

### **Suggestions from the Graduate Student Meeting**

Three students attended the Graduate Student Meeting with the Student Board Representatives. Because of a scheduling conflict, Aimee Van Wagenen was unable to attend. All three students in attendance were new SSSP members and this was their first time at a national academic conference.

The primary issue of concern was lack of interaction between graduate student board representatives and graduate student members. It was suggested that graduate board reps be allotted a nominal budget for creation of a newsletter twice a year to inform graduate students of important events or facts about the meeting or taking place in SSSP generally. At minimum, it was suggested the board representatives create a newsletter that can then be sent via email prior to the meeting, announcing not only the graduate student meeting, but the AIDS fundraiser, and any sessions of special interest to graduate students. Should a newsletter not be possible, it was suggested that a graduate student flyer with all pertinent information be placed in the SSSP tote bag.

The second issue of concern was the lack of interaction between established members and graduate students. All graduate students supported the idea of a graduate student ribbon to facilitate discussion between faculty and students at events such as the AIDS fundraiser. This ribbon would also facilitate decreased anxiety when presenting in a session, as the audience would not assume the presenter was a faculty member. While the Board discussed the importance of retaining student members, all three graduate students attending this meeting attended the AIDS fundraiser and were not approached for conversation by any senior SSSP members. They were looking for people to welcome them, and did not perceive this occurring.

Again, I apologize for being unable to attend Sunday morning's Board meeting and hope you consider these recommendations.

Lisa Anne Zilney, Ph.D.