

## **Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA)**

**Business Meeting – 14:30-16:30 hours, November 2, 2010, Dakar, Senegal**

Present:

Paul Lane, President  
Jeffrey Fleisher, Treasurer  
Diane Lyons, Editor, *Nyame Akuma*  
Pamela Willoughby, Recording Secretary  
Ibrahima Thiaw, Organizing Secretary  
Pamela Eze-Uzomaka, Member at large for Africa  
Shadrack Chirikure, Member at large for Africa  
Eric Huysecom, Member at large for Europe  
Genevieve Dewar, Member at large for North America  
Didier N'Dah, Student representative for Africa  
Dana Drake Rosenstein, Student representative for non-Africa

Absent with regrets:

Susan McIntosh, Webmaster

The business meeting was held at Dakar, Senegal on November 4, 2010 as part of the joint meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA) and the Pan African Archaeological Association for Prehistory and Related Studies (PAA).

1. In Memorium. A list of names of SAfA members who have passed away since the Frankfurt meeting in 2008 was read. A minute of silence in their honour followed.
2. President's report – given by Paul Lane.

Paul Lane first expressed thanks to local organizing committee who ran the first ever joint meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA) and the Pan African Association for Prehistory and Related Studies (PAA).

The President has taken a number of actions in the last two years, on behalf of SAfA.

- A. On the request of Kodzo Gavua, Paul Lane wrote a letter to the Bui Dam authority in Ghana re the need for cultural heritage management studies prior to any development.
- B. He wrote a similar letter in August 2010, following a request from Lyn Wadley, to the Durban City Municipality in South Africa about the Greater Driefontein Mixed Use Development plan. This would threaten the Sibudu Cave Stone Age and Iron Age sites.

C. As the president of a coordinated society, he wrote a report to the African Studies Association in 2008.

D. He also wrote several letters for various concerns cosigned by other regional societies and members of the World Archaeological Congress's Presidents' list. He will arrange for copies of these letters to be hosted on the SAfA website as part of its archives for future executive board members.

### 3. Treasurer's report – presented by Jeff Fleisher.

In 2010, there are 254 members of SAfA. The number of student members has increased, while the number of European and North American members has decreased. Life memberships, with online access to *Nyame Akuma*, are available for \$300 US.

Many people are using the online version of *Nyame Akuma*. Hard copies of *Nyame Akuma* remain expensive to produce.

A total of 18 students received funding to attend the meeting. A total of \$12,700 US was split into awards of \$300 to \$1,400 per person. *Antiquity* provided \$4,500 US for student travel, the MacDonal Institute at Cambridge \$600 US, and SAfA, \$7,600 US.

Jeff reminded members to contact him if there was any problem with online payments.

It was suggested that the Treasurer's report be included in *Nyame Akuma*, as well as on the SAfA web site.

### 4. Report about the *African Archaeological Review* – presented by Paul Lane, for Adria LaViolette.

Adria LaViolette has just edited her 8<sup>th</sup> issue of the AAR. She reminds members that she can do special issues. In a forthcoming issue, there will be an interview with Merrick Posnansky, done by Jonathan Walz, as well as one with Thurston Shaw. Topics for the AAR include reports of original research, reviews of topics/themes, some book reviews. Online, the journal has about 1200 downloads per month. Scott MacEachern was thanked for coordinating book reviews.

### 5. Report about the *Journal of African Archaeology* – presented by Sonja Magnavita.

The JAA is in its 8<sup>th</sup> year. Sonja Magnavita encourages members to get their institutional libraries to subscribe. For each institutional subscription, one African institution gets free access. She also thanked Tim Insoll for coordinating book reviews.

There was some discussion about the cost of the institutional rate for online access.

6A. Information about *Afrique: Arts et Archéologie* – presented by Paul Lane.

Manuel Gutierrez, the new editor, reports that issue 6 is ready. He is accepting new articles, either in French or in English. These could be original research or reviews.

