Message from the New Editor

We are excited to release our third issue, my first issue as Editor of Student Anthropologist. This year the journal has seen many changes including assembling a new Editorial Board, the addition of a Book Review section, and general strengthening of journal processes. After a year of editorial work I have come to see the importance of close communication between authors, peer reviewers, and Editorial Board members as fundamental to encouraging productive publishing, of which revision is key. The writing process is a social effort and Student Anthropologist is committed fostering these conversations, which will improve research, writing, and representation practices among student scholars.

Updates

Open Access

The Student Anthropologist Editorial Board has aimed towards increasing visibility and respectability of the journal. The main thrust this year has been increasing visibility of the journal to the academic community via an accessible website and to have the archives searchable under google scholar. The next step in the process is to have the journal registered and distributed within open access channels.

While there are other established routes available for distribution, i.e., Anthrosource, endeavoring to have Student Anthropologist distributed as an Open Access journal gives the advantage of making the work of our contributors freely available to students, professionals, or otherwise without the pay walls and steep charges that is the standard by large Academic Publishers. These charges are often prohibitive to the public in general or academics and students from universities economically at a disadvantage, particularly on an international level. Arguments for open access have been recently increasing in the anthropological academic community and the establishment of journals such as Hau points towards the growing viability of a respectable, high quality, peer-reviewed anthropological open access journal.

National Association of Student Anthropologists

The National Association of Student Anthropologists (NASA), the sponsoring section for Student Anthropologist, has also made some exciting developments this year. NASA is in the process of redesigning their website: http://www.studentanthropologists.org/. NASA welcomes feedback on particular features or items you feel are lacking.

NASA also spread headed and exciting new program this year, the Emerging Leader in Anthropology Program (ELAP). Although the submission deadline has already passed for this year, do consider applying next year. The program was started to foster the development of leadership in the field of anthropology. NASA is partnering with the Association for Queer Anthropology (AQA), the General Anthropology Division (GAD), the Association for Political and Legal Anthropology (APLA), the Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA), the Committee on World Anthropologies, and the Committee on Public Policy. Program participants will receive training in AAA and NASA governance, contemporary issues in anthropology on specific themes, as well as mentoring from anthropologists engaged in participants’ areas of interest. A small scholarship towards attending the meeting and the opportunity to attend a special event at the AAA Chicago meeting in 2013 will also be provided.
**Editorial practices and turnaround time**

As the new Editor I have worked with the Editorial Board to streamline and strengthen peer review processes. Student Anthropologist Peer Review Editors, including Laura Thompson, Brent Vickers and myself arrange double-blind peer review of manuscripts. All identifying information is removed from manuscripts before they are sent out for peer review. Peer reviewers identities are also not disclosed. Each manuscript is read by two peer reviewers who provide written comments to the Peer Review Editors. If there are stark differences in comments from peer reviewers the Editorial Board is consulted to make final recommendations. Once a manuscript is accepted the Peer Review Editors guide the authors through revision in order strengthen the manuscript to represent top quality student scholarship. Revisions require the author to exchange the manuscript with the Peer Review Editor and myself up to three times. Peer Review turnaround is generally three months; however, exceptions occur particularly in instances when finding an appropriate peer reviewer is a difficult. Once the manuscript has been accepted it will appear in our annual issue released in November in occasion for the American Anthropological Association meetings.

Please see our general call for papers and special issue call for papers on page 115-116. This and more information is also available on our temporary website: http://studentanthropologist.wordpress.com/

**Acknowledgements**

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The Editorial processes is deeply rewarding, challenging, and time consuming. Thanks to all the authors for their persistence and patience in revising their manuscripts to create important and dynamic student scholarship. Special thanks to Catherine Buerger and all the peer reviewers who have offered their timely reviews and considered comments, ensuring only the highest quality submissions were published.

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