

CUAA NEWSLETTER

Winter 2026 | January/February

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From the President

Dear CUAA Members,

Hello!

Welcome to our January/February 2026 CUAA Newsletter!

I am writing to you as CUAA President with our bi-monthly Newsletter. For those of you who were able to attend the AAA in New Orleans last November, or were able to join us remotely, and contributed to our CUAA Program, thank you!

We hope you enjoyed the Program, our Saturday Distinguished Lecture by Desiree Fields (Geography, UC Berkeley), and our rambunctious reception in downtown New Orleans with free food and drink for all!

I want to bring you up-to-date with current CUAA developments in this newsletter.

-Don Nonini, CUAA President



WE NEED YOU! CUAA NOMINATIONS

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28th, 2026

CUAA is in search of our next: President-Elect, Secretary, Third-Year Councilor, and Student Councilor!

The CUAA Board will have **four positions** coming up for reelection this year, and is seeking CUAA members who would like to run for these offices, and if elected, serve in them. Please nominate yourself or suggest potential candidates that Nominations Committee can contact about running for election as **President-Elect, Secretary, Third-Year Councilor, or Student Councilor.**

If you are interested in running for one of these offices, contact the CUAA Nominations Committee, and we will then contact you to inform you of the positions' job descriptions, duties and time requirements, answer any questions you have, and make sure that you are fully informed about the position's responsibilities before you run for office.

Our slate of candidates for all positions, along with their bios and statements of interest must be submitted to the AAA by Feb 28. Please let us know if you are interested right away, or have questions, or have someone to nominate, by writing to the CUAA Nominations Committee at dnonini@email.unc.edu.

As soon as we hear from you, we will get in touch!

Follow CUAA on our Socials!

Facebook

www.facebook.com/sunta.org

Instagram

[@critical_urban_anth](https://www.instagram.com/critical_urban_anth)

Bluesky

[@cuaacriturbanth](https://bsky.app/profile/cuaacriturbanth)

CUAA Listserv URBANTH-L Is Reactivated! Subscribe to It Now – Here’s How – From the President

The CUAA listserv URBANTH-L is now up and running but you need to subscribe to it personally!

Many of you have probably not heard of URBANTH-L. Previously known as the SUNTA List (for Society for Urban, National and Transnational Anthropology), URBANTH-L came into existence in the early 2000’s, but was inactive from 2021 until 2025 due to the pandemic and CUAA Board labor shortages.

Last November at the AAA in New Orleans, the CUAA Board decided to make reactivating URBANTH-L one of our highest priorities because we realized that before it was deactivated, URBANTH-L was a major hub of communication for urban anthropologists and friends. We realize that an active and flourishing URBANTH-L is now more important than ever for urban anthropologists to be able to communicate our research, teaching, publications, calls for papers, collaborations, and other professional opportunities with one another.

Although you are already a member of CUAA, the URBANTH-L Listserv software only allows **YOU** to subscribe if you yourself subscribe to URBANTH-L.

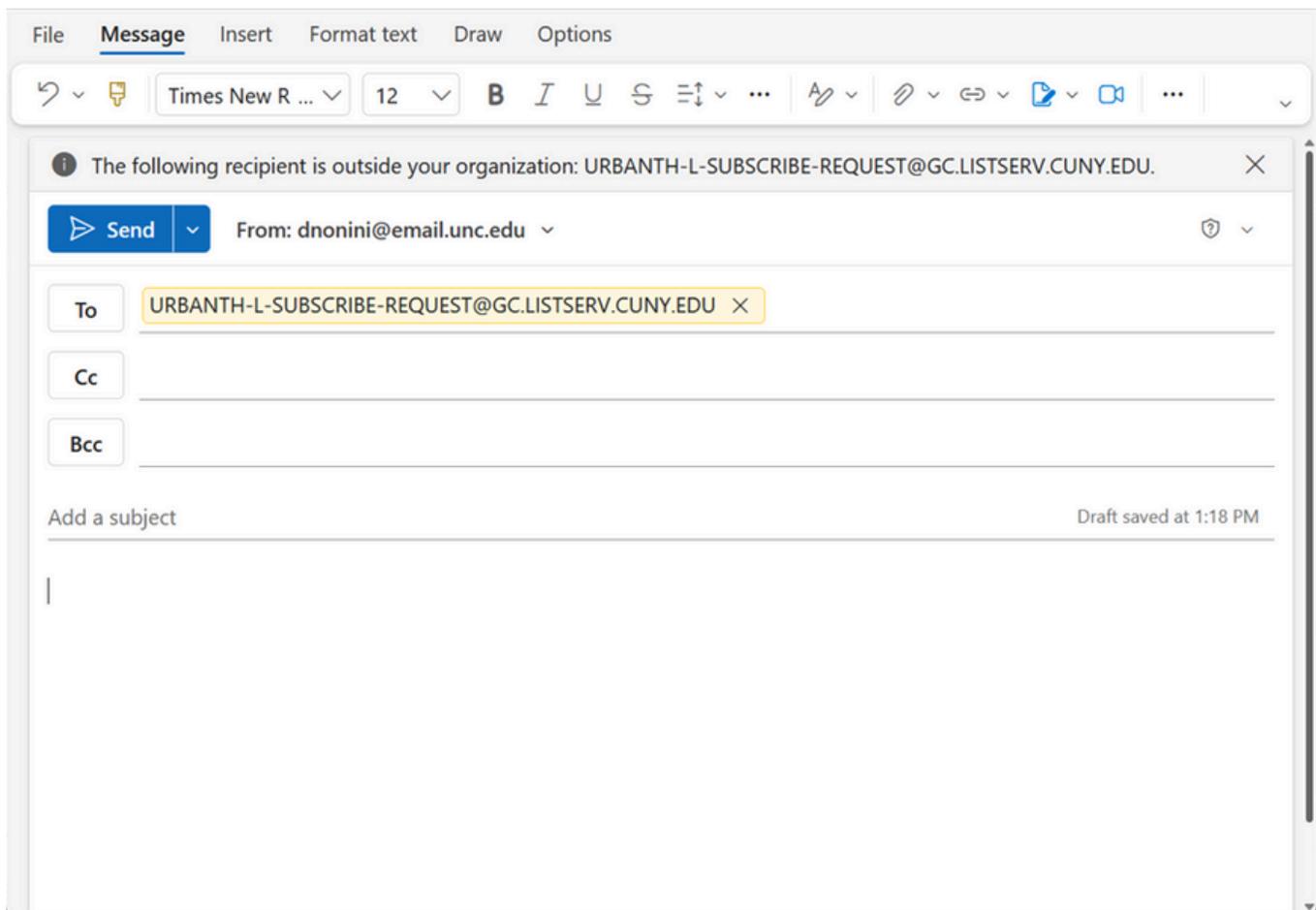
Since we can’t do it for you, I’d like to invite all CUAA members to subscribe NOW to URBANTH-L! It’s really easy to do – just follow these instructions and see the illustration on the next page:



URBANTH-L Reactivation Instructions

The CUAAs listserv URBANTH-L is now up and running but you need to subscribe to it personally!

1. Make the body of the email completely empty, including your automatic signatures, book cover JPEG's, baby and favorite pet photos etc. - get rid of all of it!
2. Leave the SUBJECT line blank - and if asked about this by your email program, have it sent anyway without a Subject in the SUBJECT line
3. Send email to URBANTH-L-SUBSCRIBE-REQUEST@GC.LISTSERV.CUNY.EDU



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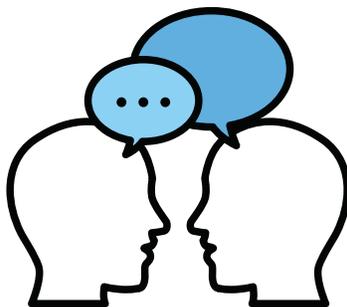
URBANTH-L Reactivation Instructions

When you submit this SUBSCRIBE request, URBANTH-L will automatically send email to URBANTH-L moderators for confirmation. This will allow our moderators to confirm that you are in fact a CUA member and thus a legitimate URBANTH-L subscriber. There may be a bit of a delay of several hours or even a day or two until one of the moderators can get back to URBANTH-L with a confirmation to activate your subscription.

As soon as the confirmation comes through, you will be sent WELCOME and SIGNUP emails automatically. **The SIGNUP message, which has the subject line, "You have been added to the URBANTH-L List," provides essential information that you should look through carefully.** It tells you how to communicate to the entire URBANTH-L List or just send "Reply" to another subscriber who has posted a message on the list; how to receive a weekly digest; and much else valuable information about how to use URBANTH-L.

Once you subscribe, you should start receiving messages posted to the URBANTH-L list from other members, and will be able to reply to them individually, or be able to post a message to the entire list.

The more members who join URBANTH-L and the sooner everyone joins, the sooner all members will benefit. I urge you to join URBANTH-L, and I look forward to hearing from you on it!





Help get CUAA out of AAA's Doghouse: Become a Member Today!



CUAA is Looking for New Members! Renew Your Membership When it Lapses!

As you know from previous Newsletters, your CUAA Board has been deeply concerned about the AAA's and, closer to home, CUAA's membership decline. **CUAA is required by the AAA Executive Board to increase its numbers to at least a minimum of 225 members within the next two years or face dissolution as a section.** So we are in the Doghouse now – but almost out! Since November 2024 the CUAA Board worked hard to reverse the steep decline in CUAA members, and we are proud to say for the first time in years that our number of members is increasing and as of the end of December 2025, we have 221 members! Thanks to all of you who have joined or rejoined us recently!

I'm confident that if we keep on doing what we're doing so far – with your help – we can raise our memberships significantly beyond 225 members while providing you as a member with more and more value. When the CUAA Board met in New Orleans in November, we took very seriously the charge to do whatever we could as your elected leaders to provide more services to you as the broader situation for US anthropologists changes. We know that many of you could not afford to attend the New Orleans AAA, and are responding to this challenge. **We are reviving the URBANTH-L listserv, planning for a new series of Zoom-based significant scholarly events that all members can attend throughout the year and not just in November, extending our mentoring program for PhD students and recent PhDs through 2026, working to address precarity on the CUAA Board, and doing more which you will hear about in the weeks to come.**

So right now, CUAA asks you to do three things:

First, when your membership lapses, please renew your CUAA membership and if necessary your AAA membership at <https://americananthro.org/membership/>. **Second**, please encourage your colleagues and students working in urban anthropology to join the AAA and CUAA.

Finally, please don't forget: if you are interested in running for the four CUAA positions coming up for election this spring, or wish to nominate someone to run, get in touch with us at dnonini@email.unc.edu right away!

All best wishes,

Don Nonini, President

Critical Urban Anthropology Association

