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## From the President . . . .

As I write my final column as President, I am reminded of the saying "out with the old and in with the new." The old includes two very successful workshops and the new includes the annual meeting and best practices sessions and officer elections.

The fall workshop was held on Friday, October 7, 2005 at the Alabama Public Library Service in Montgomery. Presenters from various academic libraries in Alabama shared tips and techniques for recruiting, training, motivating, and retaining student library workers. The spring workshop was held on Monday, February 13, 2006 at Samford University in Birmingham. Ray English, Director of Libraries at Oberlin College and ACRL Academic/Research Librarian of the Year, spoke on the topic of scholarly communication. The presentation materials for both workshops are posted on the AACRL web site at <http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/> under Events/Workshops.

The annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 in conjunction with the Alabama Library Association Convention in Florence. The annual meeting will feature dinner and a presentation by Frances Maloy, ACRL Past President. In addition to the annual meeting, AACRL will cosponsor with CUS several best practices sessions during the convention. More information is available in this newsletter and on the AACRL web site under Annual Meeting.

Elections are being held for the officer positions of vice-president/president-elect, secretary, and member-at-large. The nominating committee has presented a strong slate of candidates. A ballot is enclosed in this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the executive board for all of their assistance and hard work during the past year. I would also like to thank the membership for their continued support and participation in chapter activities. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as your president.

*Jennifer Long, AACRL President*

## 2006 Annual Business Meeting and Dinner

The AACRL 2006 annual business meeting and guest speaker will be on Wednesday, Apr 26, 2006, 6:00 p.m. at the Convention Center complex adjacent to the Marriott Shoals Hotel and in conjunction with the Alabama Library Association Convention. The dinner/meeting will be held in the Patton Room of the Convention Center. Dinner will be served at approximately 6:30 p.m. and the cost will be \$40.00. See menu selection on the registration form in this newsletter.

There will be a brief business meeting followed by Frances Maloy, Emory University General Libraries. Ms. Maloy is the Leader, Access Services Division at Emory University library and past (2004-2005) ACRL President and obtained her M.L.S. degree from State University of New York at Albany in 1982. Ms. Maloy will be speaking on current events and initiatives of ACRL that will likely effect academic librarians.

Those interested in attending the annual dinner meeting should return the enclosed reservation form by April 18, 2006. One does not have to be a member of AACRL to attend.

*Robert Schrimsher, AACRL Vice-President/President Elect*

# AACRL Significant Contribution Awards Given

The AACRL Board is pleased to announce that Kate Ragsdale and Jean Thomason will each be presented the AACRL Significant Contribution Award at the April 2006 dinner/business meeting. The purpose of this award is to recognize achievements and significant contributions made to college and research libraries in Alabama. Both recipients have been active at the local, state, regional, and national levels to promote academic libraries and librarianship.

With a B.A. from Sweet Briar College, **Kate Ragsdale** earned an M.L.S. from The University of Alabama in 1986. She began her career at UA as Program Coordinator in the Human Resources Institute in the College of Business and Commerce. From there, she moved to the Business Library, eventually becoming the Planning Officer for University Libraries. In this capacity, she has overseen the relocation of collections and the building of several libraries on the UA campus, finding time to gather and report statistical data for internal and external use, to participate in library-wide planning along with policy and budget development, and to coordinate special projects within the Libraries.

Kate has been an active member and participant in professional library organizations. She has served on and chaired committees, task forces, and boards for the American Library Association, ACRL, Southeastern Library Association, the Alabama chapter of the Special Libraries Association, AACRL, and the Alabama Library Association. She has a special willingness to serve as Treasurer, filling that role for AACRL, Beta Phi Mu's Alabama chapter, and the Capstone Women's Network Steering Committee.

Kate's service to Alabama's academic libraries has included a presidency for AACRL; chairmanship of the College, University, and Special Libraries Division of the Alabama Library Association; and membership on the executive councils of JMRT and the Paraprofessional Round Table.

Kate served on the 1991 Alabama

Library Association Convention Committee, chairing the Exhibits Committee. She is quite active in the UA SLIS Library School Association, where she has served as a Board member, Secretary, and President. She was also on the SLIS Alumni Association Planning Committee.

