



Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries

AACRL Executive Board

President: Patty A. Pilkerton
Mervyn H. Sterne Library
University of Alabama at Birmingham
917 South 13th St
Birmingham, AL 35294-0014
205-934-3512
ppilkerton@beowulf.mhsl.uab.edu

**Vice-President/President Elect:
Deborah Grimes**
Shelton State Community College
9500 Old Greensboro Road
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405
205-391-2233
dgrimes@shelton.cc.al.us

Past President: Marcia Boosinger
Ralph Brown Draughon Library
231 Mell Street
Auburn University
Auburn, AL 36849-5606
(334) 844-1739
boosiml@auburn.edu

Secretary: Kim Weatherford
Houston Cole Library
Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Road
Jacksonville, AL 36265
256-782-5762
weather@jsucc.jsu.edu

Treasurer: Kate Ragsdale
University Libraries
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
205-348-1484
kragsdal@bama.ua.edu

**Member-at-Large/ACRL Chapter
Liaison: Kathy Barone**
Carmichael Library
University of Montevallo
Montevallo, AL 35115
205-665-6000
baronek@montevallo.edu

**Legislative Liaison:
Eric A. Kidwell**
Houghton Memorial Library
Huntingdon College
1500 East Fairview Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36106
(334) 833-4420
ekidwell@huntingdon.edu

Newsletter Editor: Della H. Darby
University Library
Samford University
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229
(205) 726-2078
dhdarby@samford.edu

From the President ...

As I sat down to write this column I was reminded of the Chinese Proverb "May you live in interesting times." SARS, Affirmative Action, CIPA, USA PATRIOT Act, Internet Filtering, Tax Cut Plans, sustained massive cuts to funding, not to mention a couple of pesky by-laws issues; just some of the issues we have to look forward to in the upcoming months.

I welcome the help and support of our new AACRL officers: Vice-President/President-Elect Debbie Grimes from Shelton State; Treasurer Kate Ragsdale from University of Alabama; and Webmaster Beth Ashmore from Samford University. Continuing in office: Secretary Kim Weatherford from Jacksonville State; Member at Large/ACRL Chapter Liaison Kathy Barone from Montevallo; Legislative Liaison Eric Kidwell from Huntingdon; Newsletter Editor Della Darby from Samford; and Past President Marcia Boosinger from Auburn.

A special thanks to Marcia for her excellent leadership as President last

year, and a heads up to those of you she will be contacting as she recruits new officers for next year.

The Executive Board is at work planning the AACRL Workshop featuring Emily Sheketoff, Associate Executive Director of ALA. "Red, White, & You: The Patriot Librarian in Today's Information Environment" is scheduled for October 24 at Samford University. We are also working on "Best Practices" programming for the Alabama Library Association Conference in Montgomery in April.

So it does look like we are indeed "Living in interesting times" -- even if, as we all know, that quote is 100% bogus and was actually invented in the early 1960's as a way of making something sound more profound and mysterious.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact any of your AACRL officers with comments, questions, ideas, or suggestions. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Patty Pilkerton

Seeking Candidates for AACRL Officers Positions

Please consider becoming more active in AACRL by running for one of two offices to be elected next spring. We will elect a Vice-President/President-Elect and a Secretary early in 2004 with new officers to be installed at the annual business meeting held in April in conjunction with the Alabama Library Association Annual Conference in Montgomery.

The office of Vice-President/President-Elect is a three-year commitment with the second year served as President and the third as Past President. The position

of Secretary is a two-year commitment.

Nominees must be current members of both AACRL and the ACRL division of the American Library Association. Self-nominations are welcome.

Please send nominations to:

Marcia Boosinger
Ralph Brown Draughon Library
231 Mell Street
Auburn University, AL 36849-5606
boosiml@auburn.edu
334-844-1739
FAX: 334-844-4461

News From the Membership

Charlotte Ford, Coordinator of Reference Services at Birmingham-Southern College, successfully defended her dissertation in early December and received her Ph.D. from Indiana University in May. Her dissertation was based on a research study she carried out at a university.

