The annual student dinner hosted by the student councilors took place again this year, in a nearby restaurant in Chinatown. Despite the snowy weather, eight student members attended, and the lively exchange extended well into the evening as they moved to a nearby hotel to continue the conversation. Students constitute roughly a third of the SEAA membership, and the student councilors hope that the annual dinner will continue to be an opportunity to serve the vibrant and growing community of young scholars.

Beginning with our board, I would like to thank Elyane Zorn for her fantastic work as our treasurer. Elyane is an organizational genius who created long-term solutions to the many issues that have plagued us concerning our finances. Many thanks to Susan Paulson who in her capacity as councilor contributed significantly across the board, chairing our Roseberry Nash student paper contests and working alongside other chairs on nominations and meeting session organization. Carla Guerrero-Montoya has been a wonderful secretary; she contributed to many committees during her term and participated in many of our key decisions throughout the year. We also said goodbye to Maria Eugenia Brockman, our student councilor who has managed our listserv over the last few years. We welcome Travis Dubry into the full role as treasurer, Martha Rees as secretary, Jane Henrici as councilor, and Nick Welcome as our new student representative. Jane Henrici will chair our nominations committee. Though the deadline for 2010 nominations has passed, I encourage you to participate through volunteerism. If you are interested in participating on a committee please contact Jane Henrici at henrici@swpr.org. This is a great way to "feel out" serving on the board while gaining service credit through SLACA.

Our finances are in great shape and our financial report is available on the website. Nick Welcome will work on updating our website, making it more user-friendly while adding new information sources such as a tab for syllabi on Latin America, updated minutes from our meetings, current financial information, and important announcements. He will also work with our other student councilor, Jonathan DeVore to create a Facebook page for SLACA. I encourage you to keep sending job announcements and other important messages through the listserv, which is now being moderated by Walter Little.

The society is focusing on how we can serve our members more effectively. The implementation of a spring meeting with the SfAA in March 2009 opened up more opportunities for our members to present their work under the rubric of SLACA as well as SfAA; we hope this has helped new scholars who struggle to justify their applied work to their universities in that their paper or session is refereed by SLACA. Submitting papers under SLACA for the SfAA Annual Meeting also allows our members to only pay the conference registration fee. Our reception last year in Santa Fe was a smashing success and we packed the room. We were thrilled with the turnout and the opportunity to have Michael and Scott Whiteford present the first Whiteford Prizes to Mauricio Magaña (US) and Cynthia X Ingar (LA). We encourage you to have your graduate students submit papers for the Whiteford Prize in Applied Research. We will initiate a new speaker series for our spring meeting that will honor an established scholar who has contributed to the discipline while also contributing to the communities with whom s/he works and to the future of anthropology through mentoring future scholars.

In addition to the spring meeting and improving our website, we are also considering other outreach programs; one suggestion has been to solicit our