

Special Interest Sections

SIS Council

¶1 The SIS Council, comprised of the chairs of the thirteen SISs, exists to improve communication between and among the special interest sections, promote discussion of common problems, and provide a vehicle for bringing SIS opinions and concerns to the AALL Executive Board.

¶2 During fall 2005, a major activity of each SIS chair was to develop a schedule of events, including committee meetings, roundtables, and SIS-sponsored programs of interest to their members, that fit with the sixty-nine programs selected by the Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC). Even though SIS events could be scheduled at the same time as SIS programs, the chairs were thoughtful in scheduling their events to meet the needs of their members who like to focus on a particular “track” of programs and events as well as members who prefer to attend a variety of programs. Throughout the process of updating more than thirty versions of the matrix, the chairs worked collaboratively to resolve any problems that arose. There was a link from the Web page of AALL Annual Meeting Programs and Workshops to the list of seventeen programs that were sponsored or cosponsored by eleven of the thirteen SISs.

¶3 SIS leaders participated in AALL’s Education Summit held in September 2005. It is expected in the coming year the SISs will be looked to as providers of content and speakers for continuing professional education opportunities offered outside of AALL’s Annual Meeting.

¶4 Eleven of the thirteen SISs conducted electronic elections in spring 2006. The two remaining sections will need to amend their bylaws to conduct electronic elections. I worked with Anne McDonald, chair of the AALL Bylaws Committee, to update the SIS Model Bylaws and the SIS Council Bylaws. The proposed amendments were voted on at the SIS Council Business Meeting in St. Louis.

¶5 Eighteen SIS officers from twelve SISs participated in the SIS Leadership Training in St. Louis. The theme of the training was leading SISs to achieve results. Christine Graesser, incoming chair of PLL-SIS, conducted a meeting of SIS treasurers with Lynn Cotteleer, AALL Director of Finance and Administration, to review AALL accounting procedures and financial reporting. Four of the SISs hosted six VIP guests at the Centennial meeting.

¶6 Scott Matheson, GD-SIS chair for 2005–06, was elected as the 2006–07 SIS Council chair.

Carole L. Hinchcliff, Chair

Academic Law Libraries

¶1 In 2005–06, the ALL-SIS board consisted of Michael J. Slinger, Chair; Suzanne Thorpe, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect; Susan Lewis-Somers, Secretary-Treasurer; Carol Bredemeyer, Board Member; and Carole Hinchcliff, Immediate Past Chair.

¶2 Major initiatives included a review and revision of the section's bylaws, an effort led by Tom Hanley and his committee. The Membership Committee, chaired by Marjorie E. Crawford and Victoria Williamson, conducted a survey of section members. ALL-SIS added a full-text archive of past newsletters to the section's Web site, a project undertaken by Leah Sandwell-Weiss, Diane Murley, and their committees. With the help of members, more than sixty students and staff members with an interest in a possible career in law librarianship were identified and sent relevant information by the section. The ALL-SIS Collection Development Committee, chaired by Connie Lenz, created a new Academic Law Libraries' Collection Development Policies Web page featuring policies from more than fifty libraries. The Continuing Status/Tenure Committee, chaired by Julie Lim and Patti Monk, moved toward the completion of its survey of the employment status of nondirector academic law librarians. The Faculty Services Committee, cochaired by Sara Sampson and Michele Kristakis, sponsored three virtual roundtables via its discussion list. The ALL-SIS Web site was complemented by a new look and the addition of new features thanks to cochairs Diane Murley and Kit Kreilick and their committee.

¶3 ALL-SIS activities held during the AALL Annual Meeting in St. Louis included the notable continuing success of our Program Committee, chaired by Lee Peoples, which sponsored or cosponsored ten programs in St. Louis and also organized two of the program presentations ("Harnessing Digital Video Technology" and "What Public Services Should Know Re: Technical Services and Vice Versa"). The section's business meeting featured the remarks of ALL-SIS VIP Hulett "Bucky" Askew, incoming consultant for the ABA Section on Legal Education, and was sponsored by BNA. The popular CONALL program was organized and conducted by cochairs Patricia Kidd and Paul Moorman and their committee with the help of sponsor LexisNexis. The ALL-SIS Reception and Awards Ceremony was held at Washington University School of Law and hosted by Phil Berwick and his wonderful staff, also with the sponsorship of LexisNexis. Awards Committee Chair Ed Edmonds presented the Frederick Charles Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship to Roger F. Jacobs. The CONELL Grant went to Elizabeth Outler, and two special Centennial Grants to attend the Annual Meeting were awarded to Sarah Glassmeyer and Emily Janoski-Haehlen. The Middle Managers Breakfast Meeting, organized by Wei Luo and his committee and sponsored by West, featured a discussion on "Staying as a Middle Manager and Being Happy." The Director's Breakfast Meeting was organized by Mark Bernstein and featured a presentation on the "Next Generation of Academic Law Library Directors" led by Penny Hazelton and Barbara Bintliff.

¶4 The ALL-SIS election was conducted electronically and resulted in Michelle Wu's election as Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Linda Ryan as Secretary-Treasurer. Continuing on the board in 2006-07 will be Suzanne Thorpe, Chair; Carol Bredemeyer, Member; and Michael Slinger, Immediate Past Chair.

Michael J. Slinger, Chair