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From the President

On all our campuses, summer is winding down, and we're gearing up for a new academic year. It's a new year for AACRL, too, and I'm excited about working with the new Executive Board this year to bring you some exciting projects. Serving with me this year are Tim Dodge, Vice President/President-Elect; Susan Herring, Treasurer; Lori Northrup, Secretary; Alyssa Martin, Member at Large; and Robert Schrimsher, Past President. Eric Kidwell continues as our Legislative Liaison. Jill Grogg edits the newsletter, and Beth Ashmore serves as our webmaster.

We're coming off a successful year for AACRL. We again worked with ALLACUS to co-sponsor a number of successful programs during the 2007 Alabama Library Association Annual Convention in Mobile. As has become our practice in recent years, these sessions focused on best practices from around the state. Thanks to all of you who presented, and special thanks to Beth Ashmore for coordinating our sessions.

The Mobile conference also included our annual business meeting and dinner, which featured Kate Nevins, Executive Director of SOLINET, as our speaker. Attendance at the dinner was great, and Kate shared with us some of her thoughts about what Academic Library 2.0 will be.

Thanks to all of you who attended and put up with a facility that was a bit crowded and a bit warm. I hope Kate's remarks got you thinking about how our libraries are evolving and that you, like me, will want to continue that discussion during the coming year.

Special thanks also to Jennifer Long, who ended her three-year commitment as President-Elect, President, and Past-President; to Robert Schrimsher for his leadership as AACRL President last year; and to Bethany Latham, who finished her two-year term as Treasurer last spring. AACRL's strength is its members. Let us hear from you!

Rosemary Arneson, AACRL President

Nominations Sought for AACRL Positions

Consider becoming more active in AACRL by running for an officer position.

In spring 2008, AACRL will elect a Vice-President/President-Elect, a Secretary, and a new Member-at-Large/ACRL Chapter Liaison.

With these three positions becoming vacant, there is an abundance of opportunities to serve. Serving as an officer in the AACRL can be of benefit not only to yourself, but to your academic organization. According to the AACRL bylaws available on the AACRL Web site at <http://www.aacrl.org/bylaws/bylaw2005.pdf>, "The Vice

President/President Elect shall serve a one-year term as Vice President/President-Elect, a second one-year term as President, and a third one-year term as Past President. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large shall each serve one two-year term, the terms of the Secretary and Member-at-Large shall be staggered with that of the Treasurer."

Nominees must be current members of (or be willing to join) both AACRL and ACRL. Self-nominations are welcome. Please send nominations and/or inquires to Bob Schrimsher, AACRL Past President, at rhschrim@samford.edu.

National Library Legislative Day a Great Experience

I think I have always been a library advocate, in my own quiet way, talking about the library and its importance on Samford's campus, and when I worked in public libraries, to my constituents and stakeholders. But I never took advocating to the next level by contacting legislators and staying on top of current legislative events. After the first day of the American Library Association's Legislative Day 2007 events, that was all about to change.

Here's a story I heard at the Monday afternoon pre-conference for Leg. Day 2007, "Introduction to National Library Legislative Day: Why Your Participation is Important; What to Do and How to Do It." The speaker on Monday afternoon was Stephanie Vance, an advocacy guru working for Advanced Associates, LLC. Stephanie was at one time an office manager for a congressman. She related that on one occasion, the decision to be in favor of a particular piece of legislation was based on letters from the congressman's constituency. Not unusual, until you learn that three letters were the reason for the change. Three personal stories about the impact of the proposed legislation made the difference to this representative. That's impact. And she could relate other instances in which similar letter-writing efforts had great effect.

The pre-conference was mostly a pep talk, but it did make me feel more comfortable about where I was, what I was doing, and the possible impact we could have. My co-advocate, Jane Garrett, was also very reassuring, though for each of us, this was our first trip to Legislative Day. After hearing Stephanie's stories and her pep talk, we left the Washington office feeling energized.

Stephanie's story really changed my outlook from one of "Will I really have an effect?" to "I've got to present a personalized message so it will be heard." Jane and I had a formidable task on Wednesday; we were to meet with nine congressional offices in the course of the day. Tuesday, briefing day, would be very important.

