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## AACRL Membership Challenge

As we prepare to start a new year, let us work together to strengthen our association. We all know what AACRL provides: interesting programs in partnership with the College & University Section (CUS) at the annual meeting of the Alabama Library Association; opportunities for networking; and participation in a professional organization by serving as committee members and/or officers. All of these are important for professional development, tenure and promotion at our institutions. As a challenge to us all, I suggest that we try to recruit at least two new members for the association from our colleagues at our institutions. Maybe some haven't yet heard of AACRL, maybe others think that by joining CUS, they are automatically members of AACRL (they aren't).

Let's work to grow our association and bring new members to our meeting in Gadsden to hear ACRL Vice-President / President-elect Dr. Irene M. H. Herold from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa who will speak to us on the value of academic libraries and how we can document our value to our institution.

The association is in the process of setting up a PayPal account to make membership renewals (and joining for new members) an easier process. For information on this process, check the association web page at <http://aacrl.org/>.

I look forward to seeing you in Gadsden!

*Rickey Best  
AACRL Vice-President /  
President-Elect*

## AACRL Annual Meeting

This year's annual business meeting for AACRL will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13th, at King's Olive Oil, 618 Broad Street in Gadsden.

Our speaker this year will be Dr. Irene M. H. Herold, ACRL's Vice-President / President-elect. Irene is currently Dean of the Library at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Previously, she served as Dean of the Library at Keene College in New Hampshire.

Irene will be speaking on the topic "Learning and Literacy: How Academic Libraries Can Demonstrate Value." More information on the meeting will come out in the spring newsletter. (*Editor's Note: More information about the conference appears on page 4 of this newsletter.*)

*Rickey Best  
AACRL Vice-President /  
President-Elect*

## Treasurer's Report

The account balance for the last Treasurer's Report was \$1,597.25. Since then I have received and deposited two membership renewals for \$70.00. The account balance as of December 1, 2015 is \$1,667.25.

We currently have 45 members in good standing. Now is the time to start to renew your membership. An updated form has been placed on the AACRL webpage at <http://www.aacrl.org/membership/memb.pdf>. Anyone with questions about the status of their membership can email me at [dcobb@southalabama.edu](mailto:dcobb@southalabama.edu).

*Debbie Cobb  
AACRL Treasurer*

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## Correction

In the Fall 2015 AACRL Newsletter, President Tyrone Webb stated that he is "the first person of color and first African-American to have the honor to serve as president of AACRL." We were made aware that there have been other people of color who have served in this position in AACRL. We apologize for the mistake.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.aacrl.org/newsletters).

## Legislative Issues

Plans for National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) have begun early this year. The next NLLD will be held May 2 & 3, 2016, in Washington, D.C., with the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel serving as headquarters. Registration for the 2016 NLLD opened December 1.

ALA is planning for an expanded Virtual Legislative Day and is partnering with the Harry Potter Alliance (there is an Alabama chapter in Birmingham – the Ministry of Magic City) for NLLD to help advocate for libraries. Those of you familiar with the Harry Potter Alliance know that it focuses on issues of social justice.

If you are interested in participating in NLLD, either on-the-ground in D.C. next May or via Virtual Legislative Day, please contact me at [ekidwell@huntingdon.edu](mailto:ekidwell@huntingdon.edu).

And look for more information on NLLD in the coming months on state library lists, including tips on how you can effectively communicate your concerns with your legislatures (Tip #1: many congressional offices now prefer Twitter over other forms of communication).

*Eric A. Kidwell*  
*AACRL Legislative Liaison*

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## Membership News

### Former AACRL president selected as the winner of Wiley publisher's "Librarians Creating Communities of Kindness" contest



Ms. Charlcie Pettway Vann, Reference Librarian at Jacksonville State University and former President of AACRL, was selected as the winner of Wiley publisher's National Library Week contest: Librarians Creating Communities of Kindness.

Morgan Kubelka, Associate Marketing Manager for Wiley, noted that Vann's "tireless, selfless commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion on campus has clearly made a tremendous positive impact on the academic community." Vann was nominated by multiple people, including colleagues and students. The nominations highlighted her organization of diversity luncheons and displays in the Houston Cole Library at JSU, her advocacy for minority mentorship programs on campus, and her dedication to helping students. As one nominator stated, "She described librarians as the 'bartenders of the university,' and explained how students will come up to her in odd places and pour out their hearts. We need more of this in brick and mortar higher education, or else online degrees will supplant us. Hats off to Charlcie and others like her!"

In response to winning this award, Vann stated, "Kindness was never an option in my family . . . it is a commandment." She continued, "If it were not for great mentors, so many I cannot name them all, in my life, it would have been difficult to pass the kindness forward. I want to thank all of my colleagues from Jacksonville State University and various universities and community leaders that thought enough of me to nominate me for the contest. I have some of the best colleagues in academia. I am the only African-American librarian at the Houston Cole Library, and I appreciate the freedom I feel to share some of my culture through the various displays. I want to thank my Dean, Mr. John-Bauer Graham, for encouraging all of the librarians to seek avenues to serve."

You can read more, including Vann's inspiring personal story, at <http://exchanges.wiley.com/blog/2015/04/17/announcing-the-winner-of-our-librarians-creating-communities-of-kindness-contest/>. As winner of this prize, Vann received a paid registration to the Charleston Conference.

## AACRL/CUS Best Practice Mini-Sessions at ALLA 2016

There will be seven AACRL/CUS mini-sessions at ALLA 2016 covering a wide variety of topics. These sessions will be held at the University of Alabama, Gadsden Center. Below is a list of the sessions (dates and times are subject to change). Thank you to everyone who submitted a proposal!

### **Mini-Session 1 (April 14, 9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.)**

“uCOLEle! Ukulele Lending at Jacksonville State University’s Houston Cole Library”

*Kim Stevens and Carley Knight, Jacksonville State University*

“We Pulled It Off: Innovation and Collaboration in a Small Academic Library”

*Kathy Lowe, University of Montevallo*

### **Mini-Session 2 (April 14, 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.)**

“Contextualizing the Research Process”

*Lance Day, Samford University*

“Library Alphabet Soup: Tips and Resources When the Item in Hand Is Not Written in the Latin Alphabet”

*Todd Shipman, Auburn University*

### **Mini-Session 3 (April 14, 2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.)**

“Omeka in the Classroom: Implementing and Managing an Open Source Content Management System”

*Carey Heatherly and Dusty Folds, University of Montevallo*

“Increasing Awareness Across Campus for the Higher-Level Proficiencies of Information Literacy”

*Lauren Young, Samford University*

### **Mini-Session 4 (April 14, 4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.)**

“Planning and Conducting In-House Professional Development Opportunities for Librarians”

*Toni Carter, Auburn University*

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## AACRL/CUS Fall Workshop

On Friday, December 4, AACRL and CUS presented a workshop entitled Subject Specialists: A Conversation about the Varied Roles of Subject Liaisons in Academic Libraries.

The panel for this discussion included Beth Rugan Shepard (University of South Alabama), Michael A. Arthur (The University of Alabama), Tim Dodge (Auburn University), Eric Kidwell (Huntingdon College), Cynthia Miller (The University of Alabama), and Cayce Van Horn (Auburn University). Moderators were AACRL Member-at-Large Sara Whitver, CUS Chair and AACRL Past-President Jessica Hayes, and SLIS Instructor and Communications/Distance Education Coordinator Steven Yates.

The program was recorded and can be found on the AACRL YouTube channel at <http://bit.ly/1juHUUe>.