

## **ASA Section on Environment and Technology Officers' Reports, August 2008**

### **Chair's and Chair-elect's Report – J. Timmons Roberts/ Robert Brulle**

#### *1. Planning for ASA 2008 meeting*

We received a total of 35 papers for the three Section sessions scheduled for the ASA meetings in August, and ended up co-organizing the sessions. Eight papers were slated to the two Section open sessions, and the rest to roundtable sessions. One of the two open sessions clustered roughly on the topic of modernization and capitalism; the other on environmental social movements. We added discussants Sherry Cable and JoAnn Carmin in June. Additionally, we organized the scheduled two joint sessions: (1) With the Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, the topic was "Environment, Race, and Ethnicity: Assessing Progress on Rights and Justice 25 Years On". Julian Agyeman agreed to be discussant. Next year, SREM will do the organizing. (2) With the Sections on the Political Economy of the World-System and Marxist on ecologically unequal exchange. This year's reception was held offsite at Tapeo restaurant, and was sponsored jointly with the Section on Race, Gender, and Class.

#### *2. Planning for ASA 2009 meeting*

Plans are now pretty much complete for the 2009 ASA conference in San Francisco. As mentioned above, one of our sessions will be with the Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities. We will also have two open sessions, and a roundtable session based on papers submitted. The status of a special session proposed for the 2009 meeting by David Pellow has not yet been determined.

#### *3. Planning for ASA 2010 Meeting*

Now is the time to start planning for the 2010 ASA meeting in Atlanta. In order for us to have any special sessions beyond the three regular sessions that we are allocated by ASA, members need to propose either thematic or special sessions. Proposals for Thematic Sessions should be submitted by November 15, 2007. Proposals for other types of invited sessions are due by February 1, 2008.

#### *4. Increased Public Visibility*

We have seen a recent increase in public recognition of environmental sociology in the mainstream media. Bob Brulle has written a story for the Society for Environmental Journalism magazine providing information to reporters on how to access social science reporting on the environment. The story should be appearing in the fall edition of this magazine.

We need more information from members to report on what is going on in this regard. Timmons Roberts was one of the background papers authors in UN Development Programme Human Development Report, and was invited to keynote for UNESCO at the Bali climate negotiations. Additionally, Timmons, Bob Brulle and Riley Dunlap have been featured in the Dot.Earth Blog by the NY Times reporter Andrew Revkin.

#### *5. Online Conference*

We ran into a series of difficulties organizing the online conference (Carbon-Free Blab-Fest) we'd hoped to arrange in April or May. Neither of our universities had existing software or service contracts to host such a conference. ASA was not able to offer it

either. We will continue to research the issue and welcome help in carrying out this new kind of conference.

#### *6. Bylaws Revision Development*

A comprehensive revision of the bylaws was completed and passed. This involves a number of significant changes, including:

- Chair and Chair-elect go to 1-year terms. This shift will take place after the end of Timmons Roberts' term in 2009.
- New post of past-Chair, replacing newsletter editor on the Council. Timmons will become our first past-Chair, for a term of one year following the 2009 ASA meeting.
- Position of Secretary-Treasurer will be split. The Secretary will be elected to a 3-year term, the Treasurer to a 2-year term; subsequent Treasurers to a 3-year term. These new positions will be filled in the elections taking place this coming year.
- A new Teaching and Mentorship Award was approved, to be administered by the Teaching and Training Committee. This award may be presented for the first time at the 2009 ASA meeting in San Francisco.

#### *7. Greening ASA*

A working group, led by Lauren Heberle, has been conducting a number of meetings with the ASA Executive staff on reducing the environmental impact of the association and our huge meetings in particular. A complete account of this committee's activities was published in the ASA Footnotes. As noted in that article, an Open Forum on the "Greening of the ASA" was held at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Boston. It included an update on what the ASA is already doing and a chance for meeting attendees to brainstorm together about solutions.

#### *8. Focus the Nation*

Kari Norgaard led the effort to get ASA to endorse the January 31<sup>st</sup> national teach-in on climate change, which had nearly 2,000 institutions and over 1 million individuals participating. We put up some key links and sources on the Section website for bringing climate issues into core sociology courses, and got a good start for future years' events.

