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From the President

I would like to give a sincere "Thank You" to our past Executive Board members for their commitment to and hard work for AACRL. Rickey Best (Past President) – his last name says it all! Rickey is a dedicated leader who was willing to go beyond the norm to share information and communicate well with the Board members. Tim Dodge (Past President), a librarian who can make By-Laws information sound exciting. He is greatly appreciated. Muriel Wells (Treasurer) stepped in this office with both feet, ready to work. Ellen Wilson (Secretary) offered attention to details and provided the Association's minutes in a timely manner. Eric A. Kidwell (Legislative Liaison) serves as a devoted advocate and communicator of legislative news and how it concerns the AACRL. Mildred Jackson (Member-at-Large), for her willingness to serve and suggestions to improve the Association. Kathy Wheeler (Newsletter Editor), configuring the AACRL newsletter takes fortitude and great time management skills. Jason Battles (Webmaster) has kept the AACRL webpage up-to-date and organized. Thank you all for volunteering your talents and skills to the AACRL.

Congratulations to our newly elected Board members, Lori A. Northrup (Vice-President/President Elect) and Yingqi Tang (Member-at-Large/ACRL Chapter Liaison). I look forward to working with you all. Lori has already begun gathering names of potential speakers for the 2011 Annual Meeting.

On April 14th, the annual meeting and dinner took place at Terranova's Restaurant in Huntsville, AL. I hope everyone enjoyed their dinner; I certainly had a wonderful evening. Thank you all for attending. Nearly 30 members joined us. Our speaker, Dr. Jerry Stephens, was informative and direct. His straightforward approach to sensitive library budget issues during a down economy was refreshing and appreciated. Thank you, Dr. Stephens.

The ACRL 2011 National Conference theme, "A Declaration of Interdependence," reflects the idea that in order to be successful, libraries must cooperate with each other and interconnect with their campus communities. I also think the academic library should connect with the campus community and beyond. Academic libraries may serve as an awesome marketing tool for their colleges or universities. By collaborating with the general community, academic libraries may highlight the benefits of their institutions as well as librarianship. I invite you to email me at cvann@jsu.edu with new ideas to help librarians engage in creative teaching and learning in our academic libraries.

*Charlcie Pettway Vann
AACRL President*

AACRL Members Visit Congressional Legislative Staff

On Tuesday, June 29th, members of AACRL visited Alabama congressional offices as a part of National Library Advocacy Day. Dr. Henry Stewart of Troy University and Mr. Eric A. Kidwell of Huntingdon College led groups of librarians on visits to congressional offices to discuss with staffers legislation which affects libraries and library services.

Mr. Kidwell and Mr. Best met with Bojoon Suh (Joon), legislative correspondent for Representative Artur Davis (Alabama's 7th Congressional District); with Forrest McConnell, the Education Liaison for Representative Mike Rogers, as well as with Rep. Rogers himself (Alabama's 3rd Congressional District); and with Jackie Kanatzar, the Education Liaison from Senator Richard Shelby's office. Among the issues discussed were the necessity of passing the Library Services and Technology Act, future revisions to Section 215 of the Patriot Act, including school libraries in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the value and necessity of providing open access to federally funded research.

The Congressional staff and Congressman Rogers asked some excellent questions relating to the value of libraries, and we hope our responses will result in increased support for issues important to libraries from the Alabama Congressional delegation.

After the visits on the Hill, Mr. Kidwell and Mr. Best discussed how the Alabama Library Association and AACRL could help encourage more librarians to become actively involved in advocating legislatively for libraries and their users. Strategy sessions for members of the Alabama delegation held prior to annual ALA Legislative Day and coordination of the work done by the ALLA Legislative Development Committee and the AACRL Government Relations Committee are two thoughts we believe warrant further investigation. If you would be interested in serving on the AACRL Government Relations

Committee, contact the AACRL Legislative Liaison:

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Rickey Best
Auburn University Montgomery

Eric A. Kidwell
Huntingdon College

Treasurer's Report June 30, 2010

The Account balance as of February 28, 2010, stood at \$5633.04. Since that time deposits of \$480 have been made, and \$2.47 in interest has accrued.

Disbursements of \$549.80 have been made covering the annual dinner and award expenses.

The account balance as of June 30, 2010 was \$5565.71.

