. Advance planning should lower costs and increase the options available. Following Montreal, AAA will be meeting in San Francisco, Chicago, and Washington. Howard agreed to work with other board members to assemble potential presidential/executive session for upcoming meetings.

CMA Awards: The new certificate for the 2010 Ames Prize was designed by Barker, and money has been set aside in the new budget for future certificates. CMA wishes to solicit more nominations for the Student Travel Awards and Ames Award. - compiled from notes submitted by President Alex Barker

Highlights from the 2010 CMA Business Meeting

Treasurer's Report: (See full report from Gwyneira Isaac for details). Discussion topics: Income from downloads of *Museum Anthropology* articles is steadily increasing – it was suggested that faculty assign students to read articles on-line rather than compile printed packets, to maximize the number of downloads. For future CMA receptions, it was suggested that we not use tickets and instead encourage open receptions. Reasons: our goal is to increase interest and attendance; receptions are a great venue for recruiting; processing ticket sales is awkward. Keep in mind expense for museum security guard after hours. Set aside money (at least \$50,000) for rainy day fund. Looking forward to Montreal next year.

Museum Anthropology Editors' Report: (See full report from Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh and Steven Nash for details). Discussion topics: Successful top to bottom redesign of the journal, with thanks to CMA Board and Wiley Blackwell, and to writers and reviewers. Published 251 pages, average time from submission to publication is 61 days, using three peer reviewers per article. Working on improving copy-editing process with Wiley Blackwell. Fall special issue on Indigenous involvement in museum exhibitions. Chip and Steve are stepping down, and starting search committee for new *MA* editors.

Vice President's Role: Incoming VP will be tasked with organizing sessions for the AAA Conference. Increased calls for sponsorship, including 2010 poster session, shows wide interest in museum issues.

President's Report: (See full report from Alec Barker for details). Discussion topics: Year-end membership is up 10%. Membership fees are not a big asset, but increased numbers will significantly increase the number of sessions CMA can sponsor at the AAA meeting. CMA revenues have increased due to the arrangement with Wiley Blackwell. Libraries are paying well for open access to WB. Earlier boards made valuable and strategic investments by digitizing back issues of *MA*. The journal is very strong, great redesign, with topics that reach out to a large audience. CMA by-law changes are proposed, including formalizing the process of voting via email.

Advocacy Issues: A new advocacy policy has been introduced to clarify what actions sections can take without going through the AAA Board. Barker composed a paper discussing the need to deal with museum collections and access on a national scale, in response to National Science Foundation call for white papers on challenges in social issues; this was the only white paper AAA forwarded to NSF. CMA Board members have also been discussing how museum work should be weighed in tenure decisions, in response to guidelines proposed by the Committee on Practicing and Public Interest Anthropology.

Ethics: CMA Board members are also interested in the task force grappling with comprehensive ethics reviews of anthropologists and museums. The general call is for anthropologists to provide appropriate care and curation for all the objects they generate.

CMA Board: Awards were given to outgoing CMA Board members in thanks for their service.

CMA Awards: Since 2009, the CMA Board has been offering three awards (two for student travel, and one for a museum professional) to recognize outstanding scholarship in museum anthropology.

At the 2010 meeting, two Student Travel Awards of \$500 each for travel to the AAA meeting were given out. Suzanne Godby Ingalsbe, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Indiana University, was granted a CMA Student Travel Award for her paper "Circulating the Past and Future Through Museum Artifacts." This paper is part of a trilogy (including "Authoring Authority: Ethel-Jane Westfeldt Bunting Collecting for the Smithsonian" and "Ethel-Jane Westfeldt Bunting's Lasting Impact from In-Between Spaces") that considers the social authority of museums and contexts.

Danielle Merriman, Masters Student in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Colorado-Boulder was granted a CMA Student Travel Award for her paper "Community Museum or Tourist Shop?: Local Contestation of Museum Meanings in Costa Rica." This effort draws from field research in the rural community of San Vicente de Nicoya, Costa Rica from 2008-2010.

At the 2010 meeting, the Michael M. Ames Award was given to Jim Enote, Executive Director of the A:shiwi A:wana Museum and Heritage Center, in recognition of his ground-breaking projects that connect youth to elders, and ancient life to modern ways. On receiving the award, Enote remarked:

"This award stands as a testimony to the way things are changing in the field. Museums are a place for making positive change. The first time I went to a museum with my grandmother, we were looking at some of her pottery, and the label said "Hopi Polychrome." She said, "I'm Tewa; who is Polychrome?"... We are living in these two spheres of knowledge and our challenge is to find a way to cross this boundary. This award honors our efforts, and recognizes that we hope to use museums as trendsetters and scaffolds for social innovation."