#### *9. Newsletters, listserv, Website*

Thanks to Stephan, we got off four good newsletters in Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. The Section's discussion listserv, <envirosoc@listserv.brown.edu>, is lively with some great discussions. Bill Markham and Timmons oversaw a major overhaul of the section website, which is very near completion at this report. Graduating senior Ryan Powers at William and Mary has designed a great new site; Bill has done a ton of work on the text and organization of the site.

#### *10. Awards*

See the individual award committees' reports, our sincere thanks for their hard work, especially with some very delicate situations with section officers getting nominated! Special thanks to Craig Humphries and Penelope Canan for stepping up to chair two of the award committees when the designated others were in conflict of interest. Another discussion in the E&T Council was whether edited volumes could be awarded the Outstanding Publication Award; the final vote was positive to allow exemplary volumes with clear contributions by the editors themselves.

### *11. Nominations:*

Thanks to Tom Rudel, we have excellent slates for all the open positions.

### *12. Resolution on Economic Growth*

Richard York and Rebecca Clausen proposed a resolution on Economic Growth for the section to consider endorsing. Bob Brulle argued that such a resolution is outside our purpose as a section and that the ASA prohibits us from taking these kind of positions publically. The Council voted to address the proposal within the limits of the section's abilities and encourage the proposers to take the issue to the ASA Council. The Council resolved that:

... this proposal [be returned] to Richard York and the graduate students at the University of Oregon for submission to the ASA via appropriate procedures for member resolutions. In addition, [the Section] will provide a roundtable [as part of the Section's roundtable session] at the 2009 ASA meeting for this proposal to be discussed, and will publish an article on this proposal in the E&T newsletter, to be submitted by the sponsors of this proposal.

### *13. External Funding*

Bob has done some initial work on his ideas of seeking external funding for meetings. The creation of the new position of Treasurer should strengthen our abilities to apply for additional outside funding for the section.

## **Secretary-Treasurer's Report – David Sonnenfeld**

### **I. Section Finances**

The most recent section financial report received from ASA is dated June 30, 2008. As of that date, the Section had a balance of \$6897. Net dues income as of that date was \$2390. Total projected expenses through 9/30/08 are \$3683, for a projected net decline of approximately \$1300. Expenses include up to \$500 for website (re)design services, and our share of a joint reception with the Section on Race, Gender, and Class (see below). Overall, I project that, by 9/30/08, the Section will have a positive balance of approximately \$3800, nevertheless down approximately 21% compared to last year. This projection may be a bit conservative, in that I expect our next quarterly financial report (3Q 2008) from ASA will show additional dues income for the year.

### **II. Major Activities Since Annual Meeting**

The Secretary-Treasurer's primary activity since the 2007 Annual Meeting in NYC was chairing an ad hoc By-laws Review and Update Committee. The primary impetuses for this effort were a member-initiated change to a one-year term of office for Section Chair, and proposed clarifications for the Outstanding Publication Award guidelines from the Section's Policy and Research Committee.

The ad hoc By-Laws Review Committee proposed, and the Section Council approved, placing before the membership a series of bylaws changes, including: changing the term of Chair and Chair-elect to one year each, adding a new post of past-Chair, also for one year, removing the unelected Newsletter Editor from the Council, splitting the Secretary-Treasurer position into two positions, adding a new section teaching award, and other measures. These measures were placed before the membership in the spring ASA elections and passed by overwhelming margins. The reduced term of office for the Chair

and Chair-elect will commence with the election of a new chair-elect in 2009; a new Secretary and separate Treasurer also will be elected in 2009. An additional proposal for a section service/ practice award was deferred by the Council for further development and consideration.

### III. 2008 Section Reception

By suggestion and approval of the Council, the 2008 Section Reception was co-sponsored with the Section on Race, Gender, and Class. The Reception was held as follows:

#### ***Tapeo Restaurant, Tapas Bar 266 Newbury Street Boston, MA 02116***

URL: <http://www.tapeo.com/> We had the Flamenco room at Tapeo on Sunday, August 3, from 6-8:30pm, at a cost of \$20/ person for food (selection of 5 tapas) with a \$15 cash bar beverage minimum/ person. Approximate Cost: somewhere between a minimum of  $20 \times 120 = \$2400$  to a maximum of  $\$35 \times 120 = \$4200 + \text{tax}$  ~ shared equally between the two sections, so a total to ETS of between \$1200 and \$2100 + tax. Budgeted at the maximum of about \$2,600, including gratuity & tax, but final bill will likely be less.

