

ASA Section on Environment and Technology Officers' Reports, July 2007

Chair's Report – Stella Čapek

In my last year as Chair, I've done my best to oversee activities of the section, contribute to some good future directions for us, and to act as a liaison to individuals and groups who share our interests. I've checked in with committee chairs and helped them solve problems, contributed to (and proofread) the newsletter, encouraged collaboration with other sections and groups, and generally strived to keep things running as smoothly as possible. I've much appreciated having Timmons Roberts as Chair-Elect and David Sonnenfeld as Secretary/Treasurer when practical questions arise or when something needs to be mulled over.

Apart from the steady but routine demands of being Chair, I've been committed to building some bridges with the Community and Urban Sociology Section (CUSS), a section that we have not worked with (at least not anytime recently) despite our many common interests. At last year's meetings, CUSS Chair Anne Shlay agreed to a jointly sponsored paper session. It is on this year's program under the title "Cities, Consumption and the Environment," and was co-organized by Ken Gould of ETS and Sharon Zukin of CUSS. I hope this will yield further dialogue between our sections.

I've also been committed to following up on our proposal for the "greening of the ASA" and reducing our ecological footprint, first sent to the ASA Executive Council on behalf of the Environment and Technology Council when Phil Brown was Chair and I was Chair-Elect in 2005. Between deferred discussion and decision-making at the ASA level, and slow communication with us, the proposal was languishing. Not having to organize the paper sessions this year, I was in a better position to pursue it. The result is that the section was invited to form a small working group to collaborate with the Executive Committee on "greening" issues. I put out a call inviting section members to express interest and lend expertise. From the group that responded, I invited Lauren Heberle to take a leading role. Lauren is Assistant Professor and Urban and Public Affairs Associate Director for the Center for Environmental Policy and Management at the University of Louisville, and Director of the Environmental Finance Center, EPA Region 4. She has resources and experience with "green" conference planning, among other things. A first meeting took place by conference call on July 25, 2007, and included ASA Executive Officer Sally Hillsman, Deputy Executive Officer for Administration Janet Astner, Lauren Heberle, Bob Brulle (Chair-Elect) and me. We had a good discussion of a very broad range of issues, and plan to meet in the early fall to work out a more detailed action plan. We also plan to make this issue visible to ASA members as a whole, and hope to have a noticeable impact on future ASA meetings.

The upcoming ASA program in New York City

Environmental issues are highly visible on the ASA program this year. We can thank section members who sponsored four environmental ASA Thematic Sessions in addition to the section's own paper sessions (organized this year by Timmons Roberts, as Chair-Elect and Program Chair) and roundtables (organized by Carole Seyfrit, who volunteered to take this on). ASA Thematic Sessions include "Globalization and Environmental Governance"; "Science, Democracy and Environment: Contributions of Barry Commoner"; "Environmental Injustice in a Global Economy"; and "Environmental Constraints on Development." We also benefited from good communication between section organizers and Maurie Cohen, who organized the ASA Environmental Sociology regular sessions. Although it varies by year and by organizer, when possible, this kind of collaboration helps us place papers in an optimum way. Finally, we have an extra session for our section this year because our membership reached the 400 mark.

We have also collaborated very well with other sections to create more sessions for environmental issues and to work on common interests. In addition to the CUSS session mentioned above, we are

co-sponsoring sessions with Political Economy of World-Systems (PEWS) and the Marxist Sociology Section. Our reception this year is co-sponsored with the Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section (SKAT). Our section is also co-sponsoring—with the Society for the Study of Social Problems and the International Rivers Network—a screening of the film “Green, Green Rivers,” thanks to the initiative of Marta Maldonado and David Pellow of the Policy & Research Committee.

All of these activities indicate a lively and creative program at the 2007 ASAs.

As incoming Chair, Timmons Roberts will be Program Chair for the 2008 ASA meetings in Boston.

