

Graduate Student Liaison Report – April, 2018

Last month, the ITAA council invited me to join them for the mid-year meeting. I'm glad to be in a room filled with supportive people who really care about graduate students, mentor us, and help us become the next generation of ITAA leaders.

Even though I haven't attended as many ITAA meetings as others in the room, I can wholeheartedly say that everyone was beyond impressed, and this will be the "best ITAA conference ever!" (Direct quote from everyone). The hotel is superb, the rooftop bar overlooking the lake on 32nd floor has killer views (#selfies) and the food in the restaurant is Michelin Star quality. I am proud to represent graduate students in this association!

As I write this, I'm almost halfway through my year as Graduate Student Liaison (GSL). What does this mean for you? Time to start thinking about giving back to an organization that has given so much to you!

Please nominate a graduate student (or yourself) to serve as the GSL to ITAA. (Disclaimer: eligible students are those who are first or second year doctoral students in Fall 2018). This is a great opportunity to see the inside of the garment, behind the scenes look at ITAA. Furthermore, you are able to represent the voice of all graduate student members, plan graduate student socials and gatherings, and start your life long involvement to our great organization!

The Graduate Student Liaison is responsible for maintaining and monitoring graduate student communications, events, elections, and records. The liaison also proposes special topic sessions and newsletter articles to address emerging issues important to graduate students. The liaison attends annual and mid-year Council meetings and prepares bi-annual reports for Council review.

While it does sound like a lot of work, it doesn't compare to the value you add to the organization and the personal and professional value you will gain from your service. It is well worth your time! (Note: The graduate student representative will be invited to Midyear and Annual Conference Council Meetings. Travel fund and Registration Fee Waiver will be provided as the honorarium.)

A student vita, a brief vision statement regarding the candidate's role as liaison, and faculty endorsement by letter of recommendation should be sent c/o Barbara Frazier, VP Education, to executive_director@itaaonline.org. The deadline for nominations is September 15, 2018. The election will take place electronically in October 2018. All graduate student members are eligible to vote in the election.

Feel free to send me any questions, comments, or concerns! Looking forward to seeing you all in November!

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