

## **COMMITTEE ON ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM (CAMP)**

*Report for ASOR Executive Board Meeting, April 23, 2010*

Submitted by co-vice presidents Michael Homan and Morag Kersel.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of co-chairs of the Jr. Scholars Committee:

Erin Kuhns-Darby and Robert Darby

Approval of new Program Committee Members:

Peter Machinst, Bethany Walker, Michael Danti

Approval of new Outreach Committee Member:

Gloria London

### **Annual Meeting Program Committee Report**

#### **Report of Work by Program Committee: September 13, 2009 – April 12, 2010**

Submitted by Andrew M. Smith II and Elise A. Friedland

#### **2010 Academic Program**

We are currently in the process of finalizing the academic program for the 2010 Annual Meeting. We received a total of 315 abstract submissions, and the Academic Program of the 2010 Annual Meeting will include 56 sessions and 2 workshops. The program will also include several roundtable discussions and the poster session (“Projects on Parade”). Final Program Copy and Abstract Copy from session chairs is due on April 21, and we plan to have a draft of the 2010 Program Abstract Copy Book by May 15.

#### **Logistics of Organizing the Academic Program**

Abstract Submission Process: To assist the PC Co-Chairs, the ASOR main office, and the PC Committee with the logistics of receiving, reviewing, and accepting/rejecting abstract/participation forms and with organizing the Academic Program and producing the Program Abstract Copy Book for each annual meeting, ASOR has subscribed to the Oxford Abstracts system. This system, masterfully overseen by Kelley Bazydlo in the ASOR main office, has been excellent. Through this system, we were able to

- provide prospective participants with an online, web abstract/participation form
- access through the web the information entered by prospective participants, which was captured and stored in a database
- generate emails to prospective participants automatically to confirm receipt of abstract/participation forms
- allow session chairs to review, rank/grade, and comment on abstracts submitted to their sessions
- export relevant information to word documents to create the basis of the Program Copy and Abstract Copy that session chairs then edit and ultimately become the Program Abstract Copy Book

Response to this new online system seems to have been overwhelmingly positive, though there are a few minor issues that we have been made aware of and which we can easily address for the 2011 abstract submission process.

Scheduling of Papers within Sessions: This year we hope to print exact start times for each paper in the program in order to facilitate conference attendees' ability to hear specific papers. To that end, we have asked session chairs to adhere to some basic principles when planning the timing of papers in their sessions, such as only scheduling introductions by chairs, papers, discussion times, and discussant responses in 5 min. increments; requiring that discussion time of 5 mins. be allotted between each paper (to account for not only questions, but also for introducing speakers and set-up of PPT presentations); and holding papers to appropriate lengths depending on the number of papers in the session.

### **Membership of PC Committee**

Three members rotated off of the PC at the end of the 2009 calendar year. We have thanked Aaron Brody, Beth Nakhai, and Jennie Ebeling for their long and extremely helpful service to the PC.

Based on a survey that we conducted of members of the PC as it stood in 2009, we now have a clearer understanding of the temporal, regional, and disciplinary areas represented by those remaining on the PC. Accordingly, we were able to identify areas that were under-represented.

ACTION ITEM: To fill the largest gaps, we have invited and are submitting the following individuals to the ASOR Board for approval to serve on the PC:

- Bethany Walker, Missouri State University – Islamic period, history and archaeology
- Peter Machinist, Harvard University – ancient Israel and Mesopotamia, philology
- Michael Danti, Boston University – Bronze and Iron age Syria and Iran, archaeology and anthropology

At the end of 2010, several other members of the PC will have served their full terms of six years and will therefore be rotating off of the PC. We will continue to nominate new members whose temporal, regional, and disciplinary expertise assures that representation on the PC is in proportion to the broad constituency of ASOR. Probable areas for future appointments include New Testament history and archaeology, archaeology of Turkey for any period, and archaeology of Egypt for any period, but especially Pharonic.

### **PC Guidelines**

We are nearing the end of the first year of operation based on the new PC Guidelines. Accordingly, there are a number of revisions that need to be undertaken. Especially important will be to define more clearly the nature of Member-Organized Workshops, the guidelines for holding them during the academic program, and the differences between Member-Organized Workshops and Roundtables. The PC will also need to discuss further specifics of both ASOR-Sponsored and Member-Organized sessions, such as the maximum and minimum number of papers that may be included in each of these. Because the PC Guidelines were established to be

“guidelines for operation” rather than “Bylaws,” these sorts of revisions are expected and will continue to be undertaken on a regular basis as considered necessary.