6B. *Azania*. Paul Lane had looked into a special rate for SAfA members to subscribe to *Azania*. He concluded that SAfA members can get *Azania* at a better rate by joining the British Institute in Eastern Africa.

7. Report of the *Nyame Akuma* editor – presented by Diane Lyons.

Diane Lyons has been editor of *Nyame Akuma* since the June 2009 issue. She has produced 10 to 11 papers per issue. She reminds contributors to limit papers to 10 to 12 double spaced pages, with a few illustrations. Starting December 2010, only pdf versions of articles will be sent to authors, not a print copy of the issue.

Diane also stated that illustrations should be submitted as separate graphics files, with a resolution of 300 to 600 dpi. They can be sent in multiple emails, if necessary.

A new instructions to authors page will soon be added to the SAfA web site.

She is also planning to add a response section to *Nyame Akuma*, so that people can respond to previous articles.

8. Report re SAA / ASA symposia.

No report was offered.

9. Report of the regional conferences committee.

No report was offered.

Members were asked by the SAfA executive to communicate information about other meetings.

Natalie Swaenpoel reported that the next ASAPA (Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists) conference will be held from July 1 to 3, 2011 in Swaziland.

10. Webmaster report – by Jeff Fleisher on behalf of Susan McIntosh.

The SAfA web page will be migrating to a new format at Rice University; members should not see any changes.

Dana Rosenstein reported that we are creating a Facebook group account for SAfA. Members will be able to join the group in the near future.

11. Report about the SAfA student meeting - by Dana Drake Rosenstein and Didier N'Dah.

Dana Drake Rosenstein and Didier N'Dah reported that two new student representatives were elected at the student meeting. They are Adrienne Daggett from Michigan State University and Justin Pargeter from the University of the Witwatersrand.

There was a half day meeting of students, along with two workshops. A total of 18 students were supported in order to attend the meeting. Almost 40 students applied, so it was decided only to fund PhD students, and they also had to be SAfA members.

12. Report re book prize, student paper and poster prizes – by Paul Lane.

The book prize committee will have a decision by mid December 2010.

Student paper and poster prizes. Students have been invited to submit 2000 word versions of their presentations with up to 5 images. These would then be considered for the student prize. Students would have to be SAfA members and have presented their paper at the Dakar joint PAA/SAfA meeting. The deadline will be November 21, 2010. Papers should be submitted to Paul Lane at [pjl503@york.ac.uk](mailto:pjl503@york.ac.uk) and posters to Jeff Fleisher at [jfleisher@rice.edu](mailto:jfleisher@rice.edu). There will be 3 awards and 1 runner-up award. *Antiquity* has offered to publish 800 word articles by the winners in their Photo Gallery section.

13. 2012 meeting venue. An offer to host the next SAfA meeting (in 2012) has come from Susan Pfeiffer and Michael Chazan of the University of Toronto. This was accepted by the membership.

14A. Announcements from the floor.

Sarah Croucher reported on the Women in Africanist Archaeology meeting, held earlier in the day. This group will now be called the Women's Agenda Network. The goal is to increase the profile of the network, and details about joining their email list serve will be posted on the SAfA web site.

Paul Hubbard is the new editor of *Zimbabwean Prehistory*. He is digitizing back issues of this journal and newsletter. These will be put on the SAfA web site for free access.

Jeff Fleisher mentioned that if there are any other publications like this, they could also be scanned and hosted at the SAfA web page.

Pamela Eze-Uzomaka reminded the organizers of the next SAfA meeting that many people will need personal letters of invitation in order to attend.

Manuel Gutierrez reported on a September 2011 meeting in Paris of Africanist archaeologists in honour of Jean Devisse.

Peter Schmidt reported that the University of Ibadan now has an annual lecture in honour of Professor Bassah Andah, and wondered if SAfA members could support it financially. He presented the first lecture.

Eric Huysecom reported that there will be a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland on September 15 and 16, 2011 titled African memory in danger.

