

to students and independent scholars to create a broad mix of participants. The conferences are intentionally small, housed in older, comfortable hotels, and unfold over two days at a relaxed pace. The 2010 spring meeting on “NatureCulture” organized by Marisol de la Cadena and Brad Weiss will be held May 7–8, 2010 in Santa Fe. Donna Haraway (history of consciousness, UC Santa Cruz), in dialogue with John Law (sociology, Lancaster U), will deliver the David Schneider Memorial Lecture. Plenary speakers include Debora Battaglia (Mt Holyoke C), Judith Farquhar (U Chicago), Stefan Helmreich (MIT), Deborah Bird Rose (Macquarie U, Sydney), and Sarah Whatmore (geography, Oxford U).

Today’s SCA has an excellent board, including Anne Allison and Charles Piot (incoming journal editors), Michelle Stewart (student member), Jean Langford, Peter Redfield and Brad Weiss. We are pleased to welcome three new elected board members: Cori Hayden, Kath Weston, and Brian Larkin. If you happen to meet us, feel free say hello and tell us about your work. We want those who belong to SCA to see themselves as members as well as journal subscribers. If you have not seen our website recently, take a look at www.culanth.org.

Contributions to this column should be sent to Jean M Langford, Department of Anthropology, HHH 395, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455; fax 612/625-3095; langf001@umn.edu. The SCA website is found at www.aaanet.org/sca/index.htm. For a direct link to the website for Cultural Anthropology go to www.culanth.org.

Society for East Asian Anthropology

JENNIFER HUBBERT AND GORDON MATHEWS,
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

A Message from the SEAA President

By Jennifer Robertson (U Michigan)

Greetings, SEAA members! If your resolutions for the solar new year have yet to be enacted, you will have had another chance on February 14, the doubly auspicious date of the lunar new year! 2010 coincides with the Year of the Metal Tiger—the metal element gives the resilient tiger sharpness and speed in action. As the new caretaker of the SEAA Rice Paddle, I am—we are—thus challenged even on cosmic fronts to continue to grow and shape our association following the energetic precedent set by my immediate predecessor, Laurel Kendall, and our colleagues before her. Before sharing with you some of my ideas and priorities for the SEAA, I would like to thank the talented, hardworking and thoughtful members of the board: Aihwa Ong, the new president-elect; Sabine Frühstück, secretary; Beth Notar, treasurer; Elise Edwards, Julia Huang, Tomomi Yamaguchi, Anru Lee and Charlene Makley, councilors; Junko Teruyama

and Susan McArver; and Jennifer Hubbert and Gordon Mathews, contributing editors.

More than two years ago, in my statement of nomination, I drew attention to the desirability for an SEAA outreach initiative to address, or redress, the dearth of credible and comparative Asian Studies materials in K-12 curricula. It was heartening to be approached by several members during the business meeting at the 2009 AAA, who expressed similar concerns and a willingness to help craft a plan of action. I have contacted them and we will generate some preliminary ideas for circulation among the membership at large, and hopefully we can launch some initiatives by late spring. Several years ago, for example, with the assistance of Michigan’s Center for Japanese Studies staff, I was able to use limited Title VI funds to assemble a “reader” on how science was taught in Japanese primary and secondary schools. These packets were mailed to about 150 junior high and high schools in southeastern Michigan. My aim was twofold: to demystify “science,” which, at that time was coming under negative scrutiny by “conservative” school boards, and to provide useful and accurate information about Japan. Despite my good intentions, I did not receive responses of any kind! Nor was I able to conduct a follow-up survey. However, I remain optimistic that a more organized and coordinated collective effort—with the possibility of learning modules and an interactive website, hands-on workshops, and so forth—would bear constructive results.

Speaking of websites, my first most visible initiative has been to revamp the SEAA website, and that process is underway as I write. The new website, jointly designed by Seiko Semones and Nikki Nabozny of Ann Arbor, MI, will be zippier, more user-friendly, and with links to many useful websites. We hope that it is up and running by the time you read this column! In this connection, I would be grateful if SEAA members would send to me the URLs for websites that they have found to be especially useful sources for information about East Asia—and Asia more generally and in a global, transnational context. Some possible thematic categories of sites that come to mind include human rights, indigenous languages and populations, science and technology, environment, migration/immigration, health, sexualities, music, film and video, and art and visual culture.

In addition, I would like to encourage the use of this column to highlight new—innovative, bold, reconceptualized, hitherto unconventional—theoretical and methodological approaches in, and sites for, the anthropology of Asia. With a view to growing our student membership, I believe that it is important to devote a column each year to a review of new master’s theses and doctoral dissertations. I have several proposals in mind to help offset the cost of AAA membership for graduate and undergraduate students eager to join the SEAA. Regarding the latter, it is critical, I believe, to welcome the most junior among us, whose

bright eagerness to pursue research in Asia generates new energies that can benefit us all!

I and my colleagues on the board will continue to share with you new ideas and initiatives via the EASIANTH listserv and our new website. So, stay tuned for news about next year’s meetings, a possible future conference in Korea, and other exciting developments!

Please send contributions to this column to Jennifer Hubbert (hubbert@lclark.edu) or Gordon Mathews (cmgordon@cuhk.edu.hk).

Society for Humanistic Anthropology

FREDERIC W GLEACH AND VILMA SANTIAGO-IRIZARRY, CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

2009 Annual Meeting Recap

The Philadelphia meeting was a great success, by our own experience and by the reports we heard. We were unfortunately tied up most of the time in business meetings and didn’t get to see all of our friends, but even so, things went well. The meeting was marred only by the tragic news of the killing of our Binghamton colleague Richard Antoun, who is honored in this issue’s In Memoriam section.

We had a good turnout at our regular annual awards and readings session, which concluded with a special performance of several songs by Internet phenom Dai Cooper, whose YouTube posting of “The Anthropology Song” has been making the rounds. This was reportedly her first public performance, but she did well and was well received. Her personal musical expressions reflect anthropological realities in ways that conventional reportage never can, and thus were perfect for this context.

First place in the poetry competition went to Christina Lovin for “Myth Information”; second place to Brynn Champney for “Infinite Genocide”; third place to Angela Just for “Ardor”; and honorable mentions to Felice Wyndham for “In the Chaco” and Ira Joe Fisher for “Under the Roof Lines of Annville.” The fiction award went to two winners, James Wood for “Cold Patience” and Laura Biagi for “The Cure.”

The SHA Presidents Award for Graduate Student Writing went to Pearl Chan for “Entangled Engagements: Identity, Community, Action, and Anthropological Practice,” with honorable mention going to Hisako Omori for “Following in the Footsteps of Mary: Surrendering to Divine Will and the Experience of Elation among Tokyo Catholics.” The SHA Presidents Award for Undergraduate Student Writing went to Shad Stroh for “Please My Friend, Do Not Work Hard’: Driving Taxi in Vancouver.”

The Victor Turner Prize for Ethnographic Writing was awarded to Matthew Engelke for *A Problem of Presence: Beyond Scripture in an African Church* (UC Press, 2007). The Friday Masowe apostolic church of Zimbabwe challenges the text-based knowledge of mainstream