

## **President's Report May 2016**

This year has proven to be eventful and fulfilling, and as I complete my term as President, I do hope that the choices that we made as an Executive will only help us grow as an organization and ensure that CASCA can effectively work for our members and our discipline to ensure that we can all strive to achieve a more just society both here in Canada and globally.

### **Online Resolution Vote**

While we were enjoying the 2015 conference in “la belle ville de Québec” it was brought to our attention that the Nova Scotia had put forward legislation that could be extremely detrimental to academia and academic freedom. Both the CAUT and the Dalhousie FASS Faculty Council condemned Nova Scotia’s Bill 100 and the CASCA Resolutions Committee put forward a motion to the Executive and following careful scrutiny of our bylaws, it was decided that an online vote should be organized to vote on a motion whereby the association would stand in support of the motions that had been adopted, affirming that any university which applied for a “revitalization plan” under Nova Scotia’s Bill 100 would be censured. A total of 211 CASCA members voted and 204 voted yea. Though this was a first online vote, it was a successful and no glitches were reported. Changes have been put forward to our bylaws to facilitate and guide future online votes should the need arise.

### **Resolutions Committee**

The CASCA Executive is still committed to working to ensure that academics will not be trapped in precarious positions as universities are shifting teaching loads from tenured professors to sessional instructors. We will encourage the Resolutions Committee to continue working to see what effective measures we can propose to help alleviate the stresses facing recent graduates vying for positions in academia.

### **Intangible Culture**

Last summer, I was invited to participate at talks bringing together organizations from across the Americas (Canada, United States, Mexico and Brazil) to develop a declaration on intangible culture. This was a privileged opportunity for CASCA to stand shoulder to shoulder with the major anthropological associations of the Americas to develop a common stance which would favor community-partnered, ethical and respectful research—academic and practicing—which would promote the ability of communities to protect their own culture, tangible and intangible.

### **Support for the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Final Report**

As an association, the Executive also came out strongly in support for the Truth & Reconciliation Commission’s Final Report in a position statement. As

anthropologists and as citizens it is essential that we support and disseminate the work of the commission and advocate for justice not only for the survivors of the residential school system, but also for indigenous communities both in Canada and globally. Our Webmaster, Dr. Nathalie Boucher, created a “Teaching Corner” on the website to disseminate community resources to support the teaching of Canadian and international anthropology. This Teaching Corner includes information and teaching materials pertaining to the Commission on Truth and Reconciliation as this was one of the recommendations of the report. Other suggestions are welcome.

## **SfAA**

One of the challenges faced by the executive in the early months of this term was the SfAA’s decision to hold their annual meeting in Vancouver. We were somewhat caught in a bind, to do nothing would have effaced CASCA, while participating could undermine our own conference. It was decided that doing nothing would be the worst option and it was decided that CASCA would be a “co-sponsor” to participate, but more importantly to enter into a dialogue with the SfAA to explain why having large international, notably American, associations come to our large cities for their conferences has an impact on our association and our membership. We are open to partnerships, we are open to joint conferences, all that we ask is that we be treated as equal partners and given some advance warning. We must continue to reiterate that CASCA plays an important role for all anthropologists in Canada, even if they are not members. Our focus is working for our peers whether working in academia or practicing the discipline in larger society. We push to promote and encourage the development of the discipline across the country. Also, one point we tried to drive home with the SfAA and at the SfAA is that there is truly a Canadian tradition in applied anthropology, both in English and French, whereby the Canadian discipline is concerned with applied anthropology and ensuring that applied anthropology cuts across the sub-disciplines and that it is fundamental to all of the discipline, even those who do not normally label themselves as applied. The communities in which anthropologists live, notably those in smaller cities and centers, call upon researchers and scholars to work to meet their needs as full partners. I believe that applied anthropology—directly and indirectly—shapes Canadian anthropologists even those who would not call themselves such. I am very thankful to Jim Waldram for his tireless work in ensuring that CASCA and Canadian anthropology had a voice at the SfAA meeting.

## **IUAES**

Much of my year has been spent negotiating with the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) to host a joint conference (inter-congress) in Ottawa in 2017. This is what would best be described as a “beau risque.” That is to say, there are risks and costs—there are additional costs to organize the conference and members will have to pay a bit more—but if successful we hope to greet some one thousand participants from across the globe in Ottawa.

This will make the 2017 conference a truly international conference and will raise the prominence of the association globally. What I do hope will be achieved with this joint conference is that we will be able to convince our colleagues in Canadian anthropology departments who do not normally, or ever, attend CASCA conferences to join us in Ottawa for this truly global conference. This will be a premiere opportunity to attend an international conference while being billed in Canadian dollars. We must use this opportunity to recruit new members both at home and across the globe. As Ottawa is firmly in the Québec-Windsor-Ottawa triangle—home to the majority of anthropologists—there should be no reason why all our colleagues should not attend to celebrate the work we do. Given its central location and the fact that the city will be in the thrall of the Canada 150 celebrations, we are hoping to draw large numbers from across the country as well as from across the globe.