### **Upcoming Work**

Working with Kelley in the ASOR main office, we will be engaged with the following projects in the upcoming months:

- finalizing academic program for 2010 Annual Meeting
- compiling and editing the 2010 Program Abstract Copy Book
- drafting revised PC Guidelines (to be proposed and discussed in November 2010)
- preparing and posting the 2011 Call for Papers and Sessions
- advertising the 2011 Call for Papers and Sessions more broadly than in previous years
- identifying and inviting potential new members to join the PC in January 2011 (with Morag and Michael)

### **Annual Meeting Program Committee Members**

Elise Friedland and Andrew Smith, Co-Chairs

Derek Counts

Annlee Dolan

Laura Mazow

Yorke Rowan

Nancy Serwint

Michael Homan (ex-officio)

Morag Kersel (ex-officio)

### **Honors and Awards Committee Report**

Submitted by Sue Sheridan.

This year the Awards Committee had 1 Albright, 3 ASOR Service, 3 Cross, 1 Harris, 6 Macallister, and 3 Write award nominees. Despite searing pain from an abscessed tooth/cavity, the stalwart Committee chair (Sheridan) managed to rally her troops (John Spencer, Yorke Rowan, Laura Mazow, Lauren Monroe and Louise Hitchcock) to evaluate the slate of candidates. Each member of the committee was provided with all email correspondence with the ASOR Office related to each nominations, and all nomination letters received. The following people received a 2009 ASOR award:

ALBRIGHT — Gus Feissel

ASOR SERVICE — Ann Killebrew & Tammy Schneider

CROSS — Ron Tappy & Kyle McCarter

HARRIS – Orly Nelson

MACALLISTER — Sy Gitin

WRIGHT – Alan Simmons

### **Honors and Awards Committee Members**

Susan Sheridan, Chair  
Lauren Monroe  
Laura Mazow  
Louise Hitchcock  
John Spencer  
Yorke Rowan  
Michael Homan (ex-officio)  
Morag Kersel (ex-officio)

### **Junior Scholars Committee Report**

Submitted by Erin Kuhns-Darby and Robert Darby.

At the 2009 Annual Meeting, Robert Darby (University of Missouri-Columbia) and Erin Darby (Duke University) were elected as co-chairmen of the Junior Scholars Committee. In the upcoming year they are organizing the Junior Scholar's Lunch Session and the Junior Scholar's Meet and Greet for the Annual Meeting in Atlanta, November 2010. This year's session will focus on post-doctoral fellowships as viable transitions toward fulltime academic positions. Speakers will include faculty overseeing post-doctoral applications, as well as recent postdoctoral candidates who can enumerate the pros and cons of their positions. Also in the upcoming year, the committee will improve its relationship with regional ASOR chapters, many of whom have seen decreased participation in regional meetings. In order to encourage young scholars to utilize regional chapters as avenues to enter the scholarly community, up-to-date information about submission guidelines and deadlines will be made available at the national meeting. In this way, the Junior Scholars Committee will work to benefit young scholars who may not have been able to participate at the national conference, in addition to bolstering interest in regional ASOR communities.

#### **Junior Scholars Committee Members**

Erin Kuhns-Darby and Robert Darby , Co-Chairs  
Debi Cassuto  
Mark Hammond  
Mary Larkin  
Michael Homan (ex-officio)  
Morag Kersel (ex-officio)

### **Lectures Committee Report**

Submitted by Jacob Wright.

The Lecture Committee met in New Orleans to discuss the plans for the upcoming year. We invited K. Lawson Younger to attend and help us think through our options for the immediate future. The annual spring meeting of his regional division of the ASOR (Midwest and Great Lakes?) is an ideal context in which to organize a large lecture with which we could publicize the ASOR name. Our idea was to use the money for an honorarium and/or travel costs as well as

advertising in local newspapers. Prof. Younger did not have enough time to organize such a lecture this year, but agreed to undertake it for the upcoming year. We did not decide on a speaker. Suggestions are welcome. We are looking for someone who has broad appeal and is known as an engaging speaker.

### **Lecture Committee Members**

Jacob Wright, Chair  
Oded Borowski  
Joe Greene  
Jane Grutz  
Bob Grutz  
Steve Ortiz  
Tammi Schneider  
Michael Homan (ex-officio)  
Morag Kersel (ex-officio)

### **Outreach Committee Report**

Submitted by Stefanie Elkins.