Briefing Day, held at the Holiday Inn

on the Hill, was like a mini-conference, packed with speakers and overflowing with useful information. We heard from Leslie Burger, ALA president; Thomas Blanton, director of the National Security Archive; and many other specialists on particular issues the U.S. Congress would be discussing in the near future, or were already debating. We learned about telecommunications and internet issues, privacy, the PATRIOT Act, copyright, and open access to government information. Of particular interest were appropriations for LSTA, Improving Literacy Through School Libraries, No

"I now knew the numbers of resolutions and bills in the House and Senate. And I knew about the impact my voice could have."

Child Left Behind, the Librarian Act of 2007, E-rate and Anti-Deficiency, network neutrality, broadband deployment, DOPA, the Fair Use Act of 2007, access to federally funded research, the REAL ID Act, and abuses of national security letters by the FBI. Senate and House resolutions for each of these issues were either on the table or on the horizon, and experts briefed us on each of them. At lunch I attended ACRL's Legislative Luncheon, with George Mehaffy as speaker. He spoke on civic engagement and the responsibility of higher education institutions to develop civic mindfulness in their students.

Jane and I agreed to meet to hone our messages and to divide our topics. She would take issues more important to public libraries, and I would focus on those of particular import to academic libraries. We both felt at the end of the day on Tuesday that this was something we should have done before we ever came to Washington. We met and worked on our messages, then went to get a good night's sleep.

We did visit nine congressional offices on Wednesday. Rebecca Mitchell, director of the Alabama Public Library Service and Alabama's chair for Legislative Day, and her office did wonderful planning before we left, spacing our office visits to allow us time to walk, not run, between them, and planning them so that we could move through the House and Senate buildings in order. Wednesday would have been a nightmare without this conscientious scheduling.

We met, in all cases but two, with staff members, whose level of interest in us and our messages varied from office to office. All staff members were very polite, however, and took notes for their representatives with care and attention to detail. The two representatives we met with, Robert Aderholt and Mike Rogers, were very kind to take a few minutes from their schedules for us. Meetings typically lasted about 15 minutes; then we were off to the next office, which was at least several corridors away. Because our appointments with the congressional offices had already been made, we only had to arrive on time with our messages and materials in tow. For each representative, we were carrying a packet of issue briefs that we could leave in their offices as well as a copy of the new literary map of Alabama.

At the end of the day on Wednesday, with very sore feet, but a definite feeling of accomplishment, we left the last office. We had been able all day to discuss bills and legislation intelligently after our briefing and study, and we felt we had been heard. Legislative Day 2007 was over, but it was hard to let go of the issues. One of the speakers on Tuesday warned us that this event was only the beginning, and that the real good we could do after the trip would be in staying in touch with the contacts we had made, keeping up to date on issues, and writing our representatives often. Each office visit had resulted in business cards and contacts. I now knew the numbers of resolutions and bills in

"Legislative Day,"
continued on page 4

Legislative Report Focuses on NIH Policy, Other Issues

Many of you no doubt saw the recent e-mails sent out by Tim Dodge, on behalf of the Alabama Library Association, and Sue Medina of NAAL regarding the federal legislation centering on the National Institute of Health's (NIH) Public Access Policy. In summary, there is pending (at this time of this writing) legislation that would require NIH-funded researchers to deposit copies of their NIH-funded research into the online archive of the National Library of Medicine. The current NIH policy is voluntary. As a result, it is estimated that only about five percent of taxpayer-funded scientific research is being deposited. With AACRL Board approval, I submitted a letter to our Alabama U.S. senators and several Alabama members of the U.S. House of Representatives requesting their support of the new legislation.

In other legislative news, ALA is urging support of \$19.1 million for the National Library Service (NLS, a division of LC) to be used toward a four-year project to move the talking book format from 4-track cassette to digital (USB) flash memory. The NLS has estimated that the total four-year cost of this project will be \$76.4 million. However, in the House only \$7.5 million had been budgeted by the Legislative Branch Subcommittee for the new fiscal year. This was later amended by the Appropriations Committee and increased to \$12.5 million, but these funds were taken from the GPO budget. Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA) offered an amendment for the entire \$19.1 million to be taken from the Architect of the

Capitol budget.

ALA makes the point that not only is the NLS project important to over 750,000 people in this country who rely upon this service for their reading material, but there is the now added consideration of American service personnel who have returned and will continue to return from Iraq and Afghanistan with this same need.