### **CASCA-SANA 2016 Conference**

The local organizing committee under the leadership of Dr. Elizabeth Fitting has not only organized a premiere conference, but also added some new and innovative components to this year's event. I will highlight that for the first time a Senior Undergraduate and First Year Master's Student Poster Presentation contest was organized. This event allows us to welcome undergraduate students in a constructive way to our conferences, not only as volunteers, but also as junior academics showcasing their work. I do hope that we will be able to build upon this first contest as it does ensure we can reach out to students, and thus certainly gain their loyalty for future conferences and as potential future members should they pursue careers in our discipline.

With the collaboration of our Manager Karli Whitmore, we also successfully reached out the Chairs of Anthropology Departments across the country, and a dozen have signed up for the Chairs Breakfast to be held during the conference. This again highlights the necessity to continually reach out and publicize the work we do to ensure that we are relevant as an association across the country.

### **Ethics Committee and Online Survey**

I do want to thank the Ethics Committee for their continuing work. This year, the committee oversaw the development of a survey, which was distributed to the membership. I have to thank not only the committee, but also the students in my applied anthropology class who worked with the Ethics Committee to develop questions. This was a wonderful learning opportunity for the students and I do want to sincerely thank the ethics committee for giving the students this chance to work with professionals. Most of all I want to thank all the members who participated in the survey and shared their perspectives. I will not elaborate on the results as I will leave this to the Ethics Committee, but I do hope that the work will continue. Developing an independent living ethics document, I believe, would be a coming of age moment for the association, whereby we could develop a positive, progressive

and continuing dialogue that would have a tangible expression while ensuring that it would not become a stale document.

### **Conference in Cuba**

This year has been exceptional in that it required that we work on and develop plans for three conferences (and a fourth if we include our SfAA participation) in the same year. While working with the local organizing committee here in Halifax, we were negotiating with IUAES in partnership with the University of Ottawa and sent out a letter to the national anthropological association in Cuba to propose hosting a joint conference in their country. If anything, I expect that such long-term conference planning will become the norm. As we are facing increased pressure from international associations coming to Canada to benefit from our wonderful infrastructure and appealing locales, and as all conferences face the challenge of getting sufficient numbers of delegates in an increasingly competitive conference pool. To succeed, CASCA will have to innovate, partner up—as done this year with the Society for the Anthropology of North America, and otherwise innovate to ensure that our conferences will be successful and will draw more and more attendees. More news will follow as this dossier develops. As for 2019, a joint conference with the American Anthropological Association is planned for the fall of that year in Vancouver.

### **Promotional Video Project**

The Executive decided to go forward with a promotional video project with the goal of producing a professional quality promotional video that could be showcased on the CASCA site and would communicate effectively the work that anthropologists do and the relevance of the discipline and the association. Given his expertise and experience, the Executive accepted an offer by Éric Gagnon Poulin to produce, film and edit the promotional video. Given his considerable experience in filming and producing documentary films, we are convinced that he will deliver a promotional film that will professionally promote CASCA.

### **Anthropologica**

This year, Jasmin Habib assumed her duties as new Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Anthropologica*. Dr. Habib joins Alicia Sliwinski (Editor French Manuscripts), Margaret MacDonald (English Books Review Editor), Karine Vanthuyne (French Books Review Editor) and the Art and Museum Review Editors Barbara Lawson and Élise Dubuc. We would like to thank Naomi McPherson, former Editor-in-Chief, who facilitated the transition. We are confident that this team will ensure a high quality journal that features the best anthropological research, in both French and English, being conducted both nationally and internationally.

### **Frédéric Laugrand and SSHRC Project**

The CASCA Executive was approached by Professor Frédéric Laugrand (Université Laval) to support his application for SSHRC Funding. The Executive agreed to support the project both financially by providing some matching funding, but also in terms of facilitating contacts with prominent anthropologists and CASCA members across the country. Dr. Laugrand's project builds upon the work he has done interviewing and filming past contributors to the journal *Anthropologie et Sociétés*. His series *Les Possédés et leurs mondes* features some twenty-five prominent scholars discussing their life's work filmed in the intimacy of their homes. These films provided an open and frank discussion of the work of major scholars and sought to encourage students and rising scholars to become familiar once again with the work of a founding generation in Québec. Dr. Laugrand's work will do the same for anthropologists across Canada, scholars who have published in *Anthropologica*. Thus, this project will help promote a better pan-Canadian understanding of anthropology, will promote our flagship journal of Canadian anthropology and we hope will inspire new generations of Canadian anthropologists.

