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From the President

It is a great honor to serve as the incoming president of our professional organization AACRL. This organization has the potential to make a major impact on the profession and also assist in shaping policies and practices of vital interest within higher education. As I take office, I will become the first person of color and the first African-American to have the honor to serve as president of AACRL. I am proud that my peers believe that I am deserving of the privilege and capable of serving the profession. But my message is less about me and who I am and more about what I want to see us do this year.

I do not take the responsibility of being your president lightly. For several months now, I have thought about how we can improve the association and how we can get the members involved. I need your help in shaping and implementing strategic plans for 2015-2016. If you have ideas that you would like to share, please share them and we will present them at the executive committee meetings as action items.

ACRL's Plan for Excellence continues that path and focuses attention on three areas that capitalize on our strengths, deliver high member value, and heighten our impact:

- Value of Academic Libraries
- Student Learning
- Research Scholarly Environment

Luke 12:48 says, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded, and from the one who has been entrusted with much, more will be asked." To be involved is not a right. It is a privilege. Along with this privilege, comes a moral obligation to ensure all of our members have opportunity to serve and be served.

I encourage you to get involved with the professional organization, to lead by example, and adopt applicable recommendations. It is of paramount that we make our voices heard within the national organization. We need our members to become actively involved within the association by assuming leadership roles. Membership is the life blood of any organization. We need focus on recruiting new members and retention of existing members. Also, it is important that we develop programs and professional development opportunities that are interesting to the membership.

Finally, I hope you will join me in working to increase the awareness and relevance of academic research to all members.

Tyrone Webb
AACRL President

From the Past President

As the Past President of AACRL, I look back at my time in office with fondness. During this period, we were able to offer members and non-members some fantastic training both at the Alabama Library Convention but also virtually, all free of charge. The virtual training, specifically, allowed AACRL to establish a connection with the School of Library & Information Studies at the University of Alabama, a partnership we hope to continue to help promote and recruit future members from the library program.

As part of my mission to increase the membership in this fantastic association, I worked with the Treasurer and Webmaster to set up electronic registration. While this hasn't been activated yet, hopefully, it will be set up soon.

It has been a great honor to serve as President of AACRL and going forward, I hope to continue to serve not only the association but all Alabama academic libraries.

Jessica Hayes
AACRL Past President

Treasurer's Report

As reported on the Treasurer's Report at the Annual Business Meeting at the Alabama Library Association Convention on April 6, 2015, the balance for the AACRL's banking account was \$3,661.86.

Since then the previous Treasurer made six deposits totaling \$140.00 and three disbursements for a total of \$2,204.61 to cover conference/National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) expenses. These expenses include \$586.00 for the caterer and facilities, \$50.25 for the award plaque and \$568.36 for the speaker's travel expenses. A check for \$1,000.00 was written for NLLD expenses. Our current balance is \$1,597.25.

We currently have 43 members in good standing, including one student and one paraprofessional member.

AACRL tax exempt status was renewed on February 12, 2015.

Debbie Cobb
AACRL Treasurer

Get Involved with AACRL

Looking for a way to get involved with AACRL?

We are looking for committee chairs and members for the following committees:
Awards, By-Laws, Continuing Education & Training, Government Relations,
Membership, Nominating, and Program

If you are interested, please contact Tyrone Webb at twebb@bscc.edu.

Legislative Issues

This past May (4th & 5th), Nancy Pack (APLS director) and I represented Alabama at National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) in Washington, D.C.

The two-day event began on Monday with ALA's briefing day. This is ALA's opportunity to bring delegates up-to-speed on those national legislative issues the ALA Washington Office has identified as most important. Some issues may be of primary relevance to school libraries, public libraries, or academic libraries, but there are also those issues that have impact on the entire library community. ALA also uses this day to provide tips on how to best utilize your time during your Hill visits and how to stay in touch with congressional representatives after returning home.