### IV. Distinguished Contribution Award Committee

Normally chaired by the Secretary-Treasurer, the committee was kindly chaired this year by Craig Humphrey.

## **Nominations Committee Report – Tom Rudel**

This past year, the section's membership elected five new people to the Section Council. The new Council members are:

Publication Committee Chair – Michael Carolan  
Nominations Committee Chair – Beth Caniglia  
Policy and Research Chair – Richard York  
Council Member-at-Large – Lee Clarke  
Student Representative – Rachael Shwom

To run the election, we had ten candidates. To get a slate, we approached fourteen people, some of whom, although recommended by members of the section, were not section members at the time that they were asked. The recruitment of people to run was greatly facilitated by written suggestions on a handout, asking for suggested candidates, that was distributed at the annual section business meeting. Announcements on the EnviroSoc listserv also proved productive in identifying people who were interested in running for office. Both practices should assist future Nomination Chairs in putting together lists of candidates. For the second year running, it has been difficult to get help from other people who were recruited at the annual meeting to be on the committee. To a greater extent than is desirable, the job has devolved into being a 'one person' job. This pattern may be nothing more than happenstance.

## **Policy and Research Committee Report – David Pellow**

I want to thank Timmons Roberts and David Sonnenfeld for their steadfast support and guidance on a number of matters this year.

The committee members include me, Marta Maldonado, Patrick Gillham, Diane Sicotte, and Penelope Canan. Marta and Patrick continue their service from last year and have been excellent contributors to the committee. I asked Penelope to join the committee as Chair of the Outstanding Publication Award subcommittee (after consulting with the Council) in order to avoid a conflict of interest, because a book that I had co-edited was nominated for this prize. Penelope graciously accepted and has been a wonderful colleague throughout the process. I also recruited Diane Sicotte in order to have enough members on both award committees and she was immensely helpful and constructive in her participation.

Timmons Roberts and I solicited several E&T Newsletter submissions this year with a focus on scholars doing policy-oriented research. We had also hoped to launch a companion online publication with short articles focusing on a theme. While we were pleased with some of the submissions we received (and published), on the whole the picture was mixed. I believe this is still a great idea, but it might require a new approach in order to attract a higher quantity and quality of submissions. We should think this over during the council meeting or during future online/phone discussions.

#### *Awards*

The recipient of this year's Section on Environment & Technology's **Outstanding Publication Award** is Thomas Rudel, Rutgers University, for his book, *Tropical Forests: Paths of Destruction and Regeneration*. In this work, Rudel conducts a comparative analysis of numerous local studies of forest cover change from the past twenty years to articulate a unique and compelling global theoretical perspective on forest deforestation and regeneration. With separate chapters on individual regions, including South and Central America, the Caribbean, South and Southeast Asia, and West, Central, and East Africa, Rudel's work offers an original and moving assessment of the multiple dynamics impacting the world's tropical forests. Through a meta-analysis, Rudel identifies the social, economic, and environmental forces driving forest cover change since 1980. His careful attention to context, geography, politics, ecology, and history underscores that there are vastly different reasons for deforestation across the planet. Rudel also cogently presents pragmatic and hopeful policy mechanisms for conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development in each region. Rudel's years of working in tropical forest research have produced a delightful and critically important book that we should all read and assign to our students.

This year's **Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award** was presented to Eric Bonds, University of Colorado, whose paper, "The Knowledge-Shaping Process: Elite Mobilization and Environmental Policy," explores how corporate and military elites utilize knowledge-shaping processes to influence the development of environmental policy. This knowledge-shaping work includes: suppressing knowledge and research deemed harmful to elite interests; funding institutions that legitimate particular kinds of research and ideas; funding experts to discredit research/ideas that are not advantageous to elite interests; and influencing the selection of what counts as legitimate knowledge and what does not. This conceptual model builds on traditional and contemporary power structure research and focused on a case study of a national policy debate concerning rocket fuel contamination. Bonds' paper was truly outstanding.

We received 4 submissions for the Outstanding Publication Award this year – all of the highest quality. As a reminder, we consider books and articles for this award in alternative years, so next year we will return to articles. Three student papers were submitted/ nominated this year. This was a smaller number of submissions than last year (8) and the year before (6) but larger than the year before that (2), so I think these fluctuations are normal. However, I would like to see more encouragement of graduate students to submit their work for consideration.