CMA 2011 Award Committees: Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Kathleen Adams, Jennifer Kramer were appointed to serve on the 2011 Ames Award Committee. Joshua Bell, Trudy Nicks, Morgan Perkins were appointed to serve on the 2011 Student Travel Award Committee. They will announce the 2011 awardees at the CMA Business Meeting and at the Reception at the McCord Museum on Friday November 18.

Council for Museum Anthropology Michael M. Ames Award

NEW DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2012

The “Michael M. Ames Prize for Innovative Museum Anthropology” is awarded annually to professionals for innovative work in museum anthropology (e.g., outstanding single or multi-authored books, published catalogues, exhibitions, repatriation projects, collaborations with descendant communities, educational or outreach projects, multimedia, and other endeavors).

Nomination Process:

Individuals can be nominated by any member of CMA in good standing (self-nominations are allowed), but nominees need not be CMA members. Nomination packets should include a cover letter and copies of the work under consideration (or evidence of it). Packets may also include supporting materials, such as letters of support, media coverage, DVDs, etc. Please email the nomination letter and electronic data to the chair of the Ames prize committee. The CMA prize committee will review the works and the prize winner (or, in the case of collaborative projects, winners) will be notified in advance of the annual AAA meetings so that they can consider attending. The winner(s) will be announced and presented with a certificate of the award at the CMA Business Meeting or reception during the AAA Annual Meeting.

Evaluation Criteria:

- 1) Creativity: Is the project a unique and creative exploration of museum anthropology’s central themes, tensions, and histories?
- 2) Timeliness: Does the project say something important about museum anthropology’s current predicaments and unknown future?
- 3) Depth: In what ways does the project penetrate into the complexity of material culture and the study of it through novel methods and theories?
- 4) Impact: Does the project have the potential to make broad and lasting impacts in museum anthropology?

Council for Museum Anthropology Student Travel Awards

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2012

Two “CMA Student Travel Awards” of \$500 each are awarded annually to graduate students and recent Ph.D.s to support travel to the annual AAA meeting to present papers and/or posters.

Nomination Process:

Applications are due on September 1 of the given year. A brief letter of application must indicate the applicant’s status as a student or recent PhD holder, and explain how this paper/poster relates to their ongoing graduate work or current work as a recent PhD. Applicants must include a copy of the abstract for the paper or poster, the name and abstract for the session in which they will be presenting, and proof of acceptance for presentation at the 2012 American Anthropological Association annual meeting. All applicants must also submit a letter of endorsement from a present or former academic advisor at their most recent institution of study. Prize winners will be announced and presented with a certificate of the award at the CMA Business Meeting or reception during the AAA Annual Meeting.

Evaluation Criteria:

- 1) Creativity: Is the paper or poster a unique and novel contribution to museum anthropology?
- 2) Commitment: Does the student demonstrate a commitment to the field of museum anthropology?
- 3) Impact: Does the paper or poster have the potential to develop into a work that could more broadly impact the field of museum anthropology?

To apply for any of these 2012 awards, watch for the announcement on the CMA website at:
<http://museumanthropology.org/awards/>

2010-2011 CMA Board Decision-Making

In 2010, the CMA Board found that it had become increasingly efficient to conduct routine business via email, given the speed of electronic communications and the ease of maintaining records of discussions. This process also allowed for more communication among all of the members of the Board on relevant issues, whereas in the past, some decisions had to be made unilaterally by officers or committees. Time, distance, and the mail system also, at times, complicated the process of communication. A formal amendment to the by-laws is currently in development to reflect the fact that decisions are being made more quickly and collaboratively via email than was previously possible.

The following is a list of topics addressed and decided by the CMA Board in 2011:

November	CMA Support of Task Force on Anthropology Education
December	Resolutions Regarding Humanistic and Scientific Approaches in Anthropology
January	Board Approval for CMA Letters of Support
January	Support of NSGF Workshop on Digital Repatriation
March	Support of AAA Section Assembly Motion on Academic Freedom
February	New Committee to Review AAA Session Proposals for CMA Sponsorship
April	Letter on Smithsonian Tang Shipwreck Exhibition
June	Additional Pages in Museum Anthropology
August	2011 CMA Reception at the McCord Museum in Montreal
September	New Editors for Museum Anthropology
September	CMA Officers' Terms
October	2011 Student Travel Award Recipients
October	Draft CMA FY 2011-2012 Budget
October	CMA Members Renewal Letter
October	Additional Money for CMA Reception at McCord Museum
October	New Editors of Museum Anthropology Invited to CMA Board Meeting
November	2011 Ames Award Recipients

New Museum Anthropology Editors

The CMA Board is pleased to announce the next editors of *Museum Anthropology*: Jennifer A. Shannon and Cynthia Chavez Lamar. Their term will begin in July 2012.