Annette and Bret Heim of Spring Hill College, Mobile, AL, recently released their second compact disc recording "Celestials: American Music for Flute and Guitar." Annette (flute) is Director of the Teacher Education Division's Curriculum Library and Computer Lab. Bret (classical guitar) is Instructional and Government Documents Librarian at Thomas Byrne Library. You can listen to excerpts at: <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/heimduo> or <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00009M937>

Eric Kidwell, Director of Houghton Memorial Library at Huntingdon College, is the new secretary for the ARTS Section of ACRL. The ARTS Section represents librarians and specialists working in or interested in the fields of visual and performing arts. <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/arts/>

The USA Biomedical Library welcomes **J. Michael Lindsay** as the new Acquisitions/Collection Development Librarian. He is a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Jie Li, Information Services Librarian at the Medical Center Site, has been selected to attend the Medical Informatics fellowship program at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, in September. This week long course is designed to familiarize participants with the application of computer technologies and information science in medicine. Through lectures and hands-on computer exercises, participants will be introduced to the conceptual and technical components of medical informatics. The course is taught by a nationally known faculty, and is

designed to prepare the student to make informed decisions about computer-based tools in his/her organization, and improve the student's computer skills. Acceptance is limited to 30 fellows per session and includes medical educators, medical librarians, medical administrators, and physicians.



The **Network of Alabama Academic Libraries** received approval from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to extend its grant for The Cornerstone Project: Building the Foundation for Sharing Unique Treasures through September 2004. While this does not provide additional funding, it gives project partners more time to complete project goals. The Cornerstone Project is working to make historical treasures from Alabama's archives, libraries, museums, and other repositories electronically accessible. NAAL is coordinating the program to assure that Alabama students, teachers, and other citizens as well as scholars throughout the world can explore Alabama's historical treasures online. The result will be a comprehensive Web-based digital collection of documents, images, recordings, maps, and multimedia documenting U.S. and Alabama history. For more information see: <http://www.ache.state.al.us/NAAL>

The **Alabama Special Libraries Association** chapter meeting will be held at Air University Library on September 25th. The theme is Special Library Topology: The New Landscape for Changing Professionals.

Auburn University Libraries recently hired two reference librarians. **Robert Buchanan** began his appointment on July 14 as the Chemistry

subject specialist. He came to Auburn from SUNY Buffalo. **Marilyn Christianson** will begin as the Biological Sciences subject specialist on August 1. She was the Coordinator of Science Collection Development at Louisiana State University Libraries. She received the A.M.L.S. from the University of Michigan.

Samford University Library is one of 30 institutions selected to participate in the 2003-2004 Phase II of Project SAILS, Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills. The purpose of the project, a partnership between Kent State University and the Association of Research Libraries, is to create a nationally recognized assessment instrument that will allow institutions to establish internal and peer benchmarks of IL skills. <http://sails.lms.kent.edu/index.php>

Sterne Library at the **University of Alabama at Birmingham** is now offering chat reference service using QuestionPoint. This service is currently available to everyone Monday through Friday from 9:00–11:00 a.m. and 2:00–4:00 p.m.

The **USA Biomedical Library** received one of fifty-two Digital Library grants from NIH/NLM in the amount of \$133,000 to fund SAMnet, the South Alabama Medical Network Digital Library. Funding for this two-year project will be used to expand library services to 9 hospitals and 2 medical clinics in 9 rural counties of southwest Alabama. Internet equipment, including computers, will be installed at each site. Access to electronic resources such as full-text journals, textbooks, patient education materials, etc. from MD Consult, OVID and Stat!Ref will also be available. In addition, sites will be provided with free document delivery (including interlibrary loan) and training sessions on locating medical information. Jie Li, Coordinator of the Medical Center is the principal investigator. This the the largest grant received by the Biomedical Library.

Report on National Library Legislative Day

Exciting, challenging, and exhausting would best describe my trip to participate in ALA's National Library Legislative Day in Washington DC. On a sticky Sunday, May 10, I attended a pre-conference at the ALA offices for novices at lobbying. Two former congressional legislative assistants, now consultants for ALA, gave us tips on how to best advocate for issues important to libraries and what to do and say before "the ask."

Prior to going, I was prepared for the fact one is not likely to meet her senator or representative but rather a very young legislative assistant. However, we were told that such aides should not be underestimated as they are the gatekeepers and very important staff. These aides are no doubt responsible for many areas, having our concerns mingled with those of transportation, education or labor. Cutting through this clutter of information is a lobbyist's challenge.

A tip sheet given to us indicated five basic rules for effective communication, namely, be brief, be appreciative, be specific, be informative and be courteous. I had a good comfort level with all except "be informed." I needed more information. THEN I could be specific, brief, courteous and appreciative.

