The Crossroads Project on Diversity, Difference and Under-Representation
Kyra D. Gaunt, Chair

Our committee met during the SEM 2002 meeting and will meet again at SEM 2003 Miami to continue planning events including a forum for 2004 and I will address the idea of planning a pre-conference at that meeting. I also have discussed with the committee the possibility of creating a website of practical materials that teachers might use or draw on in the classroom. Exercises around musical examples for teaching diversity and difference. The American Studies website has this kind of material available for members only. We also briefly discussed the lack of a scholarship fund to recruit students of color following similar efforts in AMS and SMT.

As chair, I would also like to consider seeking funding from the Ford Foundation when appropriate for bringing in speakers for the forum session we plan each year (or perhaps a pre-conference).

This year in Miami will be the first forum we offer to begin the conversation that we hope will touch everyone in SEM and will eventually impact individual programs not only relative to recruitment and retention, but to the quality of life issues that are of concern to our committee and to our members at large. My aim is to create conversations that make a difference and provide useful and practical outcomes with joy and ease.

We are off to a great start as a committee and I look forward to establishing a clear and strong foundation for the Crossroads Project to expand.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyra D Gaunt, Chair