Committees:

Having served on the Council prior to the recent by-laws change, I can say that we currently have a much better structure. Our Council committees are functioning quite well, but this varies, as is evident from the committee reports. Here are a few observations:

1. Continuity. There is a carefully thought out section of our by-laws called “Continuity and Accountability.” It states that each committee chair will pass on a notebook of duties and advice to his or her successor--an excellent idea because each position has not only formal duties but practical challenges that are only learned through experience. Therefore, a mentoring relationship between outgoing and incoming chairs is very important. Some committees have been doing this while others have not. We are trying to address this so that each new committee chair will feel fully supported and informed. Likewise, the by-laws call for a more formalized process of mid-year reports from committee chairs and the Chair of the section. To date, this mid-year check has been conducted informally, but has yielded inconsistent results depending on the particular committee. It would be wise to follow the by-laws. New chairs of committees also need to keep an eye out for prospective committee members, and discuss the process of appointing appropriate members with the section Chair.

2. Section Membership. Thanks to the Membership Committee as well as dedicated individual section members, we were able to reach 400+ members this year, and acquired an extra paper session. In the past we have debated the value of pouring a great deal of energy each year into achieving the easily eroded “magic number” of 400. I suspect that debate will continue, but this year the situation worked well for us. Challenges include a shifting base of student members, members who forget to renew their membership, and a lack of systematic knowledge about why people join and what they want out of their membership. Last year, the Membership Committee planned to undertake an electronic survey of our membership. To the best of my knowledge this was never done (as I write this, I do not have access yet to the Membership Committee report). I think we would all benefit from knowing our membership better, and the by-laws suggest that reviewing changes in the membership list should be an ongoing task of the committee.

3. Nominations. The nominations committee successfully carried out the nominations and elections process for three positions: Chair-Elect (Bob Brulle), Teaching & Training Committee Chair (Sherry Cable), and Membership Committee Chair (Andrew Jorgenson). Thanks to Tom Rudel and the committee for the excellent slate. Challenges included a lack of ready information about ASA policies and procedures, and no experience passed on from the previous chair. In addition, our by-laws state that nominations should be sought at the section Business Meeting, but this has been done only sporadically in recent years. I suggest reinstating this process and following up on nominations early in the fall. Another important suggestion: we need to make sure that the candidates truly have a grasp of what their job will entail—the positions are described in the by-laws and it’s also worthwhile to refer a potential candidate to the person currently holding the position so that there will be not surprises.

4. Teaching & Training. The Teaching and Training Committee under the leadership of Lori Peek has done an excellent job of creating resources for the section both on our website and through contributions to the newsletter. This committee has also done an exemplary job of regularly reporting to the section Chair and the Council and maintaining continuity.

5. Policy & Research. The Policy and Research Committee, chaired by David Pellow, has done a fine job of contributing articles to the newsletter, helping to create the opportunity for a screening of the film “Green Green Water,” and evaluating the nominations for the Outstanding Publication Award and the Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award. There has been good continuity in the passing on of information from the previous chair, the committee has reported regularly on its activities, and has some promising projects for the future.

6. Publications.

Publications include the section’s website, the section listserv, the newsletter, and section pamphlet as well as possible new venues that could serve as publication outlets. Chair Bill Markham has some excellent ideas for expanding the activities of this committee in the next year. In the meantime, Rob Gardner, with the help of Council Member at-Large Kari Norgaard, has worked to update several areas of the website. Andrew VanAlstyne continues to oversee the listserv. Thanks go to Stephan Scholz, who has regularly turned out a high quality newsletter. It would be useful to revisit the schedule of deadlines for the newsletter and consider what the optimum dates (and even number of issues) might be. This year, for example, we made a decision not have a winter issue. One unresolved issue is the unsuccessful search for a moderator for the new discussion forum offered to sections last year by the ASA.