ALA has just reported that "(o)n July 27, the U.S. Senate adopted an amendment to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriations bill that prohibits funding national identification cards and at the same time rejected an amendment that would have provided \$300 million for REAL ID."

On July 26, ALA reported that "... bipartisan legislation was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that will provide crucial checks against the National Security Letters (NSLs) authority expanded under the USA PATRIOT Act, which has impacted numerous library patrons across the country.

At an event in the Cannon House Office Building, the National Security Letters Reform Act of 2007 was introduced by Reps. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Jeff Flake (R-AZ), William Delahunt (D-MA), and Ron Paul (R-TX)."

Rep. Jerrold Nadler is quoted as saying, "Concern for our fundamental liberties is not a partisan issue ... The National Security Letters Reform Act of 2007 protects Americans against unnecessary intrusion into their private lives, and more importantly, prevents

abuse of power by the government. We need to bring the NSL Authority in line with the Constitution, enhance checks and balances, and, in doing so, better protect our national security."

ALA believes that the National Security Letters Reform Act "... would address many of the abuses disclosed by the Justice Department's Inspector General in an internal FBI audit from March 2007." And provides the following four advancements that would be made with this new legislation:

- o Give an NSL recipient the right to challenge the letter and its nondisclosure requirement;
- o Place a time limit on the NSL gag order and allow for court approved extensions;
- o Give notice to the target of an NSL if the government seeks to use the records obtained from the NSL in a subsequent proceeding; and
- o Give the target an opportunity to receive legal counsel and challenge the use of those records.

On a more lighthearted note, during "Library Day on the Hill," representatives and senators were encouraged to sign up for their own READ posters. While many responded enthusiastically, ALA would like to see more of our federal legislators take advantage of this opportunity. According to the list on the ALA Washington Office's website, no U.S. representatives or senators from Alabama have signed up to have their READ posters made.

Eric A. Kidwell
AACRL Legislative Liaison

"Legislative Day,"

continued from page 3

the House and Senate. And I knew about the impact my voice could have.

That's why, these days, I read those e-mails from Tim Dodge much more closely. I've visited the website ALA provides for issues and advocacy: <http://www.capwiz.com/ala/home/>. I've written my representative, and I've contacted some of the staff people I met in Washington.

These are little ways to stay involved in legislative issues, and to make my voice heard. I really enjoyed this opportunity, and I think it has had a significant impact on my way of thinking about politics and library issues. Thank you for the chance to attend ALA Legislative Day 2007.

Lori Northrup,
Reference Department Coordinator,
Samford University Library

AACRL Newsletter Editor Needed!

AACRL is seeking a new newsletter editor to assume duties after the April 2008 annual meeting. If you are interested, please contact Jill Grogg at 205-348-7994 or jgrogg@ua.edu.

News from the Membership

Congratulations to **Angie Barry**, Public Services Librarian at Faulkner University. She was married on June 30, 2007. So when you see the name Angie Moore, (in relation to Gus Nichols Library), you'll know who it is! Her new e-mail address is almoore@faulkner.edu.

Jo Anne Bryant, English Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication and Fine Arts, Troy University – Montgomery Campus; **Alyssa Martin**, ILL/Reference Librarian, Rosa Parks Library, Troy University – Montgomery Campus; and **Jana Slay**, Head of Technical Services, University Library, Troy University recently published an article, "Partners with a Vision: Librarians and Faculty Collaborate to Develop a Library Orientation Program at a Non-Traditional Campus," in *The Southeastern Librarian*, volume 55, number 1, Spring 2007.

Effective July 1, 2007, **Harold Goss** accepted the position of Reference and Instruction Librarian at Samford University Library. Harold has been most recently a Reference Librarian specializing in web services and outreach at Samford.

Effective July 1, 2007, **Cheryl Cecil** has been named chair of the Circulation Department at the Samford University Library. Cheryl has a B.M. from Samford University and a M.L.I.S. from the University of Alabama. She has previously served the Samford University Library as Circulation/Night Manager, Interlibrary Loan/Resource Retrieval Assistant, and most recently as Reference/Instruction Librarian.

Welcome New Members!

Rickie Louise Brunner, Senior Archivist, Alabama Department of Archives and History

John T. Gantt, Cataloging Librarian, Auburn University

Mildred L. Jackson, Associate Dean for Collections, The University of Alabama Libraries

Muriel K. Wells, School of Library and Information Studies student, University of Alabama

Robbin Glaser, Technical Services Librarian, Troy University, Dothan, recently published an article, "To Classify or Alphabetize: The Arrangement of Print Periodicals in Academic Libraries," in *Serials Review*, volume 33, number 2, June 2007.

Lisa Ennis, the Systems Librarian at the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences at UAB, recently published a new book, *Government Documents Librarianship: A Guide for the Neo-Depository Era* (Information Today, 2007).

At the 2007 Alabama Library Association Convention in Mobile, **Eric Kidwell** received ALLA's Intellectual Freedom Award. He was completing his second year co-chairing the state IF committee with Annie Brown (of APLS).

In July 2007, **Eric Kidwell** presented "The Evolution of a First-Year Experience Program: Balancing Academic Need with Fiscal Reality" at the 20th International First-Year Experience Conference held in Hawaii.

Jill Grogg, Electronic Resources Librarian at the UA Libraries and adjunct instructor for the UA School of Library and Information Studies, has been named a 2007 *Library Journal* "Mover & Shaker." Each year, *Library Journal* chooses approximately 50 librarians from across the United States to profile in a special March supplement that is sent to members of Congress, governors and mayors nationwide as a way to garner more financial support for librarians and libraries.

Nominations Sought for AACRL Award

Nominate an outstanding colleague or group for the AACRL Significant Contribution Award. This is your chance to accent an individual (or group) that is past due for recognition.

The purpose of this award is explained on the AACRL website, <http://www.aacrl.org/awards>. Basically, the award recognizes achievements and contributions in the area of college and research libraries on the local, state, regional, national or international level.

One of the good features about the award is that one does not have to be a librarian to win it. Nominees can be paraprofessionals or even students enrolled in graduate library programs who work or reside in Alabama and who are associated with college, university, or research libraries. Furthermore, the award is available to both individuals and organizations or even vendors.

The winner(s) will be announced at the AACRL annual meeting in April and will be presented a framed certificate. The deadline for submitting nominations is January 15, 2008. Email or mail a one-page nomination letter with the name and contact information of the nominee (or group) and description of their achievements to:

Bob Schrimsher
AACRL Past President
Samford University
McWhorter School of Pharmacy
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229
rhschrim@samford.edu

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Librarians Share Best Practices

Once again, AACRL and CUS enjoyed four strong Best Practices presentations at the 2007 Alabama Library Association Annual Convention. With topics that ranged from student preferences for library instruction to LibQual+ data in action to art galleries in libraries, each session drew an excellent crowd and offered a glimpse of some of the incredible work that is being done in libraries across the state. In addition to attracting members of the academic library community, many topics also found cross-over audiences in the public and school librarian sectors as well.

If you were unable to attend any or all of the sessions in April 2007, visit the annual meeting webpage at <http://www.aacrl.org/annual/> to see handouts and presentation slides from the 2007 programs as well as from previous years.

Looking at the programs from years past, it is easy to see the real talent and innovation that is going on in the Alabama library community and has been for some time. The topics covered by these sessions are similar to

topics presented at many regional and national conferences and evidence of the Alabama library community's effort to stay abreast of the changes the library profession is undergoing. The Best Practices programs are a necessary opportunity for the academic library community in Alabama to get together and share their successes and failures, their newest ideas and most necessary re-organizations. Learning from each other's experiences gives us all a leg up in this ever-changing world.

So, what is your library doing well? What terrifying task has your library recently conquered? How has your library MacGyvered together a creative solution with a chewing gum wrapper and some duct tape? Your fellow librarians want to know! Look for our call for program proposals in the December 2007 AACRL Newsletter and on the AACRL listserv and website. Remember, presenting looks great on your resume and gives you a chance to support the rest of Alabama academic library community.

Beth Ashmore, AACRL Webmaster

Treasurer's Report

On April 16, 2007, the AACRL account balance was \$6,853.92. Since then, deposits of \$18.00 (dues) and \$90.00 (annual dinner registration) have been made. Disbursements of \$1,151.43 (for the annual dinner) have been made, and \$2.89 in interest has accrued. The account balance, as of August 1, 2007, now stands at \$5,813.38.