#### *Concerns and Questions*

The only issue to arise (other than the above mentioned concern about how to recruit more people to submit their work for the newsletter) is the question of whether to allow edited books for consideration for the Outstanding Publication Award. This question was put to the Council and passed, so I presume that this should be reflected in future calls for nominations for this Award. This required a Council vote because the by-laws and previous calls for nominations have not specifically allowed for edited volumes.

#### **Membership Committee Report – Andrew Jorgenson**

As the new membership committee chair, I want to thank Beth Caniglia for providing many helpful suggestions. I also want to thank David Sonnenfeld for sending me updated data on section membership. In the Fall of 2007, I began a general electronic campaign to remind existing members to renew their membership for 2008. This primarily involved sending detailed emails over the official listserv (with the help of David Sonnenfeld) as well as the other listserv that members tend to use. I received a number of “thank you emails” for the reminders as well as a few inquiries about how to renew memberships. Following the initial membership renewal drive, with the help of my graduate research assistant (Christopher Dick), we compiled a list of sociologists who were not section members during 2007, but that have published research relevant to the section in particular journals over the last decade. More specifically, we looked closely at articles published in *Rural Sociology*, *Society & Natural Resources*, *Human Ecology Review*, and *Organization & Environment* from 1997 to present. We compared the listed authors to the section membership list for 2007. Sociologists who authored relevant works in these journals during the last decade who were not members in 2007 were flagged and sent an “encouraging” invitation via email to join the section. In the coming year we plan to extend this practice to other journals—including the more “generalist” journals, and we also plan to take a close look at the Web pages for sociology departments at all sorts of institutions to also identify new potential members [thanks to Timmons Roberts for suggesting we do the latter]. In the coming year I also plan to encourage members of RC 24 of ISA to join [and become active in] our section.

As of May 14<sup>th</sup>, there were 401 section members [in August of 2007 there were 393 members]. I anticipate that this number [has already I’m sure] will increase during [and after] the annual meetings since some attendees renew their memberships at that time.

#### **Publications Committee Report – Bill Markham**

The Publications Committee has had a busy and productive year, although some important tasks must, unfortunately, be passed on to next year’s committee for completion.

First, I want to thank two hardworking colleagues for their help and support during my two years as chair. Stephan Scholz has continued to serve reliably and very effectively as editor of the section's newsletter with minimal help from me. His willingness to do this allowed me and the committee to focus on the pressing matter of revising the section's web site, and I am very grateful. As webmaster, Rob Gardner has kept our existing web site up to date and responded helpfully to our requests for advice and assistance as we worked on the new site. After serving the section well for several years, Rob has recently asked to be relieved of his duties, so this is an especially appropriate time to thank him for all he has done.

The major task of the committee over the past year has been a redesign and upgrade of the web site. A subcommittee comprised of me, Timmons Roberts, Bob Brulle, Rob, and Kari Norgaard consulted regularly through the fall by e-mail to develop a plan for development of the site. This work went more slowly than I had hoped because of the complexity of the task and because I was burdened with a book project. Nevertheless, we carefully considered a long list of proposed additions and upgrades to the site, debated their relative merits and drawbacks and the practical issues involved, and developed a document that was later used as the basis for a plan to revise the site. Because we discussed many ambitious ideas that we could not implement immediately, this document can be also used as a basis for thinking about future upgrades.

During the winter, I drew up a plan for revising the web site, which was approved by the committee. We had hoped to divide the work among ourselves and make progress on the revision during the spring, but a set of very busy schedules kept us from accomplishing very much. Immediately after the end of the spring semester, I was able to free up substantial time for the project. I've worked closely with Timmons and had a great deal of help from Rob and David Sonnenfeld. With authorization from the executive committee at the spring teleconference, we also hired one of Timmons' students to help with technical web design.

The following tasks were accomplished this summer: I drew up a very detailed plan for the new site, which, due to Rob's stepping down, will be housed on the ASA's server. I made arrangements with the ASA to locate the new site there, and Rob has already moved the pages from the old server to the new location. I spent several days finding publicly available pictures that could be used on the new site and wrote the copy for a new home page and for separate new pages for members, students, and visitors--the latter edited by Timmons. I also developed extensive lists of links to web sites of environmental sociology groups from other nations, relevant government agencies, and NGOs and environmental organizations--the latter two based in part on some earlier research by Kari. I was able to draw on David's very comprehensive list of journals in environmental sociology for a list of links to journals for our site, which required only minor editing to update a few links and journal titles. Thanks to David for making it available!