7. Awards. Our Buttell Distinguished Contribution Award is normally chaired by the Secretary/Treasurer, but since David Sonnenfeld was himself a nominee for the award, he recused himself. Craig Humphrey generously agreed to chair, and solicited two new nominations for us. Since nominations are active for three years, we had a larger than usual pool of very impressive candidates to choose from. The Boguslaw Award, however, was not awarded this year.

8. Graduate Student Representative. Rebecca Altman has done an excellent job of trying to create more connections with our graduate students, and to offer them more space, particularly through the newsletter. Although there has not been much of a response, she has some excellent suggestions for the future.

9. By-Laws Issues

David Sonnenfeld and others have uncovered some inconsistencies in our by-laws and places that need clarification, so it is likely that the by-laws need to be revisited.

Gender and Diversity on our Program

Jan Buhmann raised the issue of the need for gender diversity on our program with her letter to us last year. I have seen more care being taken with this during this year, but informal habits sometimes undermine diversity. We need to make sure that we attract a broad range of environmental sociologists who feel ownership in the section and feel represented by us.

Future Planning:

This will be Timmons Roberts’ domain next year, so I merely want to remind us of the benefits of having an “Author Meets the Critics” session worked into our Roundtable Sessions. We haven’t done this in recent years, and the roundtable venue is a good setting for it (by contrast, the ASA “Author Meets the Critics” sessions have a long lead time for proposals). Although there seemed to be general interest and enthusiasm when this was brought up two years ago, actual suggestions never surfaced. I let the idea drop last year because students took the initiative to organize a special student-faculty panel as a roundtable session, and that was a very good use of the space. In addition to the “Author Meets the Critics” session, I want to remind us that the roundtable proposals can include panels around a topic of interest as well as single papers. It is also worth remembering that we have had good success in the past with site tours, a pre-conference symposium, and the “Session in Exile” (organized twice by Maurie Cohen), which continue to be options worth considering when we have time and energy for them.

Special thanks to outgoing committee chairs Beth Caniglia and Lori Peek, and welcome to Bob Brulle, Sherry Cable, and Andrew Jorgenson. Many thanks to all who worked on the committees this year and gave their time and effort to the section.

Chair-Elect's Report – Timmons Roberts

1. The main task of the Chair-Elect in their second year is to organize the section sessions for the ASA meetings. Last year we agreed that the sessions would be:
 - a. One-hour roundtables/one hour business meetings
 - b. One open topic session
 - c. One on new directions in environmental inequalities research.
 - d. One co-sponsored with PEWS (political economy of the world-systems) and Marxist sections, on global capitalism's effects on human rights and the environment
2. I had over 25 submissions for the three other sessions, and accepted four papers for each, passing on nearly all the other papers to Carol Seyfrit, who organized the roundtables. I also coordinated some with Maurie Cohen, who was organizing the Regular sessions on the environment. I won't repeat the session listings which are in the program, but I believe they are going to be very good panels. I would suggest we keep the mix of open and topical section panels; this way we have some greater coherence but also some room for innovative new and important stuff. Later in the meeting we'll plan those sessions and discuss other special and thematic sessions people are working on.
3. I also Chaired a committee for the Boguslaw Award. I invited (begged) Scott Frickel and Andy Szasz to join me on that committee. We had only one submission, and unanimously decided that the paper did not fit the description of the award. In a couple decades, the section has only given the award five times, so I would like us to consider passing the award to another section—it does not specify environment in the award description, and another section might attract more submissions and evaluate them with criteria in mind which are more in line with the award's description, just below. In particular, the SKAT section, or the humanist sociologists group. Doing so would also free up the section to give its other awards more often.

