

2007-2008 SAS Membership Report
Submitted May 2008 for ISA Siena
VP for Membership, A.J. Vonarx

Membership at a Glance:	December 2006	April 2007	December 2007
Total Members:	301	290	315

By Membership Category:	December 2006	April 2007	December 2007
Regular	175	158	162
Student	57	61	72
Institutional	16	14	17
Lifetime	53	57	64

Membership Stability:	During 2006	During 2007	During 2008
<i>Nonrenewals (prior to follow-up)</i>	33	48	56 (**4/08)
<i>Renewed after follow-up</i>	NA	-23	TBA
<i>New Members</i>	+22	+25	+11

By Country:

	D 2006	A 2007	D 2007		D 2006	A 2007	A 2007
USA	218	207	211	S. Africa	2	2	2
Canada	18	17	25	Belgium	1	1	1
UK	15	13	21	Argentina	1	1	1
Spain	5	6	5	Denmark	1	1	3
Mexico	4	3	2	Finland	1	1	1
New Zealand	5	5	5	France	1	1	2
Germany	4	5	7	China	1	1	1
Greece	2	2	2	Slovenia	1	1	1
Australia	3	3	3	Sweden	1	1	1
Japan	2	3	4	Switzerland	1	1	1
Netherlands	2	3	3	Thailand	1	1	1
Israel	1	2	1	Turkey	1	1	1
Greece	2	2	2	Hong Kong	1	1	1
Portugal	2	2	2	India	1	1	2
Italy	2	2	2	Norway	1	0	1

Payment via Paypal:	During 2007	During 2008 (4/08)
	74	118

General Comments on Membership:

Warmest greetings from rainy, but friendly, Washington, DC. Wish that I could be in Siena with the rest of you!!!

Overall, the Society continues to make modest gains in the international distribution of membership. We have made slight gains in Canada and the UK but we have a long way to go – especially in terms of membership in Central/South America and Asia. The Paypal online enrollment system seems to be quite successful and will continue to be important as SAS looks to recruit international members.

As is clearly evident in the data above, SAS struggles with a lack of stability in membership (i.e. approximately 10% members do not renew from one year to the next). During 2007, Rob Sternberg and I worked to follow up on these “non-renewals” more closely. Rob sent his post and email renewal notices in late November 2006. I followed up with an additional reminder to any members that did not renew as of March 2007. The program allowed SAS to maintain twenty-three members that might have, otherwise, been lost to attrition. I sent out follow-up emails to those who have yet to renew for 2008 on April 20, along with “please rejoin us” invitations to those who have not renewed since 2006. The results of these recent efforts are not included in this report but will be updated for the next *Bulletin*.

RE Taylor Poster Award Competition

Congratulations to Miriam Hinman, winner of the Taylor Student Poster Award at the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada. Ms. Hinman, a chemistry undergraduate from Harvard University, was awarded a \$100 cash prize and a free SAS membership for her entry, “Isotopes, Collagen, and Degradation: New Evidence from Pyrolysis GC-MS and Solid State ¹³C NMR.” Ms. Hinman’s coauthors, Cheryl Makarewicz, George Cody, and Noreen Turossare, are also recognized. Ashley Evans (Arizona State University), “Engineering a Prehistoric Earthen Monument: A Geotechnical Investigation of the Mound House Site,” and Corinne Rosania (University of Missouri), “Geochemical Analysis of Central and Eastern European Obsidian” received Honorable Mentions. Special thanks to Sandra Lopez-Varela, Christian Wells, Rob Tykot, Adrian Burke, Rachel Popelka-Filcoff, and David V. Hill for their assistance in the judging process.

As of May 3, 2008, twenty-two entries were received for the Taylor Poster Award competition at ISA 2008 in Siena. The candidate pool is highly diverse with universities in ten different countries represented. Special thanks to Isabella Memmi for her assistance in publicizing the contest as part of official conference correspondence. Thank you to all of the Board Members willing to judge and complete the contest in my absence.

New Promotional Materials

I am pleased to announce that three new promotional material that will debut at ISA. First, be sure to check out the new color trifold pamphlets that contain updated, detachable membership forms. I am looking for members who would be willing to take 50 new brochures to international conferences (other than SAA and ISA) to increase Society visibility. If you know that you will attend an interdisciplinary or regional conference in the coming year, can help in this regard, please sign up on the attached form. Also, the red barrel display has been retired, officially, after many years of dependable service. The main piece of the new display can be transported with other research posters in a simple travel tube. An additional packing envelop will need to travel along with the wall display and contains materials and mountings that allow the display to hold copies of recent *Bulletins*, membership brochures, example of award-winning student posters, and mailing lists. Finally, promotional “buttons” were introduced to the Board at SAAs in

Vancouver. These will be made available to all members in Siena and special buttons will help to identify “poster judges.”

Online Directory Progress

At the time of this report, I have solicited update or new directory information from half of the membership and have begun to paste the information into profile pages. While progress on this project is slower than expected, I hope to work with Destiny Crider, Aaron Shugar, and Dana Drake Rosenstein to have the password-protected and public area of the directory up and running over the summer.

SASBlog and Co-VP for Membership Proposal

Special thanks to Rachel Popelka-Filcoff for her hard work and diligence in crafting the blog proposal. I encourage to board to approve the measure.

Note: Please read the following paragraph if this motion is acceptable under the bylaws. Rob and Thilo will have to make the call. As I look forward to my last year as VP of Membership, I realize that I may need some formal assistance in order to increase membership significantly, finish the directory project, and help make sure that the blog project gathers momentum. With this in mind, I would like to make a motion to create a Co-VP for Membership position, at least until the end of my term in 2009. With the Board’s approval, I would like to extend an invitation to Rachel Popelka-Filcoff to fulfill this role for the coming year, as I have had great success collaborating with her over the past year.

Modest 2008 Membership Goals

- a) Forty to fifty new members by December 2008, with at least half of these recruited from outside the United States. The blog, directory, and Society presence at additional international meetings should help to increase visibility and assist in this goal.
- b) Significant decrease in attrition through email follow-ups to non-renewals and “invitations to rejoin” to members whose participation has lapsed.
- c) Small promotional posters featuring student artwork to be distributed to international academic departments and museums in August 2008. Artwork contributed by Fumie Izuka (student member) in Fall 2007 can serve as the basis of one version of the poster, with the possibility of other artwork contributions still on the table.

Best of Luck in Siena,

Kind Regards,

AJ Vonarx, 2007-2008 VP for Membership