

conflict hours, and to develop and communicate new scheduling guidelines for all entities well in advance of the 2004 Boston Annual Meeting.” The council met with the Boston AMPC chair during the 2003 Annual Meeting in Seattle to discuss the logistics for this recommendation.

¶3 To improve communication and to help vice chairs prepare for their duties in the following year, SIS Council members recommended that the council discussion list include both chairs and vice chairs. This was implemented early in the year.

¶4 Once again this year the scheduling matrix was used to plan SIS events for the Seattle meeting. By distributing copies of the matrix via e-mail as meetings were scheduled, the council was able to schedule 109 SIS events while preventing major conflicts between sections with common memberships.

¶5 Amy Eaton, editor of the SIS News column in *AALL Spectrum*, regularly contacted the SIS chairs to help coordinate public relations efforts for the council and each section. The SISs took the opportunity to submit news about their section for the column.

¶6 The *SIS Handbook* and the SIS section of AALLNET were revised this year. The revisions brought the material up-to-date and ensured that the information in the *Handbook* and the Web site are consistent. I am grateful for the support from headquarters on this project, particularly Heidi Letzmann and Arek Tarasiewicz.

¶7 A call for volunteers for the 2003–04 SIS council chair resulted in the election of D.R. Jones. She began her duties early by attending the April 2003 Executive Board meeting in my place.

¶8 Leadership training was offered to incoming SIS chairs and vice chairs in Seattle. Eighteen officers from eleven SISs participated. There were presentations from AALL Executive Board members, the AMPC chair for Boston, and AALL headquarters staff. Time was allotted for discussion of common interests among the SIS officers. Following the training session, SIS leaders joined chapter leaders for the Leadership Luncheon. The luncheon was generously sponsored by LexisNexis and featured remarks by President-Elect Janis Johnston.

Anita Anderson, Chair

### *Academic Law Libraries*

¶1 The Academic Law Libraries SIS had an extremely productive year thanks to the hard work of its committee and task force chairs and the members of their respective groups.

¶2 There were three major focuses this year. One was to have the Membership and the CONALL (Conference of Newer Academic Law Librarians)/Mentoring committees take a more active role in recruitment to the section and to help foster the development of its newer members. Under the guidance of their respective chairs, Arturo Torres and Ruth Levor, the committees created a more formal ALL-SIS mentoring program. The SIS’s Tuesday night reception and awards presentation in Seattle also was used to honor the CONALL attendees and the mentors and mentees.

¶3 Liaisons to RIPS-SIS, CS-SIS, and TS-SIS were established this year to help bridge the gap between the job-related sections to which academics belong and ALL-SIS. The liaisons were a component of the Membership Committee.

¶4 Another focus was to make the SIS's Web page a more dynamic and integral part of our members' daily work. A Web Content and Redesign Task Force, chaired by Dan Campbell, surveyed members to determine if the page meets their needs and how it can be improved. Their work will continue next year with a redesign effort. New additions to the page include contributions from the Legal Research Committee, chaired by Beth Smith, such as Sibyl Marshall's compilation of law library exhibits; "Jump Start/Bridge the Gap Program Materials"; and Jennifer Murray's "Print Citators: First Year Law Curriculum Instruction Chart." Also new to the Web page is a document titled "Qualities of an Ideal CALR Vendor-Library Relationship with Benchmark Signs of Success," the product of the Relations with Vendors Committee chaired by Nancy McMurrer. The Committee on Continuing Status and Tenure, chaired by Robert Hu, compiled "Librarian Employment Status (Other Than Director) at U.S. Law Schools," also available on the page.

¶5 The last focus was alternative forms of education. Realizing that all members of the SIS are not able to attend the AALL Annual Meetings, an Education Task Force was created to investigate alternative methods of presenting educational information outside the confines of the Annual Meeting. The Legal Research Committee's contributions to the Web page are an example of alternative formats. The task force's work will continue next year.

¶6 Other committees and groups worked on important projects as well. For instance, the BNA Task Force, chaired by Suzanne Thorpe, met in Washington with BNA representatives to discuss the company's price schedules for academic law libraries; the Support for Law Journals Task Force, chaired by Paul George, presented a program on the topic, and statistics from the survey will be compiled and posted on the Web page; and the Program Committee, cochaired by Ajaye Bloomstone and Carole Hinchcliff, oversaw four programs at the Seattle Annual Meeting. The Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship was presented to Robert C. Berring, University of California, Berkeley. In 2004, the SIS will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary, and a task force, chaired by Frank Houdek, was created to plan activities. In direct response to an AALL initiative, a Toolkit Task Force, chaired by Barbara Bintliff, will help the section develop a toolkit to promote the value and competencies of academic law librarians.

Merle J. Slyhoff, Chair

### *Computing Services*

¶1 The Computing Services Special Interest Section had a successful year in 2002-03. The section continues to be one of AALL's more active ones with 542 members and remains a strong organization that provides a voice for law school and law library personnel active in the information technology field.