“The Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism: This award is given to a doctoral student or young investigator (who has obtained the Ph.D. in the past five years) whose paper or article that addresses technology and human affairs, social action and social change, conflicts over values, or work that proposes innovative solutions to emerging social issues associated with technology. The honored work should address the concerns of ordinary people, rather than reflecting organizational or institutional agendas. Unpublished papers or articles published within the last two years are eligible. Candidates may either submit their own work or be nominated by someone else. The deadline for submitting papers is May 1, 2007.”
4. I have discussed with Bob Brulle some collaborative ideas for our terms in office, I hope we have time on our agenda for them.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report – David Sonnenfeld

I. Financial Report

- a. *Current Net Worth.* As of May 31, 2007, the section had total net worth of \$7,134. This is a decrease of \$5 from the period ending May 31, 2006, and includes \$2,253 in revenue already received, and \$200 in expenses already incurred this year.
- b. *Revenue.* I am projecting a total annual income (based on current membership levels) of \$2,643 in membership dues/ allocations for the 2007 calendar year. (\$2,253 of this already has been received.) This would be down \$167 from 2006. The reason for this projected decrease is an anticipated decline in dues; this could be reversed through recruitment of additional members to the section.

c. *Expenses.* I am projecting total expenses of approximately \$3,150 this year as follows:

1. Reception at ASA 2007 – NYC (co-sponsored w/ SKAT), \$2,400
2. Award certificates, frames, & plaque, \$150
3. Student paper cash award, \$100
4. Misc. ASA meeting-related expenses, \$300
5. Co-sponsorship of film showing at ASA, *Green, Green Water*, \$200 (already incurred)

This would be an increase of \$147 in total expenses from 2006, due largely to this year's increased reception expenses, even though we are sharing costs with SKAT.

d. *Projected Year-end Net Worth.* Based on these projections, ETS should end 2007 with an estimated net worth of approximately \$4,574. This is a healthy reserve, but a decrease of about \$508 from 2006.

II. Secretarial Report

The 2006 Section reports were successfully completed and submitted by Section Chair, Stella Capek, and my predecessor, Bob Brulle, with input from 2006 Council members.

During the 2006/07 year, I worked with the Section Webmaster to fill in missing pieces of historical lists of Section Award recipients (further contributions welcome!); compiled current lists of section officers; and tidied up the Section Bylaws & helped get them around. As a nominee, I recused myself from chairing the Distinguished Contributions Award committee.

Looking forward, I would recommend the following:

1. Identify and work with Section members at local sites of upcoming ASA meetings (Boston, SF) to assist with locating and making arrangements for offsite Section Reception sites;
2. Clean up By-laws through By-laws change to remove obsolete transitional section on election of officers; and
3. Work with Chair, Chair-Elect, and Policy and Research Committee Chair to resolve By-laws ambiguities and practice discrepancies regarding section awards.

Nominations Committee Report – Tom Rudel

2006 Elections

In the spring of 2007 we elected three new officers in the section elections. We had six excellent candidates for the three positions, and I want to thank all six candidates for their willingness to run for office. Robert Brulle (Drexel University) won the election for Chair-Elect. He will serve in that position for two years before becoming Chair of the section. He succeeds Timmons Roberts. Sherry Cable (University of Tennessee) won the election for the council position that focuses on teaching. She succeeds Lori Peek. Andrew Jorgensen (North Carolina State University) won the election for the council position that focuses on membership. He will succeed Beth Canaglia.

2007 Elections

Next year we will have to elect people for five positions! Thanks to David Sonnenfeld for keeping me up to date in this regard. The positions (with the incumbents listed) are as follows:

1. Nominations Committee Chair: Thomas K. Rudel, Rutgers University (2006-2008)
2. Policy and Research Committee Chair: David Naguib Pellow, University of California, San Diego (2006-2008)
3. Publications Committee Chair: William T. Markham, Univ. North Carolina Greensboro (2006-2008)
4. Council Member-at-Large: Kari M. Norgaard, Whitman College (2006-2008)
5. Student Member: Rebecca G. Altman, Brown University (2006-2008)

Issues

There are two areas where we could improve the work of the nominations committee. (1) The first year as nominations chair was a bit rocky because there was no document explaining ASA deadlines and protocols. I always found out about forms and protocols after the fact. No irreparable harm was done, but the job would have been easier to do had I known about the forms beforehand. To alleviate this problem, I intend to give my successor in the job a more extensive orientation than I received. (2) I also did not get any help from the two appointed members of the nominations committee when I was trying to come up with a slate of candidates in December of 2006. With five positions to fill for next year, we will need ten candidates! Hopefully, I will be allowed to recruit new members for the nominations committee this year. If you have suggestions for new recruits for the committee or suggestions for people to run for office, I would be most grateful if you would pass them on to me.