Eric Kidwell, Director of the Huntingdon College Library, observes the following about Kate:

"What strikes me is what a good role model she is for librarians and also what a positive image she projects of the professional to those outside the field. In looking at her involvement in committees, etc., on the UA campus, you have to know that her contributions to the Libraries far exceeds the stated responsibilities of her job. Serving on such campus committees as those for student and campus life, campus master planning, ADA, and faculty and staff benefits . . . all of these help advance the image that librarians are more than just people who check out books and site behind a reference desk. It helps promote that we do possess knowledge and skills that extend beyond 'library' issues."

With Kate planning to retire this summer, we can only hope that she will continue to serve as a role model and an advocate for academic libraries and librarians in Alabama. According to Lou Pitschmann, Dean of UA Libraries:

"Working with Kate has been a real pleasure. She is an exceptional individual who wants whatever team she is a part of to succeed, not so that she can receive any recognition but rather so the team as a whole is successful."

**Jean Thomason** has served as the director of the Samford University Library since 1993. She earned an M.L.S. from The University of Alabama, has a Master of Religious Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Bachelor of Science in mathematics from Samford University. Jean began her library career at Samford University as a Special Collections Assistant, moving to the position of cataloger, and then moving up through

the ranks to department chair and Associate Director, eventually becoming the director.

In addition to service to Samford University, Jean has been active in professional library organizations. She has served as president of AACRL, secretary of the Alabama Library Association, and has filled a wide range of positions in the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries.

In their nomination, the faculty of the Samford University Libraries state:

"Consistently and quietly, Ms. Jean Thomason . . . has redefined library service on her campus and has contributed outstandingly to librarianship in the state of Alabama and beyond. The hallmark of her achievements and the primary case for . . . recommending Ms. Thomason for the AACRL Significant Contribution Award is her extraordinary record of library education and training . . ."

They cite Jean's application of TQM (Total Quality Management) to the library at Samford University. She has been the chief spokesperson for TQM and its adoption in libraries in Alabama, leading her first formal program entitled "Turning a Library Upside Down" at the National Congress on Quality.

For ten years, Jean has organized and directed the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, an annual week-long educational experience, designed for lay and professional genealogists and for librarians and archivists. She created and continues to present in the "Best Practices" Sessions at the Alabama Library Association Annual Conference and has received "glowing reviews" from students in library administration and management classes that she teaches as an adjunct professor of the UA School of Library and Information Studies.

Jean has overseen a model program of staff development for the Samford University Libraries, closing the library for its annual in-service training program for both professional and support

**"Contribution Awards,"** *continued on page 2*

## Best Practices Programs at 2006 ALLA

2006 is the fifth year for the AACRL/CUS Best Practices Programs and it is shaping up to be one of the best yet. Be sure to plan on attending one or more of these informative and thought-provoking sessions during this year's ALLA Annual Convention in Florence.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

1:00 p.m.

Title: Pick of the Litter: Attracting, Interviewing, Retaining and Raising a Healthy Happy Librarian

Presenters: Jason Baker, Lisa Ennis

2:00 p.m.

Title: Return of the Mini-Sessions!

Presenters: Carole Covington, Brenda Harlin, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Jennifer McClure, Donna Miller, Lori Northrup, Leigh Thompson, Karen Williams

Topics: Engaging the Disengaged: Getting the Most Out of One-Shot Sessions; Marketing Your Library Using Bookmarks and Posters; Purchase Express Service; Translating the Libraries: A Multilingual Information Page for International Students; Using WebCT to Train Student Workers; You're not alone: using listservs to stay current in interlibrary loan

3:30 p.m.

Title: Beyond Networks, Websites, and Digital Projects: Growing Trends in "Home-grown" Library Software Development

Presenter: Chris Stearns

### THURSDAY, APRIL 27

1:00 p.m.

Title: Information Literacy Double-Bill: Collaboration & Assessment

Presenter: Beth Ashmore, Jo Anne Bryant, Cheryl Cecil, Alyssa Martin, Juliet Rumble, Jana Slay

For more information about AACRL events at the 2006 ALLA Annual Convention, visit the AACRL Annual Meeting Web site at <http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/annual/>.