I also engaged in a long series of discussions with Bob, Timmons, my university's attorney, and ASA staff about developing the facility to upload papers and syllabuses to our web site. This turned out to be a very complex undertaking, both in terms of copyright and the technical issues involved. We have agreed with ASA in principle that pages that allow section members to upload syllabuses and abstracts of papers and links to off-site locations where the papers can be obtained is a desirable feature of our new

site. ASA is now investigating off-the-shelf software that might be used for this purpose, but they are moving cautiously because they host the sites for several other sections and anticipate further requests for this capability.

The plan for the new site includes retaining several pages from the old site, especially the excellent list of links to graduate programs in sociology developed and recently updated by the education committee. Most of these pages need to be updated and modified in minor ways. Rob has already made some of these modifications and has promised to complete the rest before stepping down.

No one on the committee has the skills or time to design web pages at a high level of sophistication, so we employed one of Timmons' students to undertake this task for us, and Timmons kindly agreed to coordinate the work. Unfortunately, the student has been burdened with other work and has so far completed only the home page and a template for the other pages. Once we have the pages for students, visitors, members and a template for the various links pages, it will be possible to assemble all the pieces of the new site on the ASA server and make it publicly available. I had hoped to see the work completed before stepping down, but, unfortunately, it will fall to Timmons and the new publications committee chair, Michael Carolan, to bring it to completion. I will provide a complete electronic notebook of necessary materials to Michael.

Finally, I reworked and updated the section brochure and will have copies printed for distribution at the ASA meeting. We have already advertised on the list serve for a new webmaster and will announce the vacancy at the ASA meeting as well. Finding a replacement for Rob is a high priority in terms of getting the new site functioning and maintaining it.

I cannot close this report without some further comments about the section's web site. The Internet has become central to how we present ourselves and do business. Predictably, therefore, most everyone has a list of ambitious ideas about how we could better use it. This is as it should be, but there is clearly a major gap between our collective ability to develop ambitious ideas and our resources to carry them out. When I agreed to serve as publications committee chair, I had no idea that the section's web site would turn out to be the major responsibility of the job, and I lacked skills in web design. This has made my task harder, but that is not really the core of the problem. Designing, programming, and doing the research for major web site revisions is an intricate, technical, and very time consuming task, and I found the amount of work involved daunting and, at times, demoralizing.

I understand that Michael has some skills and interest in web design, and most of the work for the upcoming major site upgrade has already been done, so I am confident we will have a new and much improved site soon. Still, more major upgrades and expansions are on the horizon, and no volunteer with the normal complement of teaching and research responsibilities is going to find it easy to implement all the good ideas that can be proposed--to say nothing of simultaneously dealing with the newsletter and the section's list serve, which I have basically left to run themselves. It is also unrealistic to expect a volunteer web master to take on extensive new programming or web design tasks. One can try to distribute the work around among several people, but that leads to the predictable problems of coordinating the work of overworked volunteers. In short, I don't think it is possible for us to have a professional, extensive web site of the type we

all wish for with the current allocation of responsibilities. To help resolve this dilemma, I'd like to make two suggestions. Hopefully, there will be some time to discuss them at the ASA meeting.

1. The job of publications chair should be divided into two positions. The first should be devoted to the newsletter, brochure, and other section publications. (I had hoped to work on helping the section put out one or more edited volumes that would increase our visibility and provide additional publication outlets, but work on web site work pushed all that aside). The second position should focus only on the web site and list serve.

2. Second, if we want professional quality web design, we are probably going to have to pay for it. The ASA has made clear that they can host our site but not undertake elaborate web design. We could hope to find that a volunteer webmaster or publications committee chair who has the skills to design beautiful, technically complex web pages and wants to sacrifice endless hours to doing so; however, such people are rare and burnout is likely. In other words, I think it is realistic to expect a webmaster to keep a site functional and make minor improvements and for a web site committee chair to keep content updated and add something new now and then, but I don't think it is realistic to expect volunteers to undertake major web site overhauls or implement elaborate new features. That's like expecting the membership committee to mount a professional advertising campaign to double our membership or the education committee to prepare a professional level set of teaching materials of the sort one might expect from a publisher. Since our section budget is not accumulating a surplus, I recommend, therefore, that we raise dues a bit and gradually build a fund for the web site, which could be used to pay a professional every few years when a major overhaul is needed. The alternative is limping along with whatever volunteers can do, but if we go that way, we have to be realistic about what can be accomplished.

