

2015 Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition Annual Report from Executive Board Members

President, Rachel Black

It is a pleasure to be acting as SAFN President. Having been involved with the organization for the past nine years, I am excited to have this opportunity to continue to contribute to our association. For many years, we struggled to maintain the minimum number of members in order to keep our status as an AAA section. Although we are above the 225 member mark, we are not entirely out of the woods. The Anthropology of Food and Nutrition and Food Studies have seen an incredible growth in attention from scholars, publishers and the general public. However, our membership numbers do not yet reflect a similar growth.

As a SAFN member and member of the executive, I have reflected on this situation. What can we do to not only grow our membership but build a stronger sense of community amongst SAFN members? Why join SAFN? Of course we all know what a wonderful group of people we have in SAFN, but outside of the AAA meeting we do not have many opportunities to engage with each other. We sometimes lack a sense of belonging to this group.

In recent years, David Beriss has done an immense amount of work to build a sense of community for SAFN through the online platform of the Food Anthropology blog. In addition, SAFN's participation in the ASFS/AFHVS meeting has given our members another opportunity to engage face to face. David and I have been working to build a strong group of regular contributors for the Food Anthropology blog. We hope to have regular post at least twice a week. The aim of this initiative is to engage more of the SAFN membership and to highlight their research and teaching. A wonderful example of this is the SAFN Food Anthropology Program series that highlights our members' innovative teaching.

There is going to be some renewal of our executive board this year. We will be electing a new president and vice-president. During our executive meeting at the 2015 AAA conference, we talked about changing the VP position to president-elect. The board agreed that this would lead to greater coherence in the executive committee. I will undertake the task of changing the SAFN bylaws before next year's meeting. This means bringing the change to a vote during the elections this year. In addition to elected positions, we are bringing on a new co-chair for the program committee. Abigail Adams has agreed to take over from Arianna Huhn and she will be working with Joan Gross this coming year.

During the executive meeting we also discussed and decided to drop our student membership from \$20 to \$10. We hope that this will increase our student membership. We also see this as an investment in the future. Ruth Dike will be working on promoting SAFN to potential student members.

This year we will also be creating a new quasi endowment to fund student research travel. John Brett has agreed to assist in the setting up of this endowment.

It is going to be a busy year for the SAFN executive but we are looking forward to keeping our section dynamic and to creating a greater sense of community for our members.

Vice-President, Amy Trubek

At the previous SAFN board meeting, the SAFN board agreed that it would be a good idea to reinvigorate the connection between SAFN and the Association for the Study of Food and Society and the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society. It was decided that I would reach out to ASFS/AFHVS as part of my duties as SAFN Vice-President. To that end, I contacted the conference organizers and board members of these associations. It was agreed that SAFN would be a major sponsor of the annual conference. SAFN contributed \$1000. For this level of sponsorship our organization had a prominent ad in the conference catalogue, there were SAFN sessions, and we distributed flyers about the organization at the information fair.

For next year's ASFS/AFHVS conference, I suggest we contact the main organizer, Jeffrey Pilcher, and see if we can be more proactive about SAFN sponsored panels. Otherwise, I think the \$1000 level of sponsorship makes good sense.

My other main duty was to organize and administer the Marchione and Wilson prizes. To that end, I developed a flyer for each prize. These flyers were distributed via mail to approximately 20 programs or departments that were identified as having strong food, nutrition and/or food studies interests. We also distributed the prize announcements on a number of listserves: SAFN, ASFS, AFHVS, ComFood. We received 9 graduate submissions for the Wilson Prize and 2 graduate submissions for the Marchione prize. I developed a rubric for review and recruited 7 SAFN members to serve as jurors (as well as Rachel Black). The papers are presently out for review and final decisions about prize winners will be made before the AAA meetings.

Treasurer, Kenneth Maes

2015 SAFN Treasurer's Report

Assets:

At the end of September 2015, SAFN's net assets were **\$49,884.78**, about \$800 (2%) more than last year's figures. Revenue to date was \$4,935.18 (compare to \$5,523.36 for 2014) and expenses were \$1,127.01 (\$319.99 for 2014). So we spent considerably more money this year, but still have a healthy, growing budget.