*Beth Ashmore, AACRL Webmaster*

### Contribution Awards

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staff. In addition, Jean has supplemented this opportunity with mini-sessions throughout the year and has ensured financial support for faculty/staff participation in off-campus professional development activities. AACRL and other organizations have benefitted from Jean's eagerness for Samford University to serve as a host site for professional meetings and workshops.

The library faculty at Samford University conclude:

"As praiseworthy as her professional activities are, in closing, we return to the primary theme of our nomination

– library education. For her innovative work with education in TQM and libraries; for her direction of the prestigious and scholarly Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research; and for her tireless teaching related to staff development and library management whether at a workshop, presentation, or a state library school, we nominate Ms. Jean Thomason for the AACRL Significant Contribution Award."

We are proud to recognize Kate Ragsdale and Jean Thomason. Please share your own congratulations.

*Debbie Grimes,  
AACRL Past President*

## News from the Membership

**Sarah Garrett** joined University of Alabama in Huntsville as a Reference/Instruction Librarian on August 29, 2005. Prior to her appointment, she attended library school at the University of Arizona.

**Harold Goss** joined the faculty of Samford University Library on January 17, 2006. He had previously been a Reference Librarian at Auburn University Libraries.

**Eric Kidwell** presented a poster session (with Margaret Kinney, Head of Circulation, Huntingdon College) at the 25th Annual Conference of the First-Year Experience in Atlanta; the title of their session was "Bringing Together First-Year Students and the College Library."

**Ursula (Joy) Smith** joined Nichols Library, Faulkner University as a Technical Services Librarian (intern) on January 2, 2006. Previously, she was Acquisitions Clerk, Thomas Good Jones Law Library, Faulkner University. She has applied to the University of Alabama, and, if accepted, will start in the online program for the M.L.I.S. degree in the summer 2006.

## Workshop Materials Now Available Online

If you missed AACRL's Scholarly Communication Workshop last week you can still get a glimpse of all of that goes into making up the complicated world of scholarly communication, plus some information on how librarians and teaching faculty can encourage change from within the system.

Check out AACRL's Academic/Research Librarian of the Year, Ray English's Powerpoint presentation and handouts from the AACRL workshop Web site at <http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/workshop/scholarlycomm.html>.

# U.S. Patriot Act Dominates the Legislative Report

## The latest on the U.S. Patriot Act:

Tuesday, February 28, 2006, the Senate was scheduled to vote on S.2271, which is legislation to reauthorize the U.S. Patriot Act. Sen. Feingold (D) of Wisconsin has proposed amendments that ALA and the Campaign for Reader Privacy support, which if passed would "... make modest changes to restore privacy protections vital to library users and bookstore patrons by limiting the scope of the government's power to conduct fishing expeditions of reading records and restoring judicial oversight of PATRIOT Act provisions."

Previous news regarding the Patriot Act includes action that occurred on Thursday, February 16, 2006, the Senate voted 96 to 3 with 1 non-vote in favor of cloture (i.e., the closing or limitation of debate) on renewal of the Act. The vote ended debate in favor of compromised legislation that would add (limited) protections of civil liberties into the Patriot Act. Sen. Feingold voted against cloture as did Sen. Byrd of West Virginia and Sen. Jeffords of Vermont. The compromise legislation includes:

1. Recipients of court-approved subpoenas for information in terrorist investigations may challenge the gag requirement – but only after one year and only if the government does not certify disclosure "may endanger the national security of the U.S., interfere with a criminal, counterterrorism, or counterintelligence investigation, interfere with diplomatic relations, or endanger the life of physical safety of any person."

2. Recipients of National Security Letters are no longer required to divulge to the FBI the name of an attorney consulted.

3. Language asserting that libraries, when functioning in their traditional roles including providing Internet access are not subject to NSLs. However, the language states that libraries are subject if the library "is providing the services defined under" Section 2510(15) of title 18, which says "electronic communication service means any service which provides to users

thereof the ability to send or receive wire or electronic communications."