Susan D. Herring, AACRL Treasurer

Have you seen the AACRL Web Site Lately?

The AACRL web site is chock full of information about our organization, including links to:

- ☞ relevant forms (such as membership forms);
- ☞ awards information (such as previous winners and current nomination instructions);
- ☞ current and consistently updated calendars;
- ☞ news about upcoming events (such as workshops);
- ☞ current and past newsletters;
- ☞ minutes, bylaws and much more.

Make the AACRL web site one of your favorites today! Go to:
<http://www.aacrl.org>.

"Chapters Council,"

continued from back cover

opportunities for ACRL members including online seminars delivered through WebCT and Live Webcasts through an online classroom. Registration for all ACRL E-Learning opens approximately one month prior to seminar/Webcast start dates. For more information, including how to subscribe to ACRL's E-learning RSS feed, go to the ACRL website: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlproftools/elearning.cfm>.

Government & legislative update

Kara Malenfant appealed to individual chapter members to get in touch with their member(s) of congress to advocate for changes in the National Institute of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy for taxpayer-funded research. She urged grassroots advocacy at the local level to support changes in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy, requiring NIH-funded researchers to deposit copies of NIH-funded research into the online archive of the National Library of Medicine.

ACRL's Campus Advocacy Initiative

ACRL has focused special attention on advocacy efforts to increase recognition of the value of libraries and librarians. Barbara Jenkins, representative for the ULS, spoke enthusiastically about ACRL's Campus Advocacy Initiative, intended to strengthen the role of libraries on campus.

ACRL chapters are invited to apply for funding to support advocacy programming. For 2007/2008, ACRL has allocated \$7,000 for partial funding for chapter programming that focuses on campus advocacy issues. Fourteen chapters are eligible to receive up to \$500.00 toward each program. The deadline is August 15, 2007.

Election & next meeting

Kevin Meriman was elected Chair Elect and Judith Pinnolis was elected ACRL Secretary. The chapter's council will meet again during the 2008 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia.

*Alyssa Martin
ACRL Chapter Liaison*

Changes, E-Learning Highlight ACRL Chapters Council

The annual meeting of the ACRL Chapters Council was held on Sunday, June 24 at the 2007 American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Alyssa Martin and Tim Dodge represented the Alabama Chapter of ACRL. The council heard reports from Pamela Snelson, ACRL President; Mary Ellen Davis, Executive Director; Kara Malenfant, Government Relations; and University Library Section (ULS) representative, Barbara Jenkins. Some of the topics discussed included ACRL structure changes, ACRL e-learning opportunities, government and legislative updates, and ACRL's Campus Advocacy Initiative.

ACRL structure changes

Pamela Snelson discussed ACRL proposed structure changes. These changes include creating interest groups to encourage member involvement and exchange ideas, changing the bylaws to allow the ACRL board more authority,

and revising the leadership recruitment and nominations process.

Interest groups offer ACRL members an opportunity to become involved in areas of ACRL that reflect their interests. The interest groups facilitate exchange of ideas and experiences that may sponsor formal conference programs, institutes and seminars, or prepare publications. It is expected that the creation of interest groups will expand opportunities for member involvement and facilitate the work of ACRL member units.

According to Snelson, changing the bylaws to allow the ACRL board more authority is a good idea because it would give the board more flexibility, particularly when it comes to dues. For example, the board would not have to go before the entire ALA membership and wait for approval to raise or lower dues if these bylaw changes are approved.

ACRL is still working on revising the leadership recruitment and nomina-

tions process. It has been recommended that the ACRL board be more knowledge-based. ACRL's goal is to have a board that has expertise and experience in areas that are crucial to the future of ACRL. In light of that goal, the ACRL Board Directors will be nominated by a nominating committee composed of representatives from the sections and councils within ACRL. According to Snelson, these procedural changes will happen in 2009 when the ACRL Chapters Council will pick someone to go to the larger nominating committee, not as advocate for a particular chapter, but as an information conduit for the entire ACRL body.

ACRL e-learning opportunities

Mary Ellen Davis mentioned the expansion of ACRL's e-learning program which offers online learning

"Chapters Council,"
continued on page 5

AACRL Newsletter

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