That was taken care of on Monday when we attended day long learning sessions. Pertinent legislation, trimmed down to intelligible content, was presented by ALA's Washington office staff, lawyers, and congressional aides. This better informed us and we could shift through some of the legislative lingo. Information sheets helped prepare us for the next day, and attractive packets called "Plant Grassroots@Your Library" were available for us to leave at each congressional office.

KEY ISSUES at the Monday sessions:

- Fund LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act), ESEA (Literacy through School Libraries), and GPO
- Support reauthorization of LSTA, passed house; ask senators to co-sponsor and support S. 888 (\$250 million)
- Restore access and protect security of Government Information
- Fight for Fair Use in the digital environment, co-sponsor and support H.R. 107
- Keep the E-Rate making Internet affordable for K-12 and public libraries
- Protect privacy and strengthen oversight by supporting the Freedom to Read
- Protection Act and Domestic Surveillance Oversight Act.

The ACRL luncheon was a welcome

break from our intense sessions. There were 540 attendees (more than last year) attending Legislative day sessions, but only 53 academic librarians came to the ACRL luncheon. The director of a major university library in DC, who happened to be at my table, informally continued our advocacy training even as we ate.

Each year ACRL creates an agenda of the most pertinent legislative items affecting academic libraries and librarians. The agenda serves as a guide for focusing advocacy activities. This year's list concentrated on intellectual freedom (Internet filtering, USA Patriot Act, Homeland Security Act), intellectual property (database protection, copyright exemption for distance learning, UCITA), and funding support and reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act.

After lunch, Tom Susman, a lawyer whom I recognized from the USA Patriot Act video teleconference, and Claudette Tennant, an Internet policy specialist from the Washington ALA office, each spoke about Homeland Security Legislation and the impact on academic libraries. Susman gave color coded ratings similar to the government alerts as to the threat level we should feel about various pieces of legislation. His biggest concern was the USA Patriot Act which grants sweeping new powers of surveillance by law enforcement including search and seizure of library records.

On Tuesday, I visited the offices of Representative Aderholt and Senators Sessions and Shelby. Dr. Witt, President of the University of Alabama, was in town the same day, soon after the Mike Price debacle, so his visit was on the minds of the office's staff. Rebecca Mitchell, director of APLS, had set up appointments with the congressmen, visiting many on Monday. She had made these visits in previous years, so I joined her on Tuesday. I explained to each legislative aide that I was there to represent the academic libraries in Alabama and that our interests and those of public libraries are much the same, although some of our concerns have a different focus.

Rebecca and I lobbying as a united front was the best use of everyone's time. We were politely received at each visit. I was surprised at the tiny and crowded outer offices, not what you would expect from watching "West Wing." Obtaining their business cards and leaving ours made future communications much easier. There seemed to be little time for small talk, yet getting the staff to remember you and your requests was very impor-

tant. So we briefly tried to convey the impact of libraries in Alabama and to establish with them some common ties to the community. Having attempted to do this, we then got to "the ask." Rebecca and I decided to concentrate on three critical concerns, namely asking for their support for full funding for LSTA, continuing the E-Rate and protecting fair use in a digital environment. Filtering was in the courts at that time, so was not an issue (Supreme Court has since ruled on June 23.)

What does really move our congressman to vote one way or another? To see the mail boxes labeled with different towns in Aderholt's district, each holding emails, letters, phone messages, made me think someone was paying attention to the "little people" back home. Each letter written is deemed to represent several like-minded, less motivated constituents. I wondered if our kind of hurried advocacy really works. However, face-to-face communication, or lobbying, is yet another dimension of persuasion. They and we both knew we were not only librarians but we were their constituents as well. A certain comfort level was felt as we approached the job of advocacy knowing that most elected officials and staff have good feelings about libraries. It was not as if we were from the tobacco or airline industry coming with controversial or emotion ridden requests.

We also knew that in the federal budget President Bush recommended a 15% increase in spending for libraries, so we had some solid backing. Communities and librarians owe some thanks to Mrs. Bush, a librarian who still heralds our efforts, for this good treatment. It has been proven that during times of an economic downturn that libraries are more meaningful and used more often.

It was a whirlwind learning experience and I was impressed by the helpfulness and knowledge of the ALA staffers, and I could see, first-hand, the value of having them in the capital where it is all happening. ALA has had an office in Washington since 1945 and established, in 2000, an Office of Government Relations and an Office of Information Technology Policy. Like job interviews or teaching a class, a person gets better in lobbying effectiveness with each successive try once knowing what to expect. It was good to have our academic libraries represented, as I was the only Alabama participant registered for the Sunday and Monday sessions. Illinois reportedly sent more than 50 people.