Sen. Feingold said of the compromise, "The modifications to the conference report agreed to by the White House do contain one other purported change to one of the NSL statutes. This modification states that the FBI cannot issue an NSL for transactional and subscriber information about telephone and Internet usage to a library unless the library is offering 'electronic communication services' as defined in the statute. But that just restates the existing requirements of the NSL statute, which currently applies only to entities – libraries or otherwise – that provide 'electronic communication services.' So that provision has no real legal effect whatsoever. Perhaps that explains

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### Visit

[http://www.ala.org/  
ala/washoff/  
washnews/news.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washnews/news.htm)  
for current news

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why the American Library Association issued a statement calling this provision a 'fig leaf' and expressing disappointment that so many Senators have agreed to this deal."

After the cloture vote, Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) entered a colloquy with Sen. John Sununu (R-NH) designed to clarify the impact on the NSL requirement on libraries. During the discussion Sen. Sununu said of the requirement, "What we did in this legislation is add clarifying language that states that libraries operating in their traditional functions: lending books, providing access to digital books or periodicals in digital format, and providing basic access to the Internet would not be subject to a national security letter. There is no National Security Letter statute existing in current law that permits the FBI explicitly to obtain library records. But, as was indicated by the Senator

from Illinois, librarians have been concerned that existing National Security Letter authority is vague enough so that it could be used to allow the Government to treat libraries as they do communication service providers such as a telephone company or a traditional Internet service provider from whom consumers would go out and get their access to the Internet and send and receive e-mail. Section 5 clarifies, as I indicated, that a library providing basic Internet access would not be subject to a national security letter, simply by virtue of making that access available to the public."

Sen. Durbin, pressing for further clarification said, "So a library that has Internet access, where a person can find an Internet e-mail service, is not a communications service provider; therefore, it would not fall under the purview of the NSL provision in 18 U.S.C. 2709. It is a critically important distinction...Libraries are fundamental to America..." Sen. Durbin also thanked librarians for their, 'heroic efforts to amend the PATRIOT Act in a responsible way...' (Congressional Record; February 16, 2006 (Senate) page S1379-S1403 ."

You can read the floor statement Sen. Feingold prepared and delivered on February 15, by going to ALA's Washington Office Newsline (ALA-WON) at <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washnews/2006ndx/016feb15.htm>.

## Some good legislative news:

On February 6, 2006, President Bush released his budget request for 2007. Included in the request was \$262,240,000 for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (a \$15,096,000 increase over fiscal year 2006); \$220,855,000 for LSTA (an increase of \$10,258,000); \$25,000,000 for Librarians for the 21st Century; \$12,930,000 for the National Leadership Grants for Libraries; \$3,675,000 for Improving Library Services to Native Americans; \$30,000,000 for the Washington D.C. public library system; and level funding for the Improv-

## Legislative Report

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ing Literacy Through School Libraries Program. Considering that the FY07 budget included the elimination of 141 programs, ALA was very pleased overall with the 07 budget as it related to federal funding for libraries.

### ALA on Capitol Hill for hurricane-affected libraries:

On February 1, 2006, ALA sponsored on Capitol Hill a photographic display of Gulf coast libraries that were destroyed or damaged by Katrina and Rita last summer. Librarians from Mississippi and Louisiana were on hand to talk with congressional representatives and their staffs about the affect of these losses and the roles being played by libraries left standing in helping communities survive the destruction and begin recovery. To keep updated on federal legislative issues related to libraries, click on the ALAWON Web site at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/wash-news/news.htm>

*Eric A. Kidwell,  
ACRL Legislative Liaison*

### AACRL Listserv

If you haven't already done so, subscribe to the AACRL listserv. It's easy and simple to do. Just send the following message:

SUBSCRIBE AACRL

to [listserv@uabdpdpo.dpo.uab.edu](mailto:listserv@uabdpdpo.dpo.uab.edu). The listserv is a great way to keep abreast of current happenings with AACRL. It is also a useful current awareness tool as subscribers post items of interest to librarians.

### AACRL Web Site

The AACRL Web site is chock full of information, including links to relevant forms, awards, history, calendars, newsletters, minutes, bylaws and more. Go to: <http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/>.