### **Summer student**

On CASCA's behalf, I submitted an application for funding to pay for a summer student to work six weeks. The grant has been successful and will cover one-half of the student's salary. The goal will be to hire a student to comb through the issues of *Anthropologica* to identify articles that could be combined to make reading packages to be used in classrooms across the country. The goal would be to have more students reading more *Anthropologica* journals, thus promoting the work we do, while generating extra revenue for the journal. The goal would be to then have a bank of "reading package titles" that could be easily integrated into course reading packages making it easier for professors and instructors to quickly get quality material for their courses, while ensuring that we will have a stronger journal and association.

### **CASCA Fellows**

Having inaugurated the CASCA Founding Fellows, CASCA will be presenting the first of the CASCA Fellows this year. We hope that we will be able to continue adding Fellows in the years to follow as we establish this tradition and develop a dynamic core of CASCA Fellows that we hope will contribute to scholarly life at our conferences, in *Anthropologica* and of course through their continued service to CASCA.

### **Networks**

This year, there have been changes and additions to the CASCA networks. One of our strongest and most dynamic networks remains the Womens Network. I want to thank Dr. Martha Radice who has done incredible work promoting the Womens Network these past years. She has been replaced by Stephanie Hobbis. Likewise, Nicolas Saucier replaces Rhiannon Mosher as the moderator of the Graduate student

listserv. Many thanks to Rhiannon for her work. Emma Varley is now chairing the Medical Anthropology listserv along with co-chair Mark Dolson. I would like to thank Nora Pederson who continues as the chair of the Environmental Anthropology network. Additionally, a new Linguistic Anthropology network has been created and we hope to continue promoting a Practicing Anthropology network. Although it is somewhat more challenging to draw large numbers of practicing anthropologists, it is important to support the work being done by our peers working as applied scholars outside of academia.

### **Weaver-Tremblay Award**

This year was an exceptional year as this year's winner, Dr. Janice Graham, was decided last year. Dr. Graham is a distinguished medical anthropologist and former CASCA President. We are proud to honor the exceptional work that Dr. Graham has done both in Canada and across the globe, promoting justice in the field of global health.

### **CASCA Manager**

On behalf of the Executive, I would like to thank Karli Whitmore for her professionalism and her absolute dedication to CASCA. She is an exceptional manager and goes beyond the call of duty to promote the association, identify any potential problems, and ensure exceptional relations with the membership. This year, some tasks were added to Ms. Whitmore's duties, including overseeing our twitter account, which ensures that the feed on our homepage always has new information and that we can thus promote the work of Canadian anthropologists. We are beholden to the work she does. We celebrated Ms. Whitmore's 10th anniversary working with us at CASCA and are extremely grateful for the wonderful work she has done this past decade and hope she will be with CASCA for many more years.

### **Executive Committee**

One of the challenges faced in the first months was recruiting a new CASCA Treasurer. We are extremely grateful to Dr. Caura Wood who generously agreed to stay past the end of her term as we searched for a replacement and once we recruited Dr. Clint Westman, Dr. Wood mentored our new Treasurer to help facilitate the transition. We are extremely grateful for her dedication in sharing her expertise, and Dr. Westman has already risen to the task.

This year, a first in many, we had an election for the position of Member at Large (Anglophone). We would like to thank Dr. Charles Menzies for running and Dr. Eric Henry who was elected to the position.

We would like to thank Dr. Martha Radice who agreed to serve as President-Elect. It is wonderful to be able to welcome Dr. Radice to the executive her in her home university of Dalhousie.

I would like to thank Dr. Pauline McKenzie Aucoin who has agreed to serve an additional year as Secretary. Her tireless work has served the association exceptionally well and we are beholden to her dedication.

Dr. Nathalie Boucher will continue as Communications Officer and Webmaster. She has overseen some dynamic changes to the website as we continually work to improve. By adding the twitter feed, we ensured a very dynamic means of sharing information instantaneously.

I would also like to thank Dr. Mary-Lee Mulholland who is completing her term as Member at Large Anglophone. She worked along with the MAL Francophone to ensure premiere content and contributions to Culture as well as contributing to the essential tasks of reviewing Salisbury Applications and student travel grants. Also, Dr. Mulholland played a pivotal role in reaching out to the networks, encouraging new networks, and ensuring that their work was publicized both in Culture and on the website. Her commitment contributed to a growing and dynamic networks that feed into the larger association.

Finally, I want to offer my sincere and warm “merci” to Dr. Christine Jourdan who is ending her term as Past-President and will thus be leaving the executive. Her leadership proved to be invaluable in a number of essential files, notably the negotiations with the American Anthropological Association as to hosting of joint conferences in Canada in the future.

I want to welcome Dr. Donna Patrick who will be assuming the duties of President this future. It was a real pleasure working with Dr. Patrick once again on the Executive and I know we will have an exceptional president under her leadership this coming year.