Paul Lane brought up the issue of cycling SAfA meetings with those of the PAA. Normally, SAfA is held in North America, then two years later in Europe. The joint meeting in Dakar of the PAA and SAfA was an experiment. After a long discussion, it was decided that the 2012 meeting in Toronto is a meeting of SAfA, and the 2014 meeting at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa will be a joint meeting of SAfA and the PAA.

14B. A number of resolutions were passed at the PAA business meeting. They are described here.

A. Cultural property – presented by Thijs Maarleveld.

The Panafrican Archaeological Association (PAA) and the Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA), jointly united in Dakar, Senegal, 4 November 2010

Considering the enormous importance of the African archaeological record both on land and under water as a source of history and pride for African peoples as well as for the history of the world,

recognizing the great challenges and opportunities which will be faced under intensified development both on shore and offshore under the pressure and in the wake of the global economic crisis,

in an effort to reduce the wholesale looting of this heritage for the benefit of the global antiquities market,

acknowledging the leading role that Senegal and other African States have taken in the development of African archaeology and international Conventions addressing the protection of the archaeological and cultural environment, notably at UNESCO,

call upon the governments of all African states

- to ratify the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage in the shortest possible delay,

- to implement strategies for impact assessment of infrastructural and industrial development on the archaeological heritage on land and under water as well as for mitigation of this impact,
- to develop strategies for awareness raising regarding the world wide importance of Africa's archaeological heritage in all its variety, to which end the global strategy under the World Heritage Convention offers great opportunities.

B. A resolution concerning Howard University's Anthropology program was presented by Flordeliz Bugarin, Eleanor King, Arvilla Payne-Jackson and Mark Mack, all of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Howard University, Washington, D.C., USA.

Whereas on September 23, 2010, Howard University President Sidney A. Ribeau announced his intention to close the Anthropology Program situated in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology,

Whereas all University programs were evaluated in six categories and Anthropology was weak only in "enrollment". Other rankings were as follows: (1) academic centrality = strong; (2) academic quality = adequate and strong; (3) research = strong; (4) sustainability = adequate; (5) tie to mission and vision = strong (though the same mission, shared by our whole Department, was rated "exceptional" for the Sociology Program); (6) overall evaluation = adequate. Sustainability was apparently also affected by enrollment, because with 9 projects between 4 faculty members, all receiving outside grant dollars, our research and fundraising are well above average

Whereas the current enrollment of the program mirrors the trends and fluctuations of anthropology majors within programs across the United States (Across the US, 2/3 of all departments have less than 100 majors, 1/3 has less than 50, and the Howard U. Anthropology Program currently has approximately 45 majors)

Whereas Howard U. is one of only three programs among 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to offer a major in Anthropology and the only one to offer students a four-field approach to the discipline, as well as applied anthropology

Whereas due to the identity of the student body, Howard U. presents the ideal place to recruit and train African Americans, Africans, and other minorities

Whereas the Anthropology Program has a strong emphasis in bioarchaeology and archaeology and focuses on the archaeology of Africa and the African Diaspora

Whereas the archaeology of Africa and the African Diaspora offers unique perspectives for understanding the history and cultural evolution of people of African descent that are not offered in other courses

Whereas the Anthropology Program entails five research projects relating to the archaeology of Africa and the African Diaspora, including the James Island and Related Sites Project which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in The Gambia, West Africa

Whereas the research projects entail collaboration with communities in Africa and throughout the African Diaspora, working with underserved, indigenous, descendant, and low income populations

Whereas African Americans and Africans are chronically underrepresented in archaeology in general and in the American Anthropological Society specifically, African Americans represent less than 3% of the total membership and all minorities together represent less than 16%

Whereas many Africans attend Howard U

Whereas there are few departments in Africa where Africans can train to become archaeologists

Whereas the program at Howard U. is a primary springboard for African Americans, Africans and other minority undergraduates to go on to graduate work and professional careers in archaeology

Whereas through the Anthropology Program at Howard U., African Americans, Africans, and other people of the African Diaspora have opportunities to participate in research projects in Africa

Be it resolved that the Society for Africanist Archaeologists writes a letter to President Ribeau urging him to retain the Anthropology Program at Howard University for the greater benefit not only of the University, but for the Archaeology of Africa and the African Diaspora, African communities, people throughout the African Diaspora, and the global community in general.