The Tom Marchione Food as a Human Right Fund, at end of September 2015, amounts to \$22,282.15, about \$1,076 (5%) greater than last year's figure. The growth is completely due to interest accrued (no external donations were made this year, to my knowledge). Note that the Tom Marchione Award for 2013 was funded by SAFN's general/operations funds. Starting with the 2014 award, the award is paid with the interest accrued by the endowment. The amount of future awards will be determined by the size of the endowment. John Brett made the decision to set the 2014 award amount at \$750. [I've not yet heard what award amount was decided for 2015.]

Membership:

Our membership grew by about 5.6% this year (Sept-Sept), after taking a dip in 2014 (membership had been increasing every year since 2008). As of September 2015, we had a total of 246 members (1 lifetime, 188 professional and 57 student members. This year's growth was seen in the professional category. The number of student members increased by only 1 (however, if we look at our annual max membership, which was in August 2015, we had 69 student members). Out of 49 other groups (sections + interest groups), there are 11 groups that have fewer or about the same number of members than we do, which is not very different from last year. Note that a AAA section needs to maintain a membership of 225 in order to maintain "section" status. That figure is calculated as a 36-month average, so we are not in immediate danger of losing our section status.

Year	Number of members (September)
2008	213
2009	248
2010	262
2011	273
2012	313
2013	320
2014	233
2015	246

An income of \$6848 was projected from membership fees for the coming year (2016). In addition, we can expect about \$684 from Wiley-Blackwell royalties (we received \$566 in royalties this year).

2015 budget:

We made significant alterations to the budget structure for 2015.

Below I compare the proposed budgets over the last four years (and see footnotes):

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Prof./Consult./Honoraria	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000 ¹
Awards and Honors	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$1500 ²

¹ Will we have an honorarium expense for our 2015 Business meeting?

Section websites	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$200 ³
Meeting food and space	\$4500	\$5500	\$5500	\$4500 ⁴
Development and Promotion	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$450 ⁵
Support for external spring conference	-	-	-	\$1000
Marchione Award	\$0	\$600	\$600	\$600 ⁶
Miscellaneous expense	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0

Respectfully submitted by

Kenny Maes

SAFN Treasurer on November 13, 2015

² We proposed an additional \$1000 in this category for 2015-16 only, to fund a new student research award. Per previous board discussions, we plan to set up a new quasi-endowment for this new award, but since we have not yet done that and we want to inaugurate the award in 2016, we planned to use our general funds this one time only. The executive board will make a final decision at their November 2015 meeting.

³ The section websites category was increased due to added expenses to keep advertisements off our website, and growth in the cost of domain registration fees.

⁴ It is my understanding that our Business Meeting organizers / program chairs (Ari and Joan) are bringing us in well under budget this year. The budgeted total was reduced to \$4500 from the previous year because we created a separate line in our 2016 budget to support the AFHV/AFHS/SAFN meeting (previously this meeting and the AAA meeting were lumped together).

⁵ This category was increased because the board plans to be more active in this area, in part to grow our membership.

⁶ I am not sure what amount will actually be awarded for the Marchione prize. It is up to the SAFN President and up for board discussion each year, as I understand.

Nominations, David Sutton

There was one position open on this year's SAFN slate. Alyson Young was elected as Treasurer. She will be taking over from Kenneth Maes, who served in the position for a number of years. The Executive Board would like to thank Kenny for his contribution to SAFN.

This year we will need to elect a new President and Vice-President. Members interested in running for these positions should contact David Sutton.

Program Committee, Arianna Huhn and Joan Gross

Prepared by:

Arianna Huhn, California State University, San Bernardino (Co-Chair 2013-2015)

Joan Gross, Oregon State University (Co-Chair 2014-2016)

Summary: This year Program planning went quite smoothly, apart from one panel that was important to schedule but which was not submitted in accordance with AAA rules and regulations. We were able to spread our sponsorship points further by co-sponsoring two panels and fully sponsoring a third. Catering for the Business Reception should again be top-notch, and drink tickets will be provided only to SAFN members. We expect a larger than usual number of non-members at our reception, following an outreach campaign to some 200 individuals.

