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As most of you know, the 18th biennial meeting of SAfA was held at the University of Calgary from June 23 to 26, 2006. Once again, I wish to thank the organizing committee, who showed that Alberta can successfully host the world.

On behalf of SAfA, I would like to thank the members of the outgoing executive. Our new executive consists of President Diane Gifford-Gonzalez, Recording Secretary Diane Lyons, Treasurer Jeff Fleisher, Organizing Secretary Peter Breunig, and Members at Large Matthew Curtis (representing North America), Anne Haour (for Europe) and Yusuf Juwayeyi and Pamela Eze-Uzomaka (for Africa). The student representative is Per Fredrikson, and there are two ex officio members of the executive. These are Pamela Willoughby (as editor of *Nyame Akuma*) and Susan McIntosh (as our webmaster).

At the business meeting, a statement of professional behavior for the members of SAfA was approved. It is appended here, under the conference report.

This extremely successful conference was marred by the passing of Michèle Delneuf. She was a French scholar with important field research in Cameroon. At this conference, she presented two coauthored posters describing cultural resource management work in Eastern Cameroon, and was also scheduled to present a paper. At the business meeting, Nicholas David proposed that the student paper prize should be named in her honor, and this was accepted by the membership.

The next SAfA meeting will be in Frankfurt, Germany. It will try to follow the Calgary model of a day for a graduate student program, as well as the regular meeting. The regular meeting will run from Monday September 8 to Thursday September 11,

2008. The graduate student conference will be held on Sunday, 7 September 2008, and short excursions will also be planned for the same day. The central theme will be the "Cultural Diversity of Africa's Past". Peter Breunig is the host.

For about the last decade, SAfA has met every second year, once in North America and once in Europe. There have been concerns about the placement of our meetings relative to the Pan African Congress. So for the next few years, we will try an experiment. The next SAfA conference will be held in Europe as usual (in 2008), then the Pan African Congress in 2010. As a result, the next SAfA meeting in North America will be held in 2012

In this issue, McDonald et al. report on recent field research in Kharga Oasis, Egypt, the area famous for the pioneering research of Gertrude Caton-Thompson and Eleanor Gardner. Matthew Davies discusses past agricultural systems in the Cherangani Hills of western Kenya. Then there are three papers about research in Niger. Thomas Fenn discusses copper metallurgy in central Nigeria, and Anne Haour reports on 2003 excavations at Kufan Kanawa, a walled settlement in the Sahel. Abdoulaye Maga discusses the impact of damming the Niger River on archaeological resources, and reports on a cultural resource management campaign to protect them. David Aremu provides a retrospective on Esie soapstone carvings on the 60th anniversary of the creation of a museum for their curation. Stéphane Pradines in turn reports on renewed research on the famous Swahili site of Kilwa. This issue also includes the new ethics statement, as well as the program and abstracts of the Calgary meeting. Note that powerpoint and other summaries of the presentations from this meeting are also available on the SAFA web site (http://safa.rice.edu).

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