C. Nathan Schlanger proposed that the PAA and SAfA form a group to monitor the pace of development in Africa, as well the implementation of policies and practices of cultural heritage management.

Here is a detailed version of his resolution.

In order to ensure that the accelerating pace of Africa's economic and infrastructural development does not lead to the irredeemable destruction of the material remains of its past, the PanAfrican Archaeological Association (PAA) and the Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA), assembled together in congress here in Dakar between the 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November 2010, urge

the relevant actors and responsible parties at political, economic, scientific and cultural levels to implement the policies of archaeological and historical heritage management as promoted by international standards and norms.

Drawing on its professional expertise in the archaeology of Africa, the PAA and SAfA decide to create a liaison committee in order to encourage:

The monitoring of threats posed to the archaeological heritage in the framework of development;

The implementation of appropriate safeguarding measures;

The creation, enactment and application of relevant laws and regulations;

The respect of scientific and ethical norms of good practices;

Professional training and reinforcement of intervention capacities;

The dissemination and availability of archaeological information;

The conservation of the recovered remains;

The participation of local communities in the management and conservation of their heritage.

D. Eric Huysecom, on behalf of the PAA Council, proposed the re-establishment of a permanent secretariat for the PAA. This was formerly in Harare, Zimbabwe. It would

(i) be responsible for the PAA archives, as well as publicizing them on the PAA web site (<http://www.panafprehistory.org/>).

(ii) circulate information about the association to other archaeology groups, including SAfA, UISPP, WAC and INQUA, as well as to regional organizations in Africa such as the WAAA, ASAPA.

(iii) hold a documentary resource about meetings on behalf of local organizing committees

(iv) record information on posing threats to sites.

It was proposed to have this hosted at IFAN (the Institut Fondamentale de l'Afrique Noire) in Dakar, partly because it already has the archives from 1947 to 1977. It is possible that there will be regional hubs created in others parts of Africa.

E. Merrick Posnansky proposed that the PAA and SAfA work towards facilitating attendance at meetings of all stateless Africanist archaeologists.



F. An offer to host the next PAA congress was presented by Professor Karim Sadr from the University of the Witwatersrand. He reminded the delegates that the second PanAfrican Congress was originally supposed to be held in South Africa, but, because of the adoption of apartheid policies, the second meeting was held in Algiers in 1952. This offer was accepted. Note: while it was proposed to have this meeting in 2016, subsequent discussion at the SAfA meeting resulted in it being proposed for 2014.

15. Any other business.

None.

16. Election of officers (Returning officer: Pierre de Maret).

The following officers were elected for a period of 2010 to 2012.

Chapuruka Kusimba, President  
Jeffrey Fleisher, Treasurer  
Diane Lyons, Editor, *Nyame Akuma*  
Pamela Willoughby, Recording Secretary  
Michael Chazan, Organizing Secretary  
Pamela Eze-Uzomaka, Member at large for Africa  
Nancy Morongwa Mosothwane, Member at large for Africa  
Eric Huysecom, Member at large for Europe  
Genevieve Dewar, Member at large for North America  
Justin Pargeter, Student representative for Africa  
Adrienne Daggett, Student representative for non-Africa

Paul Lane thanked the conference organizers and those who provided funding – including the Wenner-Gren Foundation, *Antiquity*, the World Archaeological Congress and the MacDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge.

He introduced Chapuruka Kusimba as the new President of SAfA. Chapuruka Kusimba made a few remarks, stressing the need for funding African research and for training African students.