Continued on page 5

Call for Best Practices Program Proposals

Due to the success of previous Best Practices programs, AACRL and CUS will again sponsor programs that spotlight your "best practices" at the Alabama Library Association annual meeting in Montgomery. There will be three one-hour programs and the fourth program will be made up of mini-sessions (see description below). Use the enclosed form, or the form at <http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/annual.htm> to submit your program proposal.

AACRL/CUS Mini-Sessions will focus on low-cost or no-cost practical ideas that can be described in 10 minutes or less – sort of an aerobic approach to poster sessions without the hassle of posters!

How do Mini-Sessions work? Imagine a large room of large round tables with 10 seats each. At each table there is a number, a pile of handouts - and a smiling presenter already seated. You hold a sheet of paper with numbers corresponding to the tables, catchy titles (these are

professionals, after all, who know that a title is worth), and each presenter's name. Nothing more. No projectors, no Powerpoint, no slick presentations.

A bell rings. You make a mad dash, along with 200 other people, to the table whose title strikes you as something you needed yesterday. You grab a seat. The presenter gives a brief introduction, then begins a whirlwind description of one practical idea, program, or technique. Perhaps time for one question. The bell rings again. Everyone says thanks as they get up. You remember to grab one of those handouts so you can recall the idea when you get home.

You (and 200 others) head toward a new table whose title sounds good, and you dive into the last seat. Another 10 minute description. Repeat this four or five more times. By the end of the session, you'll have quite a few new ideas. Also, if you are quick, you will be able to talk to one or two of the presenters to whom you didn't



get to listen, at least to pick up their handouts.

If you have a short presentation on academic libraries – management tips, bibliographic instruction lessons, professional development ideas, home page designs, surveys, etc. -- and would like to share your ideas with others, please submit a Mini-Session proposal to Della Darby.

(Thanks to Bill Searle, Asnuntuck Community College)

Help Wanted

We are looking for someone to develop a web page, cyberguide, etc., about the AACRL workshop topic "Red, White, & You: The Patriot Librarian in Today's Information Environment". The site or guide could be posted on the AACRL web site or your own (depending on your preferences and institutional requirements).

Anyone who is interested please email Debbie Grimes at dgrimes@sheltonstate.edu for more details on the workshop topics.



Call for Historical Research Papers

The ALLA Ad-Hoc Centennial Papers Committee seeks historical papers on Alabama libraries in commemoration of the centennial celebration of the founding of the Alabama Library Association (1904-2004). Papers must be original, unpublished, and of significance to the recorded history of libraries in the state. One award will be given for the paper which best meets the criteria stated in the Call for Historical Papers. The chosen paper will be presented at the 2004 ALLA Convention.

Any member of the Alabama Library Association (including student members) is eligible.

Abstracts of the papers are due (about 500 words) September 15, 2003. The author's name should not appear on the abstract. Send together with a one-page vita of the writer. December 6, 2003, complete papers are due for writers who are selected to submit papers following

the review of abstracts. Format instructions will be sent with notification of acceptance.

Selection Criteria:

- Potential significance to the recorded history of Alabama libraries
- Validity of the research and documentation
- Topical originality
- Clarity and completeness of the abstract

One paper will be recognized with a cash prize to be awarded at the 2004 ALLA Annual Convention. For information or to submit abstracts and brief vita, contact:

Lori Northrup, Chair
Centennial Papers Committee
Samford University Library
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229
Tel.: (205) 726-2079
FAX: (205) 726-2648
E-mail: lanorthr@samford.edu

New Members

Rickey D. Best, Dean, Auburn University at Montgomery

Brian D. Webb, Social Sciences Librarian, Troy State University

Treasurer's Report

On April 30, 2003 the balance in the AACRL bank account was \$6,700.04. Since April three checks totaling \$627.67 have cleared. There have been two new three-year memberships for a deposit of \$36.00. Interest earned since the end of April totals \$2.61.

As of June 30, 2003 the balance in the AACRL bank account is \$6,110.98.