1. Call for Papers & Waiver Applications

We prepared and distributed a call for papers via the SAFN listserv and blog. We also sent reminders using the listserv that fee waivers were available, and directed members to find the application online. Calls for papers (text attached below) were sent out on 11 February and 31 March. We received several inquiries about panels being developed, and provided advice accordingly. Waiver information was also sent out on 31 March, which unfortunately was just the day before the waiver application deadline. We were delayed in sending this information due to an unresolved technological error by which we (Joan and Arianna) could not open the waiver application, and thus did not realize the deadline was so close until the very last minute. We were disappointed in the lack of technical support that we received from AAA.

2. Paper, Poster, & Panel Acceptance / Rejection

We received 12 panels for consideration. We separately and then collectively ranked these panels, based on criteria that included: coherence, strength, SAFN membership status of presenters, and alignment with SAFN objectives. We were able to develop one additional panel by grouping volunteered papers.

We accepted and recommended the scheduling of all 13 panels. AAA was able to accommodate all 13 in the program. These panels are as follows:

- [A Moveable Feast: Transformations of What's Good to Eat](#)
- [Chefs, Cuisine, and Convergence](#)
- [Hawking Street Foods in Southeast Asia: Spatial Politics, Legality, Urbanization, & Identity](#)
- [AAA Task Force on World Food Problems: Reports on New Advances in Food Security, Safety and Sustainability](#)
- [New Foods, New Worlds: How Shifting Tastes Reflect Social Change \(Part 1\)](#)
- [New Foods, New Worlds: How Shifting Tastes Reflect Social Change \(Part 2\)](#)
- [Making Taste Public](#)
- [Critical Perspectives on Food Sovereignty, Food Justice, and Food Citizenship](#)
- [Food System Work in Denver: Rhetoric versus Reality](#)
- [Contemporary Chefs and Culinary Transformations](#)
- [Eating French and Home and in the United States](#)
- [Materiality in and Through the Lens of Food](#)
- [Nutritional Practices and Cultural Models of Health](#)

It is worth noting that one panel (AAA Task Force on World Food Problems) was considerably problematic in its organization, but that we were able to work with the organizer to remedy the situation and to see the important event scheduled in the program. We were also able to add a discussant to one panel (while frowned upon by AAA, the system allows changes), a paper to an existing panel, and fix typos in a third.

Finally, we grouped posters into a session simply entitled "[Food and Nutrition Posters](#)." This session includes volunteered posters as well as several papers that we did not feel were very strong – in the latter case, we contacted the authors, alerted them that we were not able to schedule their paper, and suggested that we place them as poster presentations instead. Several agreed, while others declined. Those who declined were placed in the general pool. One paper that we rejected due to the poor quality of the scholarship as suggested in the abstract.

3. Panel Sponsorship

This year we used our four “points” to sponsor three panels. Two of these panels are co-sponsored. We selected these three panels based on criteria that included: strength, SAFN membership status of presenters, last year’s co-sponsorships (efforts are made to co-sponsor with sections that we did not co-sponsor with the previous year) and representing diverse facets of SAFN membership interests (nutrition, culture, and social justice). Our sponsored panels for 2015 are:

- [Making Taste Public](#)
- [A Moveable Feast: Transformations of What's Good to Eat \(with Biological Anthropology\)](#)
- [Critical Perspectives on Food Sovereignty, Food Justice, and Food Citizenship \(with C&A\)](#)

4. Board & Business Meeting Scheduling

Dates and times for scheduling section events were very limited this year. We scheduled the SAFN Executive Board Meeting for Thursday evening, and the Reception, Business Meeting, and Distinguished Lecture for Saturday. We requested that the events be scheduled so as not to conflict with C&A events. We scheduled the board meeting before the business meeting such that we could plan the agenda for the business meeting and get member feedback on any nascent ideas. The word "Reception" was added to the title of the Business Meeting to more effectively advertise the full nature of the event, and to make clear that it is open for members to attend (there was some confusion last year whereby members showed up to the Board meeting instead of the Business meeting).

