

# The ALL-SIS Newsletter

Volume 22, Issue 3

Summer 2003

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

By Merle Slyhoff, 2002-2003 ALL-SIS Chair

If you want to truly experience “time flies,” become chair of the Academic SIS! I’m not sure where this year has gone, but as you read this, we’ll be doing final preparations for the AALL 2003 Annual Meeting and Conference. That signals our ALL-SIS programs, committee meetings, business meeting, and reception/awards gala. And the end to my year as Chair of the SIS.

Looking back at what we’ve accomplished, I’m thrilled to report that the year has been a productive one. Fearful that I’ll miss something important, here’s a capsule view of the ALL-SIS year.

- The ALL-SIS kicked off the George A. Strait Minority Scholarship SIS campaign with a \$1,000.00 contribution and a challenge to all the other SISs.

- The ALL-SIS Relations with Vendors Committee completed their QUALITIES OF AN IDEAL CALR VENDOR-LIBRARY RELATIONSHIP document; the report can be viewed on the ALL-SIS web page.

- Members of the BNA Task Force met with BNA representatives in Washington. The meeting was seen as successful from both

sides; a written report will be available, and a summary of the discussion will be presented at the business meeting.

- The Membership Committee developed a brochure extolling the benefits of joining ALL-SIS; they also prepared a wonderful article that will appear in a future AALL Spectrum issue.

- The Awards Committee has been investigating new ways of recognizing members.

- ALL-SIS Committee on Continuing Status and Tenure compiled information on faculty status; the findings can be found on the ALL-SIS web page.

- The ALL-SIS Newsletter is now an electronic-only publication, resulting in a major cost-savings to the SIS and a faster way of disseminating the information.

- Through generous contributions from our friends at West and Lexis, the Local Arrangements, Middle Managers Breakfast, and Directors Breakfast chairs have planned wonderful events that allow us to network and meet with our colleagues. The Directors Breakfast and Program, as well as the Middle Managers Breakfast and Program, will be sponsored by West. Lexis will sponsor the Tuesday evening reception and awards ceremony to be held at Washington University.

- Plan to attend the SIS’s breakfast business meeting set for Sunday morning, generously hosted by BNA. Remember to RSVP to your invitation when received.

- And last, but certainly not least, the Program Committee submitted an impressive selection of educational programs for the AALL Annual Meeting; 4 programs will be presented.

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Current and prior issues of the ALL-SIS Newsletter are available on the ALL-SIS website:

<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/NewsLetter.html> in html (V. 18 - ) (Holiday 1998 - ) and pdf (V. 23 - ) (Fall 2002 - ) format.

This list doesn't begin to cover the additional ongoing work being done by the SIS's committees, task forces, and special working groups. Web redesign, collection development, alternative educational formats, legal research, statistics, and nominations are just some of the many activities being investigated by our members.

To all ALL-SIS members, I thank you for having the opportunity to serve as chair. I encourage everyone to volunteer for the SIS; it's an extremely worthwhile and rewarding experience. Without the work of the members, a chair's visions and plans are doomed to failure. Sally Wise, incoming Chair and Carole Hinchcliff, incoming Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the SIS, will be inheriting a tremendous, hard-working group of members whose dedication to academic law librarianship constantly enhances the SIS and our stature as law librarians.

### Member News

Donald L. Ford recently joined the University of Colorado Law Library as Reference Librarian. Formerly of Richmond, Virginia where he was in private practice, Donald earned his MLIS at the University of Pittsburgh.

### Volunteer in Seattle

We need you! Join the group of interesting and dedicated people volunteering their time to help make the 2003 Annual Meeting a great success!

How can you help? There are a variety of activities available -- pick the ones that interest you most! For example:

- meet new people and see old friends while working at the Registration Desk
- write articles for the daily newspaper, "Coffee Talk"
- help "stuff" conference tote bags (Friday July 11)
- take tickets and seat individuals at the Association luncheon and closing banquet
- work with children at the Family Social Hour (Saturday July 12)

Volunteers really help the conference run smoothly, and it's a lot of fun! Thanks in advance!

Please complete the Volunteer Opportunities Form available on the AALL website (<http://www.aallnet.org/committee/local03/>) and in the Preliminary Program by June 1, 2003, and fax/send/email it to:

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Seattle, WA 98105  
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## Experienced and Inexperienced Law Librarians

### WANTED!

#### Academic Law Librarians SIS Mentoring Program

##### Academic Mentors Can Make a BIG Difference!

Perhaps it was a professor . . . or an employer . . . or an acquaintance from a conference . . . Each of us remembers the times when we needed advice about academic law librarianship and we reached out to those that knew the profession best--academic law librarians.

All of us have benefited from the advice and counsel of at least one or more experienced law librarian some time during our careers. Mentoring relationships are vitally important in our profession. The Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section (ALL SIS) Peer-Mentoring Program gives newer law librarians an opportunity to learn about our profession, ask questions, and discuss concerns.

##### How Does the ALL-SIS Mentoring Program Work?

The ALL-SIS is working with the AALL Mentoring Committee to match experienced academic librarians with newer members of our branch of the profession. You can meet your new mentor or mentee as early as July 2003 at the Annual Meeting in Seattle. Any experienced law librarian is eligible to be a mentor, and anyone who has become a law librarian in the last few years is eligible to be assigned to a mentor. If each one of you reading this newsletter article signs up for this program, and if you convince your favorite colleagues to do the same, there will be a mentor for every one of those wonderful new colleagues who are just looking for someone to befriend them and to show them the ropes, and there will be a new law librarian to give an "old-timer" a glimpse into the future of the profession. What an outstanding service the Academic SIS could provide just by making a generous showing as participants in the Association's Mentoring Program!

##### Special Seattle Pre-Reception Program for Newer Librarians and Their Mentors

In addition, the SIS is sponsoring a special CONALL (Conference of Newer Academic Law Librarians) program for newer academics and their mentors. At this light-hearted event we will introduce newer academic law librarians to the world of law school librarianship. Combining fun and humor with frank and serious discussion, we will raise issues particular to serving law students and faculty and to promoting legal scholarship and research within the campus community. This will also be a fitting occasion for the members of the ALL-SIS "entering class" and their mentors to begin the exciting process of forming new professional relationships and then to continue this process as we move as a group to the reception. A special bus will be provided to bring attendees to the Seattle University School of Law for this program, which will be held from 5:15-6:15 P.M., just before the ALL-SIS reception.

So please fill out a [Mentor Application Form](#) at

[http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentor\\_form.html](http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentor_form.html) or a Mentee Application Form at [http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentee\\_form.html](http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentee_form.html) right now, and join us in this rewarding volunteer opportunity. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact the Chair of the ALL SIS CONELL/Mentoring Committee, Ruth Levor, at [rlevor@SanDiego