1. Legislative and Regulatory Developments: As you are all aware, substantial time and energy has been expended during the last academic year in dealing with an array of challenges to our training programs and our clinics, in the face of legal and regulatory obstacles, issues and questions. We succeeded in developing an excellent working relationship with the State Education Department, resulting ultimately in the Board of Regents’ approval of a series of charter amendments that collectively broaden our ability to train candidates and to continue to provide clinical services to the community in furtherance of our training programs. As I write this, there are new developments in Albany, including the passage by both houses of the legislature authorizing the registration of institute clinics in a major change to the State’s not-for-profit corporate practice laws; this legislation awaits the Governor’s signature, and its implications for us remain to be clarified if the bill becomes law.

2. Licensure-Qualifying Program in Psychoanalysis: The State Education Department has authorized us to offer training in psychoanalysis leading to qualification to take the licensing examination in Psychoanalysis, and to practice independently as an “L.P.” We have worked assiduously and under great time pressure to delineate a curriculum that will allow for the admission and training of candidates formerly known as “Category 4” candidates, who will be integrated into Division I training alongside our traditional Certificate Program in Psychoanalysis. We have modified some curricular requirements and supervision guidelines in accordance with State regulations and mandates. Integrating and educating our new LQP candidates will pose a pedagogical and administrative challenge for all of us.

3. Admissions: With broadened authority to expand our admissions policies, we have implemented the Fellows’ mandate to admit masters’ level social workers (both LMSW’s and LCSW’s) and “LQP” applicants. Our applicant pool has grown this year to a level that exceeds that of the two local training programs that have been our principal competitors in recent years. We have more applicants than we will be able to admit, and our selection process continues to be exacting and to embody high standards, ensuring that only highly-qualified candidates will be admitted. At this point, I think it is likely that we will be able to train a first-year class of about ten candidates, twice the number in our current first-year class, but the screening and review process is still ongoing. The social workers we are admitting are excellent and well-experienced, and the LQP applicant pool includes an array of exceptional professionals and academics whose credentials are comparable to the best of our previous “Category 4” admissions.
4. Outreach and Professional Relations: Our Outreach Committee (co-chaired by Evelyn Hartman, Ph.D. and Ira Moses, Ph.D.) has initiated a number of creative and constructive new efforts, and our Recruitment Committee (co-chaired by Grant Brenner, M.D. and David Appelbaum, Psy.D.) has greatly expanded overtures to the core professional groups that we have targeted (psychiatry, psychology, and social work). We have made particular efforts to engage the clinical social work community as our receptivity to extending full training opportunities to masters’ level social workers has evolved and is reflected in our new admissions policies. I have made particular efforts to forge cordial relationships with key individuals in the social work/psychoanalysis community and to work collaboratively with groups including the American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work, the National Association of Social Workers-NYC Chapter, and the Alliance of Psychotherapy Training Institutes.

5. American Psychoanalytic Association: As I have reported previously, and following ongoing meetings with the White Institute initiated by the American over fifteen years ago, the American Psychoanalytic Association’s Board on Professional Standards voted in January 2009 to proceed, as a general policy, toward the goal of making an offer to the White Institute to affiliate with the American. Since I joined these meetings several years ago, I have consistently emphasized to the groups I have met with that any such invitation could only be taken seriously as a basis for internal discussion if it were entirely respectful of the integrity of our training model and the unity of our organization, avoiding the potential divisiveness of previous discussions in the 1990’s with the IPA. At this point, the American is absorbed with proposed revisions of its own educational standards, which need to be defined and clarified before any further movement can be anticipated on this front. At our January 2010 meeting, the American’s Committee for the Accreditation of Free-Standing Institutes (“CAFI”) decided that the next step would be for the American to consult with the IPA leadership to explore how the differences between the IPA’s mandated “Eitingon model,” the American’s process for “certification” of Training Analysts, and the “White model” (including frequency and the “grandparenting” of Training Analysts) could be reconciled. Any progressive developments here will depend on the American’s willingness to take a strong position with the IPA on the issue of a formal affiliation with the White Institute. Our group will be meeting with CAFI in Washington, D.C. next week about the American’s discussions with the IPA about the White Institute. The American is clear that there can be no substantive internal discussion at White in the absence of a formal invitation whose terms are clear and explicit.

6. Technology Initiatives: I am very pleased that our excellent and attractive website has been launched during the year. Likewise, our migration to three new Institute listservs has proceeded smoothly. In addition, all Institute members are now able to have “institutional” wawhite.org e-mail addresses at no charge to them. Candidates now have access to digital versions of all course readings online in the “green” solution of an online “reserve library,” obviating the need for and expense of multiple photocopies. Our building now has wireless internet access available to all of our members, and we have hired a highly-qualified and experienced new half-time Director of Information Technology, Mr. Amin Tehrani, who is scheduled to join our staff this month and will
report directly to me. Mr. Tehrani’s first priorities will include (but are not limited to): search engine optimization, to drive increased traffic from internet search engines to our website and our clinic’s website presence; development of a new, Institute-wide relational database, facilitating the integration of multiple databases currently in use, allowing for more efficient e-communication; development of distance learning technologies to enable the Institute to extend its reach beyond the existing limitations of our current training and educational opportunities. In coming weeks, he and I will be meeting with various constituencies to help define existing needs and to begin to formulate strategies for addressing those needs.