Currently the Outreach Education Committee is planning on holding a workshop for elementary and high school teachers at the Carlos Museum on Sat., Nov.20. The workshop will begin at 8am and go all day with various presentations by archaeology professors and teachers who are ASOR members. We are still working out details about continuing education credits. I'm still waiting to hear back from Kelley as to whether or not ASOR will allow the teachers to attend the Thursday evening ASOR lecture for free. They will need to in order to get all of the hours required for the CE credits. As soon as this is confirmed I can move forward with the workshop.

### **Outreach Committee Members**

Stefanie Elkins, Chair  
Ellen Bedell  
Neal Bierling  
Kimberly Connors  
Stefanie Elkins  
Peter Feinman  
Pam Gaber  
Gloria London  
Michael Homan (ex-officio)  
Morag Kersel (ex-officio)

### **Regional Affiliations Committee Report**

Submitted by Suzanne Richard.

Funding for the Regions

This year, the Regional Affiliation Committee was given \$2000 to help promote ASOR in the regions for spring 2010 conferences. It was decided that \$200 should go to regions requesting funds, with the understanding that ASOR be listed as a sponsor and materials such as free copies of NEA and membership flyers be displayed on the tables. A \$400 contribution was set aside for a special ASOR program in the SE that had been advertised in the Newsletter. The regions requesting \$200 funding include the PNW, PW, Rocky Mt., Upper Midwest, SW, and EGL. The moneys were used variously to help allay SBL costs of mailings, conference costs, speaker costs, or to provide help to grad students. In the case of PNW, the meetings will take place May 7-9 in Victoria, B.C. and funds have not been used yet.

Although the entire \$2000 was not spent, it is possible that, if made available earlier, the moneys could have helped in the planning for plenary speakers or other event.

The \$400 contribution to the SE helped to underwrite a special ASOR program on the Galilee by providing funding to bring plenary speaker Mordechai Aviam from Israel for a special panel. The report indicates a well-attended session. The representative states: "We are grateful for the sponsorship we received from ASOR, as our program would not have been possible without it." The region is hoping to publish the papers from the panel.

#### Summary of conferences held thus far

Funds were not sought from Central this year. Their paper submissions necessitated a third ASOR session. A good third of the papers were from graduate students. The region anticipates requesting funds to support student scholarships next year.

Barry Gittlen reports that the SBL Mid-Atlantic society requested more moneys than available to accept ASOR as some sort of partner. Thus, no funds were sought this year. Discussions are proceeding, however, to establish ground rules for meeting together next March.

The Eastern Great Lakes region, after a two-year hiatus, included an ASOR session of 5 excavation, Near Eastern History, and Art papers. Since this region advertises the sponsors alphabetically, ASOR (CBA/SBL) is highly visible. As a further means to promote ASOR, Suzanne Richard accepted election as Vice President and President Elect of the EGL.

Although there were only two people listing ASOR affiliation at the Upper Midwest Region, Mark Schuler was able to utilize funding to present an ASOR sponsored session on the Dead Sea Scrolls that was well attended at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

The PNW ASOR sessions have an interesting new slate of speakers from first-time Canadian ASOR participants. Gloria London suggests that the name of the region change to include western Canada as well.

The Rocky Mountain - Great Plains Region conference of AAR, SBL ASOR included two ASOR sessions over the two-day conference.

The Southwest Region conference was in conjunction with the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies. The conference was held March 12-14<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The region received \$200 from the national ASOR office. They will use this money to try to recruit an ASOR scholar to speak at the 2011 meeting. Michael Homan is the new president of the SW region, Eric Mitchell is the new VP, and Lourdes Rincon is the newly elected secretary.

No report received from the Midwest region.

**Regional Affiliations Committee Members**

Suzanne Richard, Chair  
John Laughlin - SECSOR (Southeast Region)  
Jesse C. Long, Jr. - SW Commission of Religious Studies  
Gloria London - Pacific Northwest Region  
Vic Matthews - ASOR Central States  
K. Lawson Younger - ASOR Midwest  
Mark Chavalas - ASOR Upper Midwest Regions  
Suzanne Richard - Eastern Great Lakes Region  
Barry Gittlen - Mid-Atlantic  
Rami Arav - Rocky Mountains/Great Plains  
Beth Alpert Nakhai - Pacific Southwest  
Andy Vaughn – New England Region  
Michael Homan (ex-officio)  
Morag Kersel (ex-officio)