Tuesday is the day for walking the Hill visiting congressional offices. Dr. Pack and I were able to meet with the majority of Alabama's congressional offices, with the exception of Rep. Bradley Burns and Rep. Gary Palmer (though we did drop by these offices and speak briefly with staffers and leave information packets). For the first time in many years, we secured a meeting with Sen. Jeff Sessions' office. A word of thanks must go to Vanessa Carr at APLS for her work in scheduling our Hill visits. In all but one case (we did meet with Rep. Aderholt, as well as with a member of his staff), our visits were with staffers (which is not to be interpreted as a negative).

For any who have participated in NLLD, or in a similar event at the state level, you know that your time with a legislator and/or a staff member is limited, so you have to decide which legislative issues, pending or forthcoming, to best use your time addressing. During our visits with Alabama's congressional offices in the House, Dr. Pack and I focused on:

The Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR – H.R. 1477): FASTR would mandate that all federally funded research be made freely available within 60 days of its submission/publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The NIH already has a policy on this that can be adopted by other federal agencies. We expressed the library community position that research funded with federal dollars should not be hidden behind a pay-for-access firewall. Taxpayers have already paid once for this research - why should they have to pay a second time (either individually or more often by their libraries having to pay for it)?

Net Neutrality: We asked that our congressional representatives support the efforts of the FCC to ensure the "equitable free flow of information on the internet." ALA believes the FCC is on the right track and would not want to see its efforts weakened or legislated away.

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA): We asked that our representatives support funding the LSTA at \$186.6 million for FY2016. LSTA is the only federal funding program for libraries, and is a match-funding initiative. If libraries in Alabama were to lose LSTA funds, they would also lose the matching state funds - a double hit. In Alabama, the APLS distributes LSTA funding to the state's public libraries - many of which are in very rural areas. Dr. Pack provided an annual report that highlighted how well these funds are put to use for Alabama's citizens. For many Alabamians, their community libraries are their only access to the digital world, and Alabama libraries are making a special effort to reach out to returning veterans to assist with job training and general life adaptation.

Elementary and Secondary School Act (ESEA): We asked for support to ensure that school libraries and librarians are made an integral part of ESEA legislation by supporting H.R. 5, the Student Success Act of 2015, with wording reflective of Sen. Harry Reed's efforts in the Senate (his SKILLS Act amendment). The library community's position is that adequate school libraries with qualified school librarians are essential to K-12 education. Research continues to demonstrate that children who progress through K-12 schools with school libraries and school librarians perform better in college. As a college librarian, I spoke to this. School librarians help classroom teachers incorporate research and critical thinking skills into the curriculum -- two skills that employers in survey after survey have said are essential.

During our visits to Senate offices, Dr. Pack and I focused on:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Every Child Achieves Act of 2015: We advocated for language in this legislation that would recognize the important role school libraries and librarians have in K-12 education. Specifically, we asked for support for the amendment offered by Senator Reed that addresses this issue by incorporating parts of the SKILLS Act into Title II of the ESEA. Additionally, we asked for support for the Title V "Literacy and Arts Education" program that came out of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Regarding Section 215 of the U.S. Patriot Act, we asked for support from Senators Shelby and Sessions for the USA Freedom Act of 2015, which as it currently stood would move in the right direction in addressing privacy and civil liberty concerns that have existed since the initial passing of the Patriot Act. The USA Freedom Act held bipartisan support.

Lastly, we asked support for the Electronic Communication Privacy Act (S. 356) to further address privacy issues in citizens' digital lives. Perhaps few could have foreseen just how much of our lives would today be "lived" in digital space. This piece of legislation would "mandate that authorities obtain a probable cause-based judicially-issued search warrant to access the content of all forms of personal electronic communications."