Membership Committee Report – Beth Caniglia

(TKM)

Publications Committee Report – Bill Markham

The Publications Committee experienced a year marked by stability but--primarily due to conflicting obligations plaguing Chair--few innovations. Under the able editorship of Stephan Scholz, the section's newsletter continued to appear regularly, and we can all take pride on the quality and extent and quality of the coverage it provides. Robert Gardner continued to serve us well by keeping our Internet site updated and in good order. An effort to find a monitor for the ASA sponsored list serve for the Section has, however, so far proved unsuccessful.

Most of the conflicting obligations facing the Committee Chair are now out of the way, so the Committee can anticipate a much more active year next year. In particular, it is probably time to upgrade and expand the section's web site, but the Webmaster alone cannot and should not be saddled with this task. I will be working on this, and Kari Norgaard has volunteered to help. I want us to also consider whether the section might sponsor special sessions or workshops that might lead to book publications or special issues of journals. Both the ISA and the European Sociological Association have had some success with this approach.

Policy and Research Committee Report – David Pellow

I want to thank past P&R Committee Chair Maurie Cohen for doing an excellent job and for providing me with helpful guidance. The committee members include me, Marta Maldonado (Iowa State University), and Patrick Gillham (University of Idaho). Marta and Patrick have been wonderful and have offered contributions above and beyond the call of duty.

This year, in order to get the ball rolling, I wrote and submitted two articles for the E&T section newsletter on policy research and on environmental policy initiatives (see Spring and Summer issues). For future issues I will more actively recruit others to write, so any of you are welcome to offer submissions.

Awards

We had a small number of nominations (2) for the Outstanding Publication Award, which I assume was partly a result of the decision to invite nominations for articles only. It will be interesting to see how the call for book only nominations plays out during the next round. The committee received four eligible nominations for books last year, so this seems about right. The committee received a total of eight submissions for the Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award (the committee received six last year and two the year before, so we did well this year, I think).

Special Event: Film Screening and Discussion of “Green Green Water”

with filmmaker Jamie Lee and David Pellow (Session 118, 11am-1:10pm, Park Suite, Roosevelt Hotel, Sunday, August 12, 2007).

This event was organized primarily by Policy and Research Committee member Marta Maldonado. This event can in no way replace the “Sessions in Exile” that Maurie Cohen organized in years past, but nonetheless we hope it offers section members an opportunity to participate in a worthwhile forum outside of the ASA meeting venue and schedule. The film follows the journey of a US consumer who seeks to locate and understand the source of the electricity she uses everyday. Her travels take her to Cree nation communities in northern Manitoba where she finds ecological and cultural devastation as a result of the hydropower projects that produce the energy that she and other US residents depend on. This is a powerful story of globalization, environmental injustice, and the problematic nature of “clean technologies” that many governments around the world embrace for economic development purposes. The Environment and Technology Section is sponsoring this event along with the International Rivers Network.

Concerns and Questions

For the Outstanding Publication Award, it is clear that we need to either follow the by-laws and offer this award every other year or change the by-laws to allow us to offer it annually. I also think we should consider amending the by-laws to make permanent our practice of alternating between nominations for outstanding books versus articles, but that decision may depend on what we do regarding the first point. Another question has been raised about the range of years we will consider for articles nominated. The current award called for articles published between 2001 and 2006 and last year’s book-only award was for books published over a two year period, I believe. We might want to limit the article nominations to fewer years as well. Another question raised is whether we might consider placing limits on the number of times someone can be nominated for an award. I don’t think this is a major concern, but if others wish to take it up, that’s fine. I raised the question because Richard York has now shared the Outstanding Publication Award twice. On this and the other above matters I am not prepared to officially offer any specific amendments to the by-laws without having had the benefit of wider input from others, so I propose that we put this question on the council meeting agenda or resolve it via electronic mail.

