



EDITORIAL

The 16th biennial conference of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists was held at the University of Arizona from May 18-22, 2002. We were hosted by David Killick and Charles Bollong of the Department of Anthropology. About 175 people registered and were treated to a number of social events and an amazing variety of presentations.

In addition to general papers and symposia, the SAfA conference had a poster session. Awards were given for the best posters from a student and from a professional. The student award went to Veerle Linseele and Wim Van Neer for their poster "Evidence for size decrease of cattle during its spread across the Sahara to West Africa". The professional award was split between Kathleen Nicoll for her poster "The Neolithic Wet Phase: Palaeo-environmental and Cultural Evidence in Egypt and Sudan" and John E.G. Sutton and Jeffrey A. Homburg for "Testing the ancient Engaruka fields of Tanzania: Ideas and methods from the American Southwest". Congratulations to all the winners.

At the business meeting on May 22, Diane Gifford-Gonzalez reported on the establishment of a "working group on early farming and pastoralism in Africa". She has created a web site which is accessible at the URL: <http://anthro.ucsc.edu/wefapa>. Steve Brandt reported that he and Fekri Hassan were developing a monographic series on "International Monographs on Heritage Management" through AltaMira, Rowman and Littlefield and Lexington Press. They will have subsidy funds from UNESCO for the first 3 or 4 volumes.

Peter Breunig announced that there will be a new journal, the *Journal of African Archaeology* which will be published in A4 format and will feature articles in either French or English. It will be published through the J. W. Goethe University in Frankfurt. More information can be found at their web site, <http://www.african-archaeology.de>, or by mail to J. W. Goethe University Frankfurt, African Archaeology and Archaeobotany, *Journal of African Archaeology*, Grüneburgplatz 1, 60323 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

The results of election to the executive are: President: Susan McIntosh; Secretary: Randi Haland; Member at large for Europe: Elena Garcea; Member at large for Africa: Webber Ndoro; Member at large for North America: Larry Robbins; and student representatives Menno Welling (Syracuse University, soon to be at Leiden, and Daphne Gallagher of the University of Michigan. (The editors of *Nyame Akuma*, the *African Archaeological Review* and webmaster Detlef Gronenborn are ex officio members of the executive). Given that SAfA meetings are trying to alternate between North America and Europe, the membership accepted a proposal to host the next meeting from Randi Haland of the University of Bergen, Norway. This will be sometime in the summer of 2004, probably late in June.

In addition to the program and abstracts of the Tucson meeting, this issue has a few research papers. J. Ako Okoro reports on cisterns and water management in northern Ghana. Chris Tryon discusses Acheulean and MSA archaeological sites in the Kapthurin Formation near Lake Baringo in central Kenya. Carlos Magnavita discusses archaeological evidence for the presence of guinea corn or *Sorghum bicolor* in the Chad basin of Nigeria. Ndeye Guèye reports the discovery of proto-historic ceramic sites and ethnoarchaeological data about their possible ethnic affiliation. Friederike Jesse describes late prehistoric sites in the Wadi Hariq in northwest Sudan, another area with little previous work.

In other news, the 5th World Archaeological Congress will be held in Washington, DC from June 21 to 26, 2003. The call for proposed themes and sessions has been issued. More information can be obtained from the conference web site at <http://www.american.edu/wac5> or by mail to WAC-5 program Committee, Department of Anthropology, American University, Washington DC, USA, 20016. FAX (202) 885-1837, or e-mail to wac5@american.edu.