Dr. Shannon joined the University of Colorado at Boulder Department of Anthropology and the CU Museum of Natural History in August of 2009. Her interest in museums, as a museum professional and later as an ethnographer, began when she was hired as a curatorial research assistant and fieldworker for the inaugural exhibitions of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) from 1999-2002. Shannon completed a PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology from Cornell University in 2008, with research documenting the process of “community curating” at the NMAI from the museum professional and indigenous communities’ perspectives. Her interests further developed as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of British Columbia’s Department of Anthropology from 2008-2009. Through her research and professional work she has had the opportunity to work with diverse indigenous peoples including Canadian Inuit, Australian Aboriginal, Chicago urban Indian, Navajo, Paiwan (Taiwan indigenous peoples), and Kalinago (or Carib Indians of Dominica in the West Indies) communities.

Dr. Chavez Lamar joined the School for Advanced Research as the Indian Arts Research Center Director in August 2007. Chavez Lamar has an art background in clay sculpting, printmaking, and photography and a PhD in American Studies from the University of New Mexico. She previously worked at the NMAI, where she curated the Native community components of the inaugural exhibition “Our Lives:

Contemporary Lives and Identities.” Chavez Lamar also served as museum director at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, NM. Shortly after joining SAR, Chavez Lamar began work on a project sponsored by the Anne Ray Charitable Trust in the fall 2007 by facilitating a planning seminar on Native women’s art production and the social and cultural issues surrounding their roles. Currently, in her work at SAR, she is engaged in a multi-year project with Jim Enote and Octavius Seowtewa from the Pueblo of Zuni to systematically review the entire Zuni collection housed at the Indian Arts Research Center at SAR to help better document and interpret this important collection. Additionally, she is collaborating with Southwest moccasin makers on the development of a traveling banner exhibition on moccasins and moccasin making that will travel to the Pueblos, Apache tribes, and the Navajo Nation starting in the summer of 2012.

The Council’s Board of Directors is confident that these two impressive scholars will work together well and serve as excellent stewards of the journal. In her letter of interest, Shannon emphasized that:

“*Museum Anthropology* has proved to be a rich resource for my own research, for reading assignments in university courses that I teach, and for scholarly inspiration for my graduate advisees’ research projects.”

In turn, Chavez Lamar explained,

“I am also a supporter of the journal. I find it to be one of the only journals focusing on critical scholarship written by those engaged in innovative and exciting projects with descendant communities. I am a big believer in hearing from those doing the work, and *Museum Anthropology* does an excellent job of sharing those voices.”

The next co-editors plan to continue the current direction of the journal, while explicitly addressing such topics as collaboration, inclusion, and the interrelation of academic (cultural/archaeological) and museum anthropology. They are particularly interested in a possible thematic issue about museum ethnography, seen as the cultural anthropological study of museums and as a contemporary methodology practiced by museum curators. They would also like to find ways for our community to be open and welcoming to graduate students coming up in the field—perhaps developing a special issue about current research in graduate work, or a series of blog postings, as a way to think about where the field is being directed by the most recent additions to our discipline.

Please join us in congratulating and thanking these excellent scholars for their leadership, and do not hesitate to let them know if you have ideas or suggestions about the future directions of the journal.

CMA Communications

CMA Website and Blog:

CMA members can take advantage of several electronic venues for posting and receiving museum news. Daniel C. Swan maintains the CMA website at: <<http://museumanthropology.org/>>. In addition, Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh and Stephen E. Nash, former editors of *Museum Anthropology*, maintain a blog at: <<http://museumanthropology.blogspot.com/>>. This blog is the prime location to find breaking news, calls for positions and fellowships in museum anthropology, and timely commentary on issues of interest.

CMA Column in Anthropology News:

In 2011, CMA published seven columns in *Anthropology News*. Contributors included the CMA president, secretary, and two board members, along with one guest contributor. The Secretary invites board members, anthropologists, and other museum professionals to contribute columns or send notices of exhibitions, conferences, and other issues relevant to museum anthropology for consideration. The *Anthropology News* column articles are limited to 700 words each. Please send your column ideas to the CMA Secretary at margaret.bruchac@uconn.edu.



Council for Museum Anthropology
2011 Columns in *Anthropology News*

<i>AN Issue</i>	Title of Column	Author
January	2010 Recipients of New Museum Anthropology Awards	Margaret Bruchac
February	Incoming CMA Officers and Other News	Margaret Bruchac
March	Answering a Grand Challenge by Transforming Access to Museum Collections	Alex W. Barker
May	International Museum Repatriation Issues in the News	Margaret Bruchac
June-Aug.	[Anthro News does not print during the summer]	
September	[No section news included]	
October	Digital Repatriation in the Field of Indigenous Anthropology	Timothy Powell
November	New Museum Anthropology Editors	Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh
December	2011 CMA Student Travel Award Winners	Trudy Nicks

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret M. Bruchac, Secretary
Council for Museum Anthropology
American Anthropological Association Meeting
Montreal, Quebec, Canada 2011