

ASLE Graduate Student Liaisons

Early in ASLE's life as an organization, the leadership recognized the significant contributions that graduate students make and established two appointed, non-officer Project Coordinator positions to be held by graduate students. (See Article 5.2 and 5.3 of the bylaws, available at the ASLE website, www.asle.org.) The Graduate Student Liaisons (GSLs) serve ASLE by representing the interests and concerns of graduate students at meetings of the EC, and they work closely with ASLE's Graduate Mentoring Program Coordinator in shared pursuit of this goal. In accordance with Article 6.1.3 of the bylaws, the GSLs are appointed by ASLE's President (in consultation with the EC) and hold two-year terms. The two GSL positions have staggered terms so as to ensure continuity. It is understood that in the course of the two-year term, a GSL may complete graduate school; completion of a degree does not affect the term of office.

Like ASLE's other Project Coordinators, the GSLs spearhead projects deemed by the EC to be important to the life and future of the organization. In past years, GSLs have undertaken many significant projects, including writing and revising ASLE's Graduate Student Handbook; organizing conference panels to serve the specific needs of graduate students; overseeing the Graduate Student Working Group; compiling the syllabi collection and the dissertations-in-progress database that are on ASLE's web site; and coordinating graduate student receptions during ASLE conferences. Because of their central role in the life of the organization, GSLs are asked to attend both conference_year and off-year officers meetings. For ASLE's travel assistance policy, see the Travel Funding Policy for ASLE Officers at the website (www.asle.org).

To be considered for a GSL position, candidates should submit a formal letter of application to the current President when a position opening is announced. The letter should include a statement of interest, a description of the applicant's professional interests (particularly as they connect to literature and environment), and the names and contact information of three faculty references. We especially welcome letters of application that describe the candidate's specific interests in serving ASLE. Other factors that candidates may want to address include their length and extent of involvement with ASLE and any extra-curricular participation in environmental work or causes.