5. Business Meeting Planning

We arranged catering for the Business Meeting to serve approximately 90 people. The dishes were selected to meet a diverse array of dietary needs and appetites, and to best represent the host venue. Catering for the event consists of:

- *Rocky Mountain Sampling* (40 persons): Bison, Chick Pea and Black Bean Chili, Mini Elk Sausage & Peppers with Herb Aioli on Sourdough Buns, Bison Slider with Aged Cheddar Cheese and Smoked Paprika Aioli, Rocky Mountain Charcuterie of Air Dried Bison, Venison Pepperoni Sticks and Elk Salami at 22.00++/serving
- *Crudites* (25 persons): Red & Yellow Grape Tomatoes, Broccoli, Asparagus, Celery and Carrots, Sundried Tomato Hummus, Black Bean-Cilantro, Sesame Crackers and Wasa Crisps at 14.00++/serving
- *Warm Apres Cheese Display* (25 persons): Puff Pastry Wrapped Local Brie Cheese and Brandied Cherry Emmenthal Fondue with Sliced Baguette, Green Chili Goat Cheese Fondue with Sourdough Bread at 18.00++/serving

We also arranged a signature cash bar to be available from 7:45-10:30pm (the duration of the event), with 50 drink tickets available for members at \$8++/serving.

The grand total for catering, including food, labor, and set-up was \$2962.33. A request for a cordless mic, and for arranging the room with seating in the front and tables for leaning/mingling in the back, was also submitted via AAA one week before the event, at which we were informed that such requests should be made at the time that the catering order is placed. Still, AAA did their best to accommodate our requests.

6. Awards Advertisements

We designed flyers advertising the two paper awards (on file).

7. Non-Member Outreach

We searched all papers, panels, and posters being presented at this year's meeting for key words like "food," "agriculture," and "eating." The resulting list was amassed by author name, and duplicates eliminated. The result was 266 names. Authors were then searched for in the SAFN directory, available by visiting the general membership directory. 197 of the individuals we researched were *not* members of SAFN. Each of these individuals, where an email address was available in the directory, was sent a personalized email inviting them to attend the Reception, alerting them to SAFN resources, and suggesting that they join SAFN when they renew their membership next year. This text is reproduced below (on file).

8. Compilation of SAFN Reviewed & General Food-Related Panels, Papers, & Posters

We prepared a listing of all papers, panels, and posters related to food, and sent this information to members and posted it on the blog. The resulting flier is attached.

Food Anthropology Blog Editor, David Beriss

FoodAnthropology Blog Report

Overall, the FoodAnthropology blog is doing well. We are increasingly visible in the blog world, cited by other blogs (fairly regularly in the Savage Minds weekly roundup, for instance) and on social media. We have received a growing number of media inquiries as a result of the blog, many of which have been circulated to SAFN members via the listserv (I do not have numbers on how many of these have resulted in SAFN members actually getting cited in the media, however).

Our objective over the years has been to make our blog a significant resources for people interested in questions related to food and nutrition. We hoped that people would turn to us for information on these issues and that our blog postings would from time to time even help drive discussions about food in both academic and public circles. This has not happened as much as we hoped. In order to address that issue, Rachel Black and I discussed creating a team of eight regular bloggers, each of whom would agree to post at least once per month, while also recruiting others for guest postings. This would result in at least two postings per week, which would make the blog a lot more lively and appealing to readers. We have so far recruited seven members of that team and held a conference call at the end of October to get organized. We fully expect the group to get up to cruising speed in coming weeks. Here is the list of current team members:

- David Beriss, University of New Orleans (cultural, U.S. South, France, Europe)
- Rachel Black, Connecticut College (cultural, Italy, France, women chefs)

- Greg de St. Maurice, Pittsburgh (cultural, Kyoto, Japan, chefs)
- Lauren Moore, Kentucky (cultural, graduate student member, food intolerance, midscale farming, southeast US)
- Ashanté Reese, Spelman College (cultural, race, class, Washington DC/Baltimore, U.S.)
- Andrea Wiley, Indiana (biocultural, nutrition, milk)
- Craig Hadley, Emory University (biocultural, food insecurity, East Africa)
- David Sutton, Southern Illinois University (Book review editor)

It would be great to add at least one person to the team. We especially need two roles filled however, so even more people would be great. We need:

- Someone who does archaeology and food.