## Welcome New Members!

**Lucinda May Beddow**, Head Librarian, Calhoun Community College

**Kelly Ann Griffiths**, Library Director, Marion Military Institute

**Alyssa Martin**, Interlibrary Loan/Reference Librarian, Troy University at Montgomery

**Kent E. Snowden**, Director, Rosa Parks Library, Troy University

**Carol Ellis**, Archivist, University of South Alabama

**Bruce Whitham**, Director of Library Services, Spring Hill College

**Lisa A. Ennis**, Reference Librarian/Nursing Liaison, Lister Hill Library, UAB

**Nicole Mitchell**, Graduate Student, University of Alabama SLIS

**Colleen Valente**, Head of Technical Services, Auburn University Montgomery

**Jana J. Slay**, Reference/Collection Development Librarian, Rosa Parks Library, Troy University

**Jerry W. Stephens**, Librarian and Director, Mervyn H. Sterne Library, UAB

**Christopher Shaffer**, Social Sciences Reference Librarian, Troy University

**Sarah Garrett**, Reference/Instruction Librarian, University of Alabama in Huntsville

**J. Scott Whiting**, Graduate Student, University of Alabama SLIS

## Money Available for Nat'l Legislative Day

Continuing a tradition, AACRL will provide a \$500 stipend to an interested academic librarian to attend the 2006 National Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. on May 1-2 (Monday, Tuesday). The designated hotel is the Holiday Inn on the Hill. For a number of years, AACRL has been encouraging more participation in ALA's National Legislative Day from academic and research librarians. This is our chapter's way of assisting with that initiative. For more information on National Legislative Day go to: <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/nlld/nationallibrary.htm>

You will be a part of the Alabama delegation that visits the offices of Alabama's House and Senate representatives to talk about relevant federal legislative issues and encouraging support for our state's libraries. If you are interested in attending and being considered for the AACRL stipend, or would like to speak with an academic librarian who has attended, send an e-mail to Eric A. Kidwell at [ekidwell@huntingdon.edu](mailto:ekidwell@huntingdon.edu).

## Treasurer's Report

On February 9, 2006, the balance in the AACRL bank account was \$7,077.11. Since that time, checks in the amount of \$213.50 (Scholarly Communications workshop catering); \$220.00 (workshop lunches); \$408.20 (speaker's airfare); \$300.00 (honorarium); and \$216.20 (speaker's hotel and food) were issued.

The registration fees collected for the Scholarly Communications workshop held on February 13, 2006, totaled \$840.00, and workshop expenses totaled \$1,357.90, for a loss of \$517.90. As of March 1, 2006, the balance in the AACRL bank account was \$5,719.21.

*Bethany Skaggs, AACRL Treasurer*

# AACRL Chapters Council Report

The ACRL Chapters Council met on January 22, 2006, during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio.

Camila Alire, ACRL President, discussed an advocacy program entitled "The Power of Personal Persuasion: Advancing the Academic Library Agenda from the Frontlines" to be held on June 24, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. during the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. She announced that an advocacy toolkit will be created and distributed to all ACRL members and that grants will be available to ACRL chapters to replicate the national program at a local level in 2007-2008.

Mary Reichel, ACRL Past President, announced that the theme of the 13th National Conference is Sailing into the Future: Charting Our Destiny. The proposal deadline for papers, panels, and workshops is May 10, 2006. Visit <http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/acrl-events/baltimore/baltimore.htm>.

Julie Todaro, Chair of the ACRL

Council of Liaisons, gave an overview of its mission and goals. The liaisons serve as representatives and attend conferences and programs of associated professional organizations. Visit <http://library.austincc.edu/presentations/ACRL-Council-of-Liaison/>.

The council discussed the new ACRL chapter logos and the use of chapter reimbursements. Chapters have the option to use or not use the new logos with the following exception: the new logos must replace old ALA or ACRL logos currently in use. Chapters may use reimbursements for any items or activities with the following exceptions: the funds may not be used for payment of honoraria or travel to support presentations by librarians at ALA, ACRL, or ACRL chapter conferences and the funds may not be used to purchase goods or services prohibited by ALA and ACRL policy.

*Jennifer Long, AACRL President*

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## **AACRL Newsletter**

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