Teaching and Training Committee Report – Lori Peek

Members: Lori Peek, Colorado State University (Chair)
Michael Agliardo, Boston College
Christine Bevc, University of Colorado-Boulder

Activities:

1. Last year, the Teaching and Training Committee compiled a list of graduate programs that offer a concentration in environmental sociology, environmental studies, or some other closely related area. The list is posted on the E&T web page at: <http://www.linfield.edu/soan/et/links.htm>. In June 2007, the committee emailed the faculty contact person for each graduate program to confirm that their listing on the site was still correct. The page has been updated, and there are currently 14 programs listed on the website that offer concentrations in environmental sociology at the graduate level (M.A. and/or Ph.D.). There are also 8 programs listed on the website that offer concentrations in environmental policy, environmental science, or environmental studies at the graduate level (M.A. and/or Ph.D.). The committee will continue to periodically check with the faculty contact persons to ensure that the listings are correct.
2. To date, the committee has published three articles in the E&T newsletter on teaching and training related issues. See “Core Insights on Teaching Introduction to Environmental Sociology” by Michael Agliardo (Spring 2006); “Understanding Your Audience: Applications to Teaching” by Christine Bevc (Fall 2006); and “Internship Program at CU-Boulder” by Lori Hunter (Spring

- 2007). Andrew Jorgenson has agreed to write a short piece on graduate student professionalization for the Summer 2007 issue of the E&T newsletter. The committee will continue soliciting articles on teaching and training issues to be published in upcoming issues of the E&T newsletter.
3. Dr. Sherry Cable, University of Tennessee, has been elected the new Chair of the Teaching and Training Committee. Congratulations! This year at ASA, Dr. Cable will receive a notebook, which includes a description of the various activities the committee has undertaken over these past two years.
 4. The following list includes some ideas for future activities that the newly elected Teaching and Training Committee might wish to continue and/or initiate. This list is based on the committee description and suggestions from the section membership.
 - a. Compile a list of environmental sociology and environmental studies journals for posting on the website. For a very useful starting point, see Dr. David Sonnenfeld's list on-line at: <http://www.tricity.wsu.edu/envsoc/journals.htm>.
 - b. Compile a bibliography of classic works/important readings in environmental sociology. This bibliography could be developed based on suggestions from the section membership and/or from environmental sociology comprehensive exam reading lists.
 - c. Compile a list of postdoctoral positions that are either earmarked for environmental sociology, environmental scientists in general (e.g., NIEHS summer ethics institute), or for related areas (e.g., NIMH, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and other medical sociology postdoctoral positions that might accept environmental sociologists working on environmental health).
 - d. Continue to update and expand the environmental sociology and environmental studies graduate program listings on the web page.
 - e. Continue to solicit short articles on teaching and training issues for the E&T newsletter.

Student Member's Report – Rebecca Altman

It has been a pleasure to serve as graduate student representative to the ETS Council. In this memo, I specifically highlight my activities during the 2006-2007 academic year on the ETS Section Newsletter, though this does not acknowledge my participation in Council votes on issues of budget allotment or awards. I opt to focus on newsletter activities as it is the most significant form of interaction between the section and its student membership, and has been where I've put my effort into brainstorming creative ways to include more students in the ETS section community.

1. Contributed Two Columns to Newsletter

“Graduate Student Column: Call for Submissions” (Fall 2006)

An open letter to graduate student members. Stated that the Council invites both regular newsletter contributions from graduate student members and would like to hear from graduate student members about ways to section can continually improve its service to them. Invited topic recommendations, submissions, and recommendations graduate student members. Introduced myself as new graduate representative and included contact information.