Kate W. Ragsdale
AACRL Treasurer
June 30, 2003

Legislative Day, *cont.*

There is no doubt that federal and state government actions can have a real impact on the ability of libraries to serve and protect their communities. Our contributions as librarians to learning, teaching and research can be enhanced or diminished by public policy decisions, so we must remain vigilant. Help in keeping informed is available at the ALA Washington Office website (www.ala.com/wash). Write, e-mail or fax your congressman, make yourself heard and make yourself count.

Washington is a vibrant and beautiful city though hampered by construction and all the trappings of security. I kept hoping to see just one senator or representative from our state or someone recognized from TV, but saw none, so presumably they all were in committee meetings. The halls of the Senate and House office buildings were quite impressive as were my three days in our nation's capital.

I want to thank the executive council of the Alabama chapter of ACRL for sponsoring me and giving me this opportunity to be a voice for Alabama's academic libraries during National Library Legislative Day.

— Suzanne Peterson
Samford University Library

AACRL Liaisons

Athens State University
Dr. Robert Burkhardt
Air University/Maxwell AFB
Dr. Shirley Laseter
Alabama A&M University
Information not available
Alabama Dept. Archives & History
Ed Bridges
Alabama Public Library Service
Alice Stephens
Alabama Southern Community College
Angela Roberts
Alabama State University
Dr. Janice Franklin
Auburn University Montgomery
Barbara Dekle
Auburn University
Marcus Kieltyka
Ayers State Technical College
Tom Humphrey
Bessemer State Technical College
Diane Gregg
Bevill State Community College (Fayette)
Sally Middleton
Birmingham-Southern College
Billy Pennington
Bishop State Community College
Robert Parker
Calhoun State Community College
Lucinda Beddow
Central Alabama Community College
Gerson Miles
Chattahoochee Valley St. Comm. College
Leard Daughety
Concordia College - Selma
Information not available
Drake State Technical College
Kathryn Neal
EBSCO Information Services
Information not available
Enterprise State Junior College
Susan Sumblin
Faulkner State Community College
Rheena Elmore
Faulkner State University
Brenda Turner
Gadsden State Community College
Mary Cooper
Huntingdon College
Flora Reese
Jacksonville State University
Sonja McAbee
Jefferson Davis State Community College
Jeffrey Faust
Jefferson State Community College
Bill Buchanan
Judson College
Kerry Douglas
Lawson State Community College
Barbara Greene
Lurleen B. Wallace State Jr. College
Mary Beth Green

MacArthur State Tech. College
Bill Niblett
Miles College
Information not available
Northeast Alabama State Comm. College
Arlen Grede
Northwest-Shoals State Community College
Rachel Hogan Trapp
Oakwood College
Janneth Lewis
Samford University
Thomas (Tom) E. Skinner
Shelton State Community College
Debbie Grimes
Snead State Community College
Carol Parham
Southeastern Bible College
Information not available
Southern Christian University
Information not available
Southern Union State Community College
Kathy Reynolds
Spring Hill College
Alice Harrison-Bahr
Stillman College
Information not available
Talladega College
Information not available
Trenholm State Technical College
Zenobia Blackmon
Troy State University
Dr. Henry Stewart
Tuskegee University
Juanita Roberts
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Delores Carlito
University of Alabama at Huntsville
Dr. Wilson Luquire
University of Alabama
Anne Edwards
University of Mobile
Jeff Calametti
University of Montevallo
Kathy Barone
University of North Alabama
Celia Reynolds
University of South Alabama
Vera Finley
University of West Alabama (UWA)
Neil Snider
Wallace State Community College/Dothan
Mike Grantham
Wallace State Community College/Dothan/
Alabama Aviation Technology Campus
Megan Johnson
Wallace State Comm. College/Hanceville
Bill Simpson
Wallace State Community College/Selma
Hallie Jordan Perry

If you have corrections or additions for this list, please send them to Kathy Barone at baronek@montevallo.edu

Is the date on your address label 12/02?

DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR LAST AACRL
NEWSLETTER. USE THE FORM AT
<http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/memb.htm>
TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



AACRL Newsletter
Della Darby, Editor
University Library
Samford University
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229

**AACRL/CUS
Convention Program Proposal**

Presenter (s) _____

Contact Info _____

Title / Topic of Presentation _____

Description _____

Equipment Needed _____

Audience _____

Full Session _____ Mini Session _____

Preferred Date: _____ Wednesday, April 21
_____ Thursday, April 22

Please send the completed form by November 1, 2003 to:
Della H. Darby
Samford University Library
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229
dhdarby@Samford.edu