Muriel K. Wells
AACRL Treasurer

Call for AACRL/CUS Best Practices Sessions

AACRL/CUS is searching for presenters for Best Practices sessions at next year's Alabama Library Association conference at Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, AL, to be held April 19-22, 2011.

If you are interested, please send an abstract by September 15th. to:

Christopher Shaffer
Director of Library Services
500 University Drive
Troy University Dothan
Dothan, AL 36303
shafferc@troy.edu

The complete Call for Presenters can be found here:

<http://www.beyondthejob.org/?p=2380>

Christopher Shaffer
Troy University Dothan

Significant Contribution Award

Dr. Tim Dodge presented the AACRL Career Significant Contributions Award to Sue Medina. Also, the newly renamed Sue O. Medina Award for Significant Contribution was presented to Aaron Trehub.

Congratulations to you both; the AACRL appreciates your commitment and dedication to the Association and to the field of Library and Information Services.

Charlcie Pettway Vann
AACRL President

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AACRL Chapters Council Activities

The ACRL Chapters Council met on Sunday, June 27, 2010. Chair Judith Pinnolis began by welcoming members and discussing the importance of the role Chapters Council plays in communicating with the ACRL Board and advocating for local chapter needs. Pinnolis also noted the role of Chapters Council in making nominations for At-Large representatives to the Board. Chapters Council will make recommendations for two At-Large positions during the coming year.

Pinnolis reminded members of the need to file annual reports and encouraged chapters to apply for funding. Chapters are allocated \$1.00 per member who is also a member of ACRL national, but chapters are not requesting and expending all of the funds they are entitled to. Pinnolis was asked how the annual reports were used by ACRL. It was decided to ask ACRL Executive Director Mary Ellen Davis when she arrived.

Pinnolis and Vice Chair / Incoming Chair Mark Lenker discussed opportunities for using ALA Connect to improve communications amongst chapters. Members from the New England Chapter reported on using virtual software to distribute conference meetings and presentations, and the possibility of sharing chapter presentations amongst all of the chapters was also discussed.

Pinnolis asked Rickey Best for a report from the Ad-Hoc Committee on Chapter Funding to discuss activities. Best reported that a proposal was submitted to the Board to increase funding from \$1.00 per member to \$3.00 per member who also was a member of ACRL, and

to allow a percentage of funds that were not expended by local chapters to be held in common and re-allocated to active chapters who needed additional funding. Best reported that the proposal was rejected as being in conflict with ACRL policies which, with exceptions for the national meeting, prohibit rollover of funds. Best stated he felt the options for increasing funding are a) resubmit a proposal that is in compliance with ACRL policies or b) ask for a revision of the policies to allow rollover funds to be reallocated to local chapters needing additional funding. Pinnolis suggested that local chapters might be able to work with ACRL sections to co-sponsor events/ programming and to obtain additional funding in this manner.

Pinnolis introduced ACRL Executive Director Mary Ellen Davis, ACRL President Lori Goetsch, and incoming ACRL President Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe to Council. Davis was asked how the chapter annual reports were used. Davis and Goetsch reported that chapter reports are digitized and integrated into a report on strategic planning activities which is available via ALA Connect.

The Board reviews the current strategic plan, and identifies areas that can be done to accomplish plan goals. Reviews are also conducted and a determination made as to the creation of potential task forces to address specific issues. Chapters Council was invited to respond based upon feedback given at leadership council on the document *Futures Thinking for Academic Librarians: Higher Education in 2025* (available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/>

value/futures2025.pdf). Davis also asked Chapters Council representatives to report on any activities being conducted locally that demonstrate the value and/or return on investment of academic libraries.

Lenker announced the candidates for office: Danielle Whren Johnson for Secretary and Rickey Best for Vice-Chair / Chair-elect. Ballots were distributed to council members and a vote was taken. Both individuals were elected.

Lenker next introduced Megan Oakleaf, who discussed her research on the value of academic libraries from an institutional perspective. She has examined potential impacts on student recruitment, achievement, retention and graduation rates, success (jobs / internships), student learning (skills), the quality of those skills, faculty research and teaching skills, the impact of libraries on institutional prestige, and the service mission of the institution. The report she is working on for the ACRL Board includes two sets of stakeholders – a) financial stakeholders and b) impact stakeholders (i.e., students). An analysis of return on investment will indicate the value of academic libraries in helping students to learn.