## **Teaching and Training Committee Report – Sherry Cable**

### **Committee Members:**

Sherry Cable, University of Tennessee-Knoxville (Chair)  
Tom Shriver, Oklahoma State University  
Laurel Holland, West Georgia State University

### **Activities:**

1. Updated the website list of graduate programs offering a concentration in Environmental Sociology.
2. Submitted newsletter article in April.
3. Made significant process since March on an extensive bibliography in Environmental Sociology. Intended purpose is a resource for comprehensive doctoral examinations in the field. I'd hoped to break the bibliography into subgroups but the task proved too onerous – folks may easily define such subgroups differently. Bibliography will be completed and submitted for website posting by September 1.

4. Primary tasks for 2008-09:

(a) *Teaching and Mentoring Award (odd years)*: soliciting applications for the new Teaching and Training award, to be administered by the Committee;

(b) *Extended Committee Mission and 2<sup>nd</sup> New Award*

- i. draft revised bylaws language to include *service, practice, and outreach activities* in the committee's mission statement – for discussion and approval by section Council and forwarding to ASA for spring membership elections; and
- ii. to devise a proposal to the Council recommending the criteria for a new Service/ Practice/ Outreach Award.

**Member-at-Large Report – Kari Marie Norgaard**

*Activities:*

1. Coordinated ASA Wide Climate Change Teach-In on January 31<sup>st</sup>. This event was in conjunction with the Focus the Nation Teach In on the same day. See detailed description below.
2. Worked with Publications Committee Chair Bill Markham to create a set of links of environmental organizations for the ETS website.
3. As part of the Teach In, the ETS section website now contains an extensive section of climate change teaching resources. Thanks to section members for sharing their ideas, articles and PowerPoint presentations, and to Rob Gardner who did a great job putting all this material onto the website.

*Climate Change Teach In:*

This first year was a modest but highly successful effort! The teach in was endorsed by the ETS Section and the Section on Teaching and Learning. The ASA Executive Council passed a resolution to support an ASA wide teach in on climate change. Postings about the teach in were placed on the monthly News and Notes, on ETS listserv, the teaching and learning listserv and a number of additional section listservs. Climate change teaching resources were sent in from many individuals, compiled and made available online at: <http://www.linfield.edu/soan/et/teachin.html>

A link was made from the Focus the Nation website to our ETS site:  
[http://www.climatechangeeducation.org/university\\_materials/index.html](http://www.climatechangeeducation.org/university_materials/index.html)

For the teach in itself, we had about three dozen sociologists teaching about climate change in their regular sociology courses across the country. I'm particularly impressed and thrilled with the range of courses into which people incorporated climate material (see list below). This is exactly in keeping with the notion of the teach in of making visible the far reaching impacts of climate change on society. In addition, many campuses

organized extensive campus wide events, and many Sociology faculty participated in these. Thanks to all of you!

Here are some of the Sociology courses in which climate change was a topic on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>:

- Introduction to Research Methods
- Introduction to Sociology
- Sociology of Religion
- Women in the Global Economy
- Comparative Environmental Movements in Asia
- International Development
- Sociological Inquiry
- Sociology of Agriculture
- Sociology Senior Seminar
- Environment and Society
- Social Problems
- Class and Power
- Community, Environment and Society
- Environmental Policy & Governance
- Introduction to Environmental Studies

The website remains up as a teaching resource.

We welcome additional suggestions. Some topic areas have more material than others. I for one am hoping that we do this on an annual basis. Should we do this again I suggest working in advance with the sections to ask for endorsement from as many sections as possible, and asking that resources be sent in from these sections. This would be one way to expand participation and buy-in.

### **Student Member's Report – Rebecca Altman**

The most significant effort as grad student representative occurred in late December, when I emailed all section student members that had not renewed their section membership. My email urged renewal and also inquired again about interest in a student listserve (no one replied).

I also encouraged students to email about their theses and dissertations in progress (so I could compile them for our newsletter), but have yet to spur anyone to write in. I will be communicating with the incoming rep about my ongoing struggle to get grad students to interact more with the newsletter.

Over the coming weeks, I'll begin to assemble the requisite binder for this position so that the incoming student rep will have one.