

Report from the Chair of the Committee on Archaeological Policy and Research

At the meeting of CAP last November an historic action was voted unanimously by the CAP Committee, namely to approve all current and future projects for a period of three years. This means that at its next meeting in San Francisco, the committee will be able to devote more time to deliberation of a number of initiatives that hitherto we have not had the time to consider. Among the initiatives that will be reported on and discussed are the following:

- 1. Moving CAP application process on-line.** Presently CAP applications are filled out in full by project directors using a downloadable WORD document template. Starting next cycle (2012) the application process will be totally on-line. Project directors will be able also to include maps, drawings and photos with their applications. When the time comes that a project will need to re-apply, information that stays the same will not have to be re-entered. Only updates to information supplied earlier and highlights of any new developments will need to be added. CAP SNAPSHOTS will automatically be generated by this new software, which is being developed for CAP by Steve Savage under a contract paid for in part by ASOR and in part by funds provided by Tom Levy/UCSD/CISA3/DAAHL.
- 2. Input of all current CAP projects into the new system.** Once the on-line application process has been de-bugged and approved by the CAP committee, the information currently on hand from CAP approved projects will be entered into the new system. This work will be done by Jeff Hudon, a grad research assistant to the CAP chair at Andrews University thanks to funds provided in part by ASOR and in part by Andrews' Office of Scholarly Research. Jeff will be assisted in this effort by Lacey Barroso, an Andrews undergrad research assistant under a contract funded by Andrews' office of Scholarly Research. Both Jeff and Lacey will be contacting project directors for input and up-dates in the process of doing this data entry.
- 3. Input of all past CAP approved projects into the new system.** The CAP chair and Steve Savage have coordinated work on this new web-based CAP application process with Cynthia Rufo, ASOR Archivist and Webmaster, in order that snapshot descriptions of past CAP affiliated projects catalogued in the ASOR archive can also be uploaded into the new system. Cynthia will be assisted by BU and Andrews student research assistants in this effort.
- 4. Showcasing ASOR's contribution to global history on-line.** The CAP chair and Jeff Hudon are at work on developing a slide-show/video that showcases the cumulative contribution of ASOR projects to advancement of global history. The on-line presentation will show how current and past research by CAP affiliated researchers have/are contributing to advancing understanding of the following seven global history processes: 1) the steady expansion of an ever more potent economic world system; 2) the comings and goings of great religious revivals and movements; 3) the rise, domination and fall of adjacent and distant world empires; 4) the gradual bureaucratization of governance structures as evidenced by the development and deployment of signs, symbols and scripts; 5) the episodic recurrence of killer plagues and epidemics; 6) the in-and-out migration of displaced families and whole groups of people in the wake of upheavals wrought by these global pressures and 7) the gradual erosion of habitat conditions reflected in landscape

transformation in the direction of desertification. To this list of global processes others will be added as the project develops. An initial version of this slide show will be presented for comment and input to the CAP committee and at the ASOR Session on the History of Archaeology.

5. Current and future work of CAP Regional Vetting Groups. The CAP chair has organized the process of reviewing CAP applications so that this work is now being done by three regional vetting groups: a Cyprus/Egypt team; an Israel/West Bank team; and Jordan/Syria/Iraq/Saudi team. These groups will report on any new projects from their regions and follow up on any outstanding questions from last year's deliberations. So far as I am aware, no applications for new projects have been received to date.

6. Updates from six other CAP working groups. These include the following: the CAP Overseas Centers/Committee Group; the CAP Publications Best Practices Group; the CAP Field Projects Best Practices Group; the CAP Tours Group; the CAP Specialists Group; and the CAP Virtual Collections Group. The committee will hear reports and discuss future directions for the work of each of these groups.

7. Review and update content of CAP related tabs on ASOR web site. The CAP chair has met with Cynthia Rufo regarding immediate and future changes that are needed to the CAP related tabs on the ASOR web site. In this connection, special attention will be given to the Statement of General Standards for Projects affiliated with ASOR.

Nominations for CAP Committee membership. According to ASOR by-laws, the terms of service for Leigh-Ann Bedal, Tom Levy, Benjamin Porter, Benjamin Saidel and Oystein LaBianca end this December. LaBianca was re-instated as CAP chair at the spring meeting of the ASOR Board. The chair would be pleased to have any of these out-going members consider standing for re-election to the CAP committee for another three-year term.