How do we move forward? The Government Relations Committee of AACRL will continue to work with the Legislative Development Committee of ALLA to create an advocacy plan for next year both at the state and national levels. We will be considering not only the Alabama and National library legislative days, but also how to encourage year-round advocacy. One idea is that we offer advocacy training at the state level and for those attending organized legislative days, specific training on how to effectively engage legislators and legislative staffers during face-to-face meetings. How do you make the most effective use of limited time? How do you most effectively convey legislative concerns and advocate for or against specific pieces of legislation? How do you effectively use stories to convey your message? How do you effectively follow-up after visits and keep in contact with your representatives and their local and national offices? Stay tuned.

Eric A. Kidwell
AACRL Legislative Liaison

Sue O. Medina Award Winner: Eric Kidwell

I am pleased to announce that the 2015 recipient of the Sue O. Medina Significant Contribution Award is Eric Kidwell of Huntingdon College.

The following is the nomination letter:

Dear AACRL Executive Board:

It is my pleasure to nominate Eric Kidwell, director of the library at Huntingdon College, for the 2015 Sue O. Medina Significant Contribution Award. AACRL Executive Board members are very familiar with Eric's work as legislative liaison for AACRL. In this capacity he provides thorough updates regarding advocacy issues affecting libraries not just in Alabama but in the United States as a whole.

His contributions to academia extend beyond libraries, however. I strongly believe that librarian participation within the broader context of an institution of higher education benefits not only librarianship, but higher education as a whole. Eric has served in many roles at Huntingdon College outside the library, including roles with liberal arts symposia, first year experience programs, and the core curriculum. Currently, in addition to his role as director of the library, he serves as Title IX coordinator, a vital and very challenging role within education today.

Eric is generous in sharing his knowledge and experience. There are many examples of this but I will highlight two from my own experiences. The first is a presentation he gave at a virtual conference put on by Springshare, makers of LibGuides, in May 2013. The presentation's title was "Koalas, LibGuides and Chert, Oh My! Using LibGuides as an Alternative Student Research Assignment," and in it he discussed a collaboration with a chemistry professor on a study abroad trip to Australia. Students had a research assignment but instead of a traditional research paper, they created LibGuides. Like many librarians, I make a lot of LibGuides but had never considered how they might be used as a more interactive teaching and learning tool.

My second example concerns his experience. I arrived in Alabama a newly minted librarian in August 2007 and began as AACRL secretary in 2008. Since that time, I have peppered Eric with a stream of questions related to our profession and the library community in Alabama, and he has always been cordial and comprehensive in his answers. I am sure this experience has been shared by many other librarians.

For these reasons, and many left out of this letter, I believe that Eric is an excellent candidate for this award.

Editor's Note: The award winner was announced at the AACRL Annual Meeting during the 2015 ALLA Convention.

*Ellen Wilson
Marx Library
University of South Alabama*

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Do you have any great news you would like to share with the membership of AACRL?

A new job?

A new publication?

A recent presentation?

Let us know!

Submit your recent accomplishments to
Dusty Folds at dfolds@montevallo.edu
so they can be included in the next newsletter.

The AACRL Newsletter is published in the Fall, Winter, and Spring.

Current and past issues may be found at www.aacrl.org/newsletters.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

AACRL/CUS Best Practices

Alabama Library Association Convention 2016

AACRL is teaming up with the College, University, and Special Libraries (CUS) division of ALLA to present several best practice mini-sessions at ALLA 2016. If you are interested in proposing a topic for one of these mini-sessions (approximately fifteen minutes), please contact AACRL Vice-President/President-Elect Rickey Best at rbest@aum.edu.

Deadline for mini-session proposals: October 16, 2015

OR

If you are interested in proposing your own program, you may do so at www.gadsdenlibrary.org/alla/programs.html. If you have any questions about completing this form or about the conference, please contact Chief Programming Officer Carol Roark Wright at carol@gadsdenlibrary.org.

Deadline for program proposals: September 18, 2015

ALLA 2016 will be held April 12 - 15, 2016 in Gadsden, AL

This year's theme is

Libraries ImPOSSIBLE: Beyond the Bounds of Protocol