



National Association for the Practice of Anthropology

**eNewsletter – May 7, 2007**

Hello NAPA Members:

It was nice seeing many of you at the very successful spring meetings with the SfAA in Tampa. The panels, sessions, interest group meetings, student reception and Governing Council meeting showed a strong NAPA presence. NAPA was invited to co-host the meeting next year with the SfAA in Memphis. We express our appreciation to the SfAA Board for accommodating and welcoming our functions.

NAPA nominated many practitioners to AAA Executive Board and Committees. Thirty percent of the Executive Board and Committee seats were nominated by the NAPA Nominations Committee. Please pay special attention to the candidates for the Practitioner/Professional seat on the AAA Executive Board, this seat that is the most influential voice for practitioners in the AAA. The NAPA Secretary and two at-large Governing Council seats are up for election. This year for the first time the election is entirely electronic. To vote go to the AAA website and click on the "Click here to Vote" icon. Log-in with correct e-mail address and AAA membership ID, which is the first four numbers above your name and address on the back of an issue of the Anthropology Newsletter. Deadline for voting is May 15.

The 2008 AAA meetings are now being planned. A letter from Program Chair, Noel Chrisman, asks for the participation of practitioners. The third annual NAPA/AAA sponsored Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference is October 3-6, in Keystone Colorado.

In Tampa, the Governing Council initiated new ways to promote and serve the membership. The Student Committee's role was expanded to engage more students in NAPA activities. Two new interest groups were approved: "Anthropology and Design," and "Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science." Both of these new interest groups create a professional home for these employment sections and they enhance NAPA's support for the building of new applications of anthropology.

The search for a new co-series editor of the NAPA Bulletin is nearing completion.

More information is noted below on a full array of topics.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Wiedman  
NAPA President

**“The Applied Anthropologist”**

Based on a survey of NAPA members and the recommendation of our Publications Committee, the NAPA Governing Council decided NOT to distribute the High Plains publication, *The Applied Anthropologist*, as a benefit of NAPA membership. While the membership sees value in receiving the journal, they are not willing to pay a section membership fee that is increased enough to cover the costs of journal production and distribution.

The Publications Committee further recommended that the Governing Council:

1. Explore establishing an agreement with High Plains to offer NAPA members a subscription discount, in exchange for advertising the journal at no cost to High Plains in the blank end pages of the NAPA *Bulletin*.
2. Encourage High Plains to seek to have their journal included in the AnthroSource bundle as "third party content", at no cost to NAPA.

We greatly appreciated the opportunity to work with the journal editor last fall and to distribute the fall 2006 volume to our members on a trial basis. We hope that the trial distribution and future cooperative efforts will increase the journal's visibility and encourage NAPA members to contribute manuscripts for editorial consideration.

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**NAPA/AAA's Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference (EPIC) 2007  
Call for Submissions**

Oct 3-6th, 2007 Keystone, CO USA

EPIC2007 is all about "Being Heard". From privileged teenagers to vast populations of oppressed peoples, the last decade has seen a tremendous growth in the promise, and often actuality, of the ability to give voice to oneself, one's people, one's issues and one's ideas. "You" may be Time's Person of the Year for 2006, the "long tail" may be wagging the "You Tube", "My Space" may be more your space. This year's theme explores what it means to have voice, to represent, to be represented, to express, to be heard. It explores the ways this happens and what happens when it doesn't.

EPIC conferences are devoted to advances in ethnographic theory and practice from the community of practitioners working in or with industry. Submissions may be theoretical, conceptual, paradigm shifting or descriptive in nature. Submissions undergo a double-blind peer referee process and those selected for presentation will be published in the EPIC2007 Conference Proceedings.

**NAPA eNewsletter – May 7, 2007. Page Three**

Submissions cannot have been previously published. Important dates and further information: <http://www.epic2007.com/submissions/>

Papers: Abstract submission deadline was April 30th, 2007

Workshops: Proposal submission deadline May 18th, 2007

Artifacts: submission deadline July 20th, 2007

Ken Anderson (Intel) and Melissa Cefkin (IBM)

EPIC2007 Co-organizers

More information at [www.EPIC2007.com](http://www.EPIC2007.com)

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**NAPA Student Reception at the SfAA meetings in Tampa**

The NAPA Student Reception on Thursday night at the SfAA meetings in Tampa was a huge success with as many as 80 people in attendance. Groups of students from various programs from around the country were able to meet one another and learn more about NAPA. Most notable were the practitioner training programs from the University of North Texas and Georgia State. Tracy Tessmann, Student Representative on the NAPA Governing Council greeted everyone and introduced NAPA and its many programs. NAPA President Dennis Wiedman spoke about NAPA as a life-long career support system for practitioners. He also mentioned the many ways that students could be part of NAPA by serving on its various committees and working groups. NAPA leaders then spoke about each of the committees and NAPA activities.

