

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEETING MANAGER

I. 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

I am pleased to report that 591 attendees have pre-registered for the annual meeting. Of these attendees, 22 (4%) are exempt from paying meeting registration. Last year at this time, 592 attendees had pre-registered.

We have 127 sessions scheduled with 460 papers, 33 panelists, 13 mentors, 12 critics, 3 authors, 2 participants and 1 plenary speaker. In addition, the Global Division is co-sponsoring special sessions organized by Richard Dello Buono on August 13. Last year we had 128 sessions scheduled with 439 papers, 26 panelists, 6 workshop facilitators, 12 critics, 1 performer, 6 authors, and 2 plenary speakers.

The Program Committee expanded the film exhibit to include a variety of independent films. The film exhibit is sponsored by Bullfrog Films, California Newsreel, Lion Gate Films, MGM Home Entertainment, Media Education Foundation, Spottsfilm and Women Make Movies. A total of 16 films will be featured. We are trying something new this year. During the film showings on Thursday and Friday, we will provide a voting ballot to all viewers. On Friday night, after the awards banquet, from 10:00pm - 2:00am we will show the winning short and full length films. We will also show the Academy Award winning film, *Crash*. We are very excited about this new format, and hope we will have a great turnout for the Friday night event.

Attendees were able to register one guest for a nominal fee. Each guest will receive a name badge (name only, no affiliation). Any guest wanting full access to sessions or special events and a program packet must register individually and pay the full registration fee and membership dues. We have 42 guests registered. Last year, we had 39 registered. The guests are not included in the total number of pre-registered attendees.

II. ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

SSSP has taken proactive steps toward meeting the special needs of our disabled members. Written guidelines were distributed to all meeting participants to assist them in being increasingly creative in their inclusiveness. We requested that all attendees refrain from wearing scented products. Smoking is not permitted in the hotel's meeting space or public areas. Smoking is permitted outside only.

Due to lack of use at previous meetings and lack of meeting space, SSSP will not offer a comfort zone. To date, I have not received any complaints.

Attendees were able to request accessibility services that will facilitate their full participation in the annual meeting. One attendee requested an accessible hotel room. I confirmed with the reservation's department that this request will be granted.

III. ADVERTISING

I contacted 25 publishing companies and encouraged them to place an ad in the final program. Unfortunately, none responded. Last year, \$775 in advertising was sold.

IV. AIDS FUNDRAISER AND THE GRADUATE STUDENT AND NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

All graduate students and new members will receive a complimentary ticket. All others will pay a \$15 cover. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available. Music will be provided by Solstice, a local band. During the evening, there will be a silent and a live auction. All proceeds (after expenses) will go to Maison Plein Coeur. Their fundamental objectives are to contribute to HIV/AIDS prevention and to assist people living with HIV/AIDS.

V. AUDIO-VISUAL

An overhead projector and screen will be placed in every meeting room per the Board's 2003 recommendation. In 2004, SSSP purchased a LCD projector. Presenters who requested a LCD projector (before January 31) from Phoebe Morgan, Program Committee Co-Chair and were approved will have a LCD projector in their session. We received more requests than could be accommodated by one LCD projector on August 11 and 12; therefore, SSSP had to rent 3 LCD projectors on August 11 and 1 LCD projector on August 12. Presenters were told that late requests would not be considered and that roundtable presentations are not eligible for audio-visual support. The Board voted that the cost of additional equipment would be borne by the presenter. Our hotel contract allows presenters to bring their own equipment. I negotiated a 25% discount on audio-visual equipment with the in-house audio-visual company. California Newsreel and the Media Education Foundation were asked to share the costs associated with the film exhibit. Both paid a \$100 fee.

I strongly recommend that SSSP purchase an additional LCD projector for the 2007 annual meeting.

VI. BOOK EXHIBIT

Last year, Mental Health Resources organized and managed the book exhibit. Based on the positive feedback, I contacted them about our 2006 annual meeting. Unfortunately, they do not manage international meetings. The Scholar's Choice will organize and manage this year's book exhibit without cost to the Society. They have been very easy to work with. Please stop by and support the book exhibit.

VII. CATERING

All catered events will be hosted at the hotel except for the Board of Directors' dinner. It will be held off-site at the Restaurant Julien. This 15 year-old establishment caters to diners interested in traditionally served French cuisine in a charming and relaxed atmosphere.

VII. CSA SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

Since 2001, we have been encouraging our program participants to submit their abstracts online. Last year, 92 program participants submitted an abstract and 7 sent full-text papers. Unfortunately, only 15 program participants submitted an abstract this year. An email reminder will be sent after the annual meeting.