The team has already begun to improve the blog. Lauren Moore, in particular, should be noted for two remarkable series that she has started this year. First, over most of the last year she has posted monthly interviews with anthropologists who teach food and culture courses. There have been eight interviews so far and these are some of our most popular blog entries, with a significant spike in visits and shares on social media each time one is posted. Second, Lauren recently started the weekly "What FoodAnthropology is Reading Now" feature, which is a roundup of items of interest to anthropologists of food and nutrition from around the web. These too have resulted in significant spikes in visits to the site and I have also received emails remarking on how much people enjoy reading them. Please send Lauren items that you think would be of interest and she may be able to use them (her email is on the blog).

The key thing to consider here is that making the blog actively involved in the world of food, whether from a purely anthropological perspective or in order to contribute to policy debates, popular culture, etc., allows us to help set the agenda for social science. The success of Savage Minds is our model and I think we can do something similar in our area. So the development of our blog team is exciting. I hope the SAFN board and membership will be willing to help out, especially by agreeing to write guest posts or, when necessary, to even join our team. It would also be helpful if you would all publicize our posts via social media when you see a new one. The more people who see the blog, the better.

Here are some relevant blog statistics:

Year	Views	Visitors
2013	66535	33987
2014	57973	32685
2015 (through 11/19/15)	64160	39944

We have a distinct increase in 2015 over the last year, something that I attribute to the increasing number of posts we have had in the last few months and especially to Lauren Moore's excellent work. The biggest number of our hits come on the home page, which allows people to see the most recent blog postings. By far the largest number of our readers come from within the United States, followed (distantly) by Canada and the United Kingdom (we have had hits however from quite a few countries).

We do need to update our graduate program listing. It is one of our most visited pages and, I fear, fairly out-of-date. We also need to make sure SAFN information remains up-to-date.

Our past president, John Brett, wrote a very popular posting in October about dining here in Denver and I encourage everyone to be inspired by it. However, to write for us, you do not need to be so prolific. A mere 500 words, with maybe a picture, a few useful links, and you have a posting. Did Michael Pollan say something that bugs you? Are you annoyed by the latest deliberations on food policy by the FDA or USDA? Want to sound off on the end of kebabs in Beziers? Got something to say about the training of chefs in Lima? Please write for us. Use the blog to jump start your ideas for articles and research projects. Blog (as I have been doing) about your classes. We need all of you.

Student Representative, Ruth Dike

SAFN continues to support graduate students through the Thomas Marchione Food-as-a-Human-Right Award and the Christine Wilson Award. The Thomas Marchione Award supports exemplary work already accomplished, in progress, or for proposed work in the field of food as a human right and the social justice aspects of food systems. The Christine Wilson Award recognizes outstanding undergraduate and graduate student research papers that examine topics within the perspectives in nutrition, food studies, and anthropology.

Responding to a request from last years' AAA meeting for more information about Food & Nutritional Anthropology pedagogical techniques, Lauren R. Moore started a pedagogy series on the SAFN blog interviewing various food and nutritional anthropology instructors. She has interviewed seven different instructors so far. If you would like to participate, or would like to nominate an excellent instructor for the interview series, please email Lauren at LaurenRMoore@uky.edu.

Ruth Dike also started a Food Anthropology Program series on the blog which spotlights various Food Anthropology programs across the world to help prospective applicants and the larger food studies community have a greater understanding of different academic programs. Two programs have been spotlighted so far with another post coming soon. If you would like to participate, or would like to nominate a food anthropology program for the series, please email Ruth at mruthdike@uky.edu.