Following Oakleaf's presentation, Pinnolis asked about how members found the format of the meeting. It was agreed that we should continue to have an agenda, but that by having a discussion topic we can benefit the group by sharing ideas.

*Rickey Best
AACRL Past President*

News from the Membership . . .

Charlcie Pettway Vann, Jacksonville State University, presented a poster session entitled, *Library Lunchtime Lecture: Invite, Involve and Inform a Community*, at the 7th National Conference of African American Librarians in Birmingham, AL, on August 7.

Charlcie Pettway Vann, Jacksonville State University, volunteered at the ALLA booth at the 7th National Conference of African American Librarians in Birmingham, AL, on August 7.

Katy Ginanni (formerly of Auburn University Libraries and EBSCO Information Services) recently left Trinity University in San Antonio to become collection development librarian at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC.

Melissa Fortson joined the University of Alabama Libraries as a Research and Instructional Services Librarian in August 2010. She is a graduate of the SLIS program at the University where she earned the MLIS degree.

Josh Sahib joined the University of Alabama Libraries as a Research and Instructional Services Librarian in August 2010. He is a graduate of the SLIS program at the University where he earned the MLIS degree.

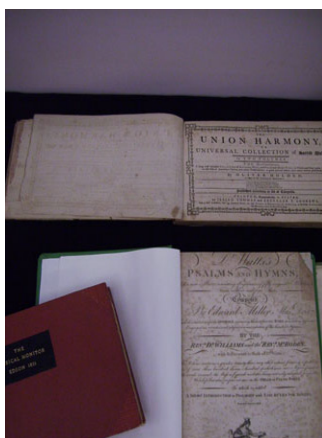
The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada held its annual conference at Samford University

on July 11-15. The conference theme was “Sing of Justice ~ Sing of Peace.” (See <http://www.thehymnsociety.org/conference.html>)

To mark this event, **Liz Wells**, the Chair of Samford’s Special Collection Department, and **Naomi Gold**, chair of the library’s display committee, mounted an exhibit of rare and historic hymnals from the library’s Special Collection.

The dates of the volumes on display ranged from the late eighteenth century to the twentieth, and included items with relevance to a broad range of subjects, including sacred music history, the study of Southern culture and religion, the study of American religion, and the book as artifact. The display items represented a small selection of Special Collection holdings in this area.

To learn more about the Hymn Society and this year’s conference, visit <http://www.thehymnsociety.org/conference.html>.



NAAL Director Position Filled

Ronald P. Leonard has been named to replace Dr. Sue Medina (who recently retired) as director of the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL).

Leonard comes to Alabama from Decatur, Georgia, where he was marketing coordinator of DeKalb County Public Library.

Previously, he worked for more than 12 years at LYRASIS. During that time he worked with libraries as a trainer and membership and marketing coordinator.

Leonard holds a Master of Science in Library Science degree from the University of Kentucky and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Western Kentucky University.

He began his career in library science working in the University of Kentucky’s Agriculture Library and the Center for Applied Energy Research Library.

As a member of the American Library Association, he has served as chairman of the ASCLA membership committee and was actively involved with the Georgia Library Association, having served as chairman of the Government Relations committee.

Information for this was adapted from the press release announcing Mr. Leonard’s appointment.

Frankie Taylor Thomas

Frankie Taylor Thomas, age 87, of Northport, AL, died on Friday, August 13, 2010. Mrs. Thomas was head of Reference at Gorgas Library at the University of Alabama during the 1970s and 1980s.

Mrs. Thomas was the first African American librarian at the University of Alabama Libraries. After retirement, she became the first black member of the Tuscaloosa County School Board and served there for 18 years.

Mrs. Thomas received her early education at Ebenezer Elementary School, Holly Springs Junior High School, and Tuscaloosa County Training School. Her formal education included an Associates degree

from Stillman College, a Bachelors degree from Alabama State University, and a Masters of Library Science from the University of Wisconsin. She also studied at both Rutgers University and the University of Alabama.

Her professional career spanned 38 years and included serving as a teacher at Coaling High School and Fayette County Training School, a librarian at Boteler High School and a library staff member at Alabama A&M University and Stillman College, as well as the University of Alabama.

Information for this article was adapted from Mrs. Thomas' obituary which was published in the

Tuscaloosa News on August 19, 2010.

See <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tuscaloosa/obituary.aspx?n=frankie-taylor-thomas&pid=144800059> for the complete obituary.

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