IX. HILTON MONTRÉAL BONAVENTURE

We have exceeded our room block again this year. As of July 19, our room pickup was 741 rooms (room block: 670). Based on our current room pickup, SSSP will not have to pay for meeting room rental.

SSSP held a contest to encourage attendees to pre-register for the annual meeting and stay at the conference hotel. Christine Patterson, University of Missouri Columbia will receive a room upgrade and a welcome amenity at no cost to SSSP.

X. MEETING MENTOR PROGRAM

The Lee Student Support Fund Committee coordinated the mentoring program. Forty-three attendees requested a mentor and forty-six attendees volunteered to serve in this capacity. Thanks to the hard work of James Gruber and his committee, all requests have been filled.

XI. PRE-REGISTRATION

The problem of collecting pre-registration fees from program participants was not as difficult thanks to the motion that was passed by the 2000-01 Board of Directors. "The SSSP Office will identify, at the end of each annual meeting, those participants who failed to pay registration fees. Those non-paying participants will be notified next year, if they submit proposals for the program, that if they do not pay the pre-registration fees they definitely will not be placed on the program." After the initial mailing requesting payment of pre-registration fees, 289 participants failed to pay. An email was sent stating that they would be deleted from the final program if payment was not received by July 14. Sixty-seven failed to respond. None of the non-paying participants were removed from the final program because they were not delinquent in paying 2005 registration fees.

XII. RECEPTION HONORING PAST PRESIDENTS AND AWARDS BANQUET

Both events will be held at the Hilton Montréal Bonaventure. The reception will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The banquet will be served buffet style. To accommodate our vegan attendees, a special entree will be available. The cost of a banquet ticket is \$40 per person. Currently, 209 tickets have been sold.

Attendees could purchase banquet tickets for graduate students, foreign scholars and scholar-activists. Fifty-one attendees requested a banquet ticket. Thanks to the following members who participated in the Donate-a-Banquet-Ticket Program: Susan M. Carlson, Kathleen Ferraro, Nancy Jurik, Valerie Leiter, Kathleen Lowney, Robert Perrucci, Claire M. Renzetti and Cattryn Somers. As a result of their generous contributions, 8 additional graduate students will be attending the awards banquet.

A special thanks to the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost of the University of Dayton for their \$4,500 financial contribution to the program and reception.

XIII. REGISTRATION BAGS

A special thanks to the University of California Press for their \$1,500 financial contribution to the registration bags and to Carrie Yang Costello for designing the bag's logo. In addition, Carrie designed the program cover for the preliminary and final programs.

XIV. REGISTRATION WORKERS AND LOW INCOME ACCOMMODATIONS

Six student members, one underemployed member and Denise Knight, 2004-05 Graduate Research Associate will work at the registration desk. In exchange for working 12 hours, 7 workers will receive a complimentary shared hotel room for the nights of August 9, 10, and 11. Denise will be paid an hourly rate.

Five attendees requested and received a reduced room rate of \$94.50 plus tax per night.

Twenty-five attendees requested the roommate matching service. On June 17, an email was sent to them listing the names, telephone numbers and email addresses of those willing to participate.

XV. TRAVEL AND CAR RENTAL AGENCY

A contract was negotiated with Association Travel Concepts. Attendees can call the vendors directly or use their own travel agency when making airline reservations. SSSP receives credit when attendees provide the SSSP ID# before purchasing their ticket. Last year, 14 attendees utilized this service. In order for SSSP to receive a complimentary airline ticket, 35 attendees must utilize this service.

XVI. MEETING MANAGER'S COMMENTS

I worked closely with Jean-François Tourigny, Manager - Convention Services and Banquets in planning the annual meeting. I provided him with details for VIP amenities and sleeping rooms, audio-visual requirements, catering for all food functions, meeting room set up, and signage. I will review the master account before leaving the hotel if it is ready.

I have been very fortunate to work with Claire M. Renzetti, President; James Gruber and Phoebe Morgan, Program Committee Co-Chairs; Madelaine Adelman, Steven Barkan, Michele Paludi and Stephani Williams, Program Committee; Yesim Bayer, Local Arrangements Committee Chair; Thomas C. Hood, Executive Officer and Mary Walker, Graduate Research Associate.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the Board of Directors, for giving me another opportunity to serve SSSP as meeting manager. I welcome the opportunity to continue this service next year in New York, New York.

Michele Smith Koontz
July 26, 2006