Substantive Column—“Ethnography as Extractive Enterprise?” (Summer 2007)

Conveyed musings about research ethics from my dissertation work. Goal of second submission was to write not as the graduate student representative, but as a graduate student member of the section. Perhaps column might prompt other students to contribute columns based on their research or experiences. Column will appear in the Summer 2007 newsletter; I will update Council as to whether any additional columns or conversation results.

2. Negligible Graduate Student Response

I did not receive column ideas, submissions, or recommendations to council from ETS graduate students following publication of the Fall 2006 column. Somewhat dismayed, I contacted the previous graduate student representative, Marcia Hill Gossard, for tips in drumming up graduate student response. She had published similar calls for graduate student submissions as recently as the Fall 2005 column, though also with negligible response.

Though I find the newsletter a treasure trove of valuable information of high relevance to graduate students,¹ I wonder why so few graduate student voices populate the pages? It is not for lack of opportunity or space afforded to graduate student perspectives by the Council. I think formally inviting the graduate student representative for a regular or semi-regular contribution is a great first step, but the underlying question remains: how to get more submissions from the diversity of student members?

In writing this report, I came to realize that I don't know who populates the graduate student membership of the section, or what they are working on. This eliminates the possibility of me inviting, or if need be, begging other students to write guest columns. But more generally, I am ignorant to the interests and concerns of the group I'm elected to represent. One question I've had is: for whom is this column being written? My blathering on about ethical questions in environmental ethnography may be of marginal interest to the majority of graduate student members.

3. Recommendations for Increasing Presence of Student Work and/or Voices in the Newsletter.

Generate a list of graduate student members. One goal I have for the coming year is to generate a list of graduate student section members. Perhaps someone on Council might advise me on (a) whether such a list exists, and/or (b) how I might be able to generate one with help from ASA?

Ask Council to consider implementing one of the two newsletter column ideas. Since it has been a challenge for graduate student representatives to elicit student voices and columns for the newsletter, why not include students' work in other ways? I would like to institute one of the following two column recommendations, which would help convey to the entire section what graduate students are working on and where their substantive issues lie. Here are two columns ideas that the Council might consider adding to the newsletter:

**A special section of fall newsletter "Member News" section to highlight "Members-on-the-Market."* (This may take some time to establish, and its success would be dependent on each on-the-market student to take the initiative to post a profile.) The grad student rep could post a call for profiles in the spring newsletter, where soon-to-be-on-the-market candidates are invited to submit a brief profile. The profile could include dissertation title, home institution, chair and committee, and general research and teaching interests. The student rep could streamline and organize what profiles students submit, then publish them in the summer or fall edition of the newsletter, when candidates are most likely sending out applications.

**Annual publication of student members' dissertations and theses,* which once a year could supplement the newsletter's running tab of members' publications. Might be a nice way to convey

¹ An informal scan of recent newsletters confirmed for me that what is published in the newsletter is already of *significant* interest/benefit to graduate students, including the running series on teaching and training issues sponsored by the ETS Teaching and Training Committee. The newsletters routinely are a treasure trove of information on internship, fellowship, job, publication, and paper award opportunities. Moreover, columns spotlight ongoing research, recent publications, and even published O&E table of contents—all of which sum to an invaluable tool for staying current in the field.

both emerging trends in the field and to get a preview of new and interesting work that will be coming out soon. I can imagine two scenarios for how this might work. One option is to publish a list of recently completed theses and dissertations. Another, and I'm inclined to think this is more interesting, would be to annually publish a list of ETS student members dissertations and theses that are "In Production & Under Construction." I don't see this as a column to be written by the graduate representative, but perhaps organized and edited by her/him. The grad rep could publish a call for titles one newsletter in advance, then organize and publish the list in the following newsletter. Whether or not these would work would also depend on the initiative and participation of graduate student members. The Council and newsletter editor can decide in which of the quarterly editions such a column might best fit.