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**NAPA Student Committee**

Tracy Tessmann, Student Representative on the NAPA Governing Council chairs the NAPA Student Committee. The Student Committee facilitates student involvement in NAPA by developing and coordinating student related activities and programs. In the past a primary activity has been to coordinate the NAPA reception at conferences. This committee's role is now expanding to serve as a referral system for students wanting to become involved in the various activities and committees of NAPA. Students should express to Tracy Tessmann their interests and she can refer them to Committee Chairs and leaders. Contact Tracy at: [artiebast@mindspring.com](mailto:artiebast@mindspring.com)

### **Employer Exposition at the 2007 AAA Meetings**

The second annual Employer Expo and Welcome is now being planned by the NAPA Organizational Relations Committee. The Employer Expo provides an opportunity for organization representatives to present the mission, goals, services, and products of their organizations and to discuss the role and contributions that anthropologists make in the organization. Organizations interested in being part of the 2007 Employer Expo, or those who would like to serve on the Organizational Relations Committee, should contact Dennis Wiedman at [wiedmand@fiu.edu](mailto:wiedmand@fiu.edu).

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### **Employer & Student Internship Matching**

At the Employer Welcome luncheon at the 2007 AAA meetings, organizational representatives expressed a need for a system to match their internship opportunities with qualified students. To facilitate this, they suggested the development of an information sharing and coordination system.

The NAPA Organizational Relations Committee has this as one of its objectives this year. Reorganization and refinement of the NAPA internship web page will be one focus of their efforts. Immediate action would be to draw attention to the existing internship topic on the “Discussion Forum” web page as a place for organizations to post internships. This is at: [www.practicinganthropology.org/inside/?section=exchange\\_forum](http://www.practicinganthropology.org/inside/?section=exchange_forum)

If you are interested in posting internships, or would like to be involved with the NAPA Internship working group to help develop this initiative further, contact Lisa Hardy at: [lisajane@temple.edu](mailto:lisajane@temple.edu)

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### **Insurance for small companies and consultants.**

Health and professional liability insurance is a recurrent need voiced by our members over the years. As one of its objectives, the NAPA Organizational Relations Committee is leading an effort to assess what kinds of insurance are needed by practitioners, consultants, those in-between jobs, adjuncts, or just graduated. This Working group will also be communicating with the AAA Labor Relations Committee that has also expressed an interest in addressing these needs. If you are interested in this NAPA Working Group please contact Lisa Hardy at: [lisajane@temple.edu](mailto:lisajane@temple.edu)

## **NAPA Interest Group Purpose Statement**

A concerted effort is being made to promote the formation of NAPA Interest Groups as a way to build communities of practitioners representing various employment sectors and careers. The Evaluation Anthropology Interest Group was formed several years ago. The NAPA Governing Council approved the following purpose statement in order to facilitate the formation of new interest groups.

“The missions and purposes of NAPA Interest Groups are expectedly diverse. Primarily, an interest group is composed of a group of individuals who create and maintain an identity and activities for a specific area of practice or employment sector. Among their many purposes are to promote dialogue and networking, facilitate community engagement, advance the contribution of practitioners, support career development and professional opportunities, collaborate with other professional organizations, organize sessions at the AAA annual meeting, work with local practitioner organizations (LPOs), organize training workshops, help devise curricula that can be disseminated through academic degree programs, and to explore innovative ways to facilitate the contribution of practicing anthropology to the development of theory and methods.”

At the March 31 meeting, the Governing Council approved two new interest groups.

### **ANTHROPOLOGY AND DESIGN INTEREST GROUP:**

Interest Group Leader: Elizabeth Tunstall - [godiva.enteract@rcn.com](mailto:godiva.enteract@rcn.com)

The mission of the Design & Anthropology Interest Group (D&A IG) is to increase the perceived value of the design and anthropological theories, methodologies, and artifacts to global business, government, and society.

Under the institutional structure of NAPA, the group will be able to develop cross-institutional collaborations with the professional design associations and “design” related divisions within the American Anthropological Association (ex. visual anthropology, contemporary archaeology, and museum studies) to amplify the message of Design & Anthropology’s value.

Over the past 5 years, this informal community of anthropologists, ethnographers, and designers has developed a conference, EPIC with published proceedings, created local meet ups, shared knowledge thorough AAA and SfAA workshops and presentations, and shared jobs and knowledge through a list serve. NAPA has been an important advocate of many of these activities. But in many ways the community has informally provided everything one needs from a professional association, except for the ability to build trans-institutional alliances to increase the perceived value of the design and anthropological theories, methodologies, and artifacts to global business, government, and society. This is where NAPA and the AAA can develop a mutually beneficial relationship with the

D&A IG. The D&A IG will help NAPA increase its membership by providing a sense of belonging to students and practitioners of design and anthropology who do not see their interests represented in the larger AAA body or are willing and able to cross design disciplinary boundaries. NAPA will provide the D&A IG with a sustainable institutional structure to increase its visibility and reach into the institutional structures of business, government, and society. The Design & Anthropology IG will model in many ways the future possibilities of NAPA's growth and development and eventually that of the AAA.

#### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE INTERDISCIPLINARY INTEREST GROUP

Interest Group Leader: Gelya Frank - [gfrank@usc.edu](mailto:gfrank@usc.edu)

The mission of the Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science Interdisciplinary Interest Group is to develop awareness and provide institutional support for the professional opportunities emerging at the intersection of anthropology with occupational therapy and occupational science. The goals of the Interest Group follow:

- A. To promote dialogue and networking among anthropologists interested in occupational therapy and occupational science.
- B. To build linkages with the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF), Society for the Study of Occupation (SSO:USA), World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT), European Network of Occupational Therapists in Higher Education (ENOTHE), Occupational Therapy without Borders (OTwB), and other professional organizations of occupational therapists and occupational scientists nationally and internationally.
- C. To provide information and opportunities for anthropologists to gain professional education and credentials in occupational therapy at annual meetings.
- D. To advance the mutual contributions and enhance the development of the professions and disciplines through collaborative research, practice models, publications and curriculum development.
- E. To support the career development and professional opportunities for anthropologists working in occupational therapy departments.
- F. To support the career development and professional opportunities for occupational therapists working in or with anthropology departments.

Occupational therapists employ culturally meaningful activity (“occupations”) to enhance health and well-being with individuals, organizations and communities. In the U.S. alone, there are upwards of 50,000 registered or licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. The Department of Labor predicts an additional 27% growth in jobs over the decade through 2014, requiring new personnel and academic infrastructure.

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**Noel Chrisman, AAA 2008 Program Chair, Letter to practitioners to participate.**

Noel Chrisman, Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Washington, has been chosen by Setha Low, incoming AAA president, to be the Executive Chair of the 2008 Annual Meeting of the AAA in San Francisco. His charge is to continue the growing tradition to make the meetings more hospitable to applied and practicing anthropologists. This will be a complex task given the long history of unease among most parties and the many adjustments taking place in our discipline now.

Chrisman would like at least two kinds of help from applied and practicing anthropologists. First, think back to recent AAA meetings you have attended. Were there events, activities, situations that contributed to your sense of comfort? Let’s work to identify, continue, and amplify these. What about your discomfort? Can you think of some ways to reduce discomfort? Suggest them, including ways to implement them and assure their continuity. Write to Chrisman to make these suggestions. Better yet, identify neat ideas and volunteer to work with others to make them happen.

Second, a key job of the Executive Program Chair is to compose a committee that will be in charge of special events and Presidential Sessions. These are activities that promote the theme of the meeting and that identify for anthropologists the broad field of anthropology. Please start to think about events and Presidential Sessions that will promote the goal of increasing applied and practicing anthropologists’ comfort at our meeting. Proposals for Presidential Sessions will be due in mid-January, 2008 so you have some time.

Chrisman will be out of the country from mid-April to mid-May this year, but will look forward to your ideas when he returns. There is a special address for these communications: [Anthromeeting08@comcast.net](mailto:Anthromeeting08@comcast.net)

The AAA has made amazing strides during the past five years but more must be done. It will be up to us to stimulate and guide the next set of changes. Who better than the applied/practicing people to institute change in their own backyard? Thanks in advance for your help.

**PAWG & AAA Committee on Practicing and Applied Anthropology (PAA)**

The AAA Executive Board at their May meeting will consider the establishment of a standing committee on practicing and applied anthropology. This recommendation comes after two years of work by PAWG, the Practicing Advisory Working Group. The PAWG Final Report has been posted on the AAA main web page since November. Linda Bennett, Chair of PAWG and AAA staff member Kathleen Terry-Sharp met with the NAPA Governing Council in Tampa to discuss our interests and concerns. Many views and perspectives were shared. Governing Council members were overall supportive of this new AAA committee, but cautioned that its activities should not be redundant of activities and services that NAPA has performed for decades. A NAPA representative would serve on the committee.

The purpose of the committee is to “help facilitate an increase in the effectiveness and understanding of applied anthropology within the discipline of anthropology, to help promote the expanded inclusion of practicing anthropologists within the AAA, and to enhance the image of anthropology to the public and the world. In light of the recommendations of the PAWG Final Report, the PAA committee will help monitor the implementation of PAWG recommendations over time. The PAA committee will serve as a nexus for communication and collaboration with Sections, the AAA Executive Board, and the AAA staff, to help inspire increased visibility and place of practicing anthropologists within the life of the Association.”

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**Special Issues of *Anthropology News* to be Devoted to Conflict**

The first three issues of the coming academic year’s *Anthropology News* will be devoted to much of what arises in and around conflict. Commentaries and other short pieces will focus on the increasing domestic and global applications of anthropological theory and experience or ethnography. Topics will cover conflict resolution, transformation, avoidance, and consequences and influences in conflict. There are no constraints on geographic region. As we have assembled an exciting list of contributors to these special issues we are discovering many ways that anthropology is reaching beyond traditional applications. And we notice a new way to answer that old question of why anthropologists aren’t heard on these topics: in fact they are, we just don’t always realize they are anthropologists. So in these issues our purpose is twofold—to reintroduce many practitioners in the field of conflict resolution and management, and to inspire members to venture out into these problem solving arenas where many anthropologists are already quietly working in the service of world coexistence and peace. Contact Inga Treitler [ingat@knology.net](mailto:ingat@knology.net) or Mark Davidheiser [davidhei@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:davidhei@nsu.nova.edu) if you are interested in contributing or commenting.

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