

**Society for Ethnomusicology, Southern California and Hawai'i Chapter
(SEMSCHC)**

General membership business meeting minutes

February 23, 2013
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA

Submitted by Shanna Lorenz, Secretary-Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by chapter president Kimasi Browne. President Browne thanked members of the Local Arrangements committee (Jonathan Ritter, Deborah Wong and Rene T.A. Lysloff) and the Program Committee (Ruth Hellier-Tinoco, Amy R. Corin, David Harnish and Timothy Taylor). He also thanked the society's officers including Charles Sharp (Vice-President); Shanna Lorenz (Secretary-Treasurer); and Chris Adler and Eric Schmidt (Web Editors). Regrets were extended from those who could not attend.

The necrology included a moment of silence to acknowledge Robert M. Stevenson.

The minutes from the previous year were unanimously approved.

The President's Report was delivered by the chapter President, Kimasi Browne. He congratulated the program committee; especially noting the introduction of the *Lightning Sessions*, parallel 30-minute sessions that featured six speakers who each spoke for four minutes about their current or recent scholarly projects. He also noted the addition of virtual papers presented by chapter members live from Hawai'i.

The Vice President's Report was delivered by Charles Sharp who spoke on behalf of the Ki Mantle Hood prize committee, which included, in addition to himself, Angeles Sancho-Velazquez and Timothy Taylor. He read the following prepared statement:

The committee agreed upon conferring the Ki Mantle Prize to a paper delivered on February 25, 2012 at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA. Drawing on ethnographic experience, the author examined and contextualized a book published by an indigenous Karen musician on the tehnaku harp. The book is examined as an authoritative voice framing the traditional instrument, its music, and ultimately Karen culture in a modern and cosmopolitan way. The paper illustrates the need for today's ethnomusicologists to pay close attention to the importance of individuals in culture, the ability of traditional cultures to articulate themselves through many different mediums and the importance of indigenous self-analysis as demonstrated in books like I am Tehnaku.

For his paper titled: "I am Tehnaku: The Reification and Textuality of Suwichan's Karen Harp." Please join me in congratulating the recipient of the 2012 Ki Mantle Hood Prize:

Ben Fairfield, of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa

The Secretary/Treasurer's Report was given by Shanna Lorenz. The SEMSCHC Financial Report was projected on-screen and a healthy balance of \$4,064.12 was noted.

The Web Editor's Report was delivered by Eric Schmidt who noted that the chapter webpage was in good order; He invited questions and suggestions for improvement from chapter members.

The Student Concerns Committee Report was delivered by co-representatives George Blake and Kate Alexander. They presented the following prepared statement:

The students of SEMSCHC are a vibrant part of our regional conference. Students gave a number of papers at this conference, and many new Facebook friends are always made by the time we've driven and flown home to our respective campuses. But creating a truly functional professional network amongst the students of SEMSCHC poses challenges every year: geography, fieldwork, coursework, and other obstacles stand in the way of creating community. The opportunities that online networking could afford are myriad: it includes the ability to share scholarly resources, collaborate on musical and scholastic projects, expand professional networks, and share ideas about the job options for newly-minted MAs and PhDs. It is the feeling of your Student Representatives that creating such a community is not only of the utmost importance but also the preeminent challenge facing the next Student Representatives. We hope that the students of SEMSCHC, not only the Representatives, will support this effort.

As the outgoing SEMSCHC Student Representative, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as Student Co-Representative these past two years. George Blake will continue as Student Representative for the 2013-2014 year, joined by Audrey Coleman-Macheret who is beginning their two-year term of office today.

Election of New Officers: Nominations were opened to elect a new Secretary/Treasurer to replace Shanna Lorenz. Elizabeth Macy was elected unanimously to serve a three-year term as Secretary/Treasurer. [Macy later found employment in another region and it was Shanna Lorenz was appointed by President Browne continue an Interim Secretary-Treasurer for one more year pending the appointment of another chapter member to serve a one year term as Interim Secretary-Treasurer. Nominations will be accepted at the 2015 conference for the next full term (2015-2017) Secretary-Treasurer to be elected.

Old Business: The chapter members revisited the question of the December 5th abstract submission deadline. The program chair suggested this deadline had worked well and that

it had a positive effect on submissions. There was extended discussion about the removal, in the previous year, of the stylized “little man” logo that has traditionally been SEMSCC’s and SEMSCHC’s mascot. It was agreed that the logo should be returned to the website and remain there indefinitely, pending a future ruling by the national SEM Board regarding chapter logos.

New Business: Kimasi Browne raised the question of how could the chapter better nurture ties with students who are in Hawai’i, and suggested adding another student representative position, which would be automatically reserved for a student from Hawai’i. Other members favored establishing a virtual meeting between students from Hawai’i and the mainland as part of the annual meeting. It was agreed that for the upcoming conference, the names and email contacts of the Hawai’i-based students who had submitted abstracts would be shared with Student Representative George Blake so that he can invite them to a virtual chat before or during the 2014 conference.

The membership then discussed the *Lightening Sessions* that, at this meeting, were introduced to the conference for the first time. Most participants agreed that it was an interesting format and should be continued. Rene Lysloff worried that students who had submitted abstracts to present papers and instead were assigned to *Lightening Sessions* might feel stigmatized. Timothy Taylor recommended that we introduce a separate, second application process for *Lightening Sessions* once the first round of paper selections had been completed. Ruth Hellier-Tinoco suggested it would be empowering to students if faculty also participated in the *Lightening Sessions*, using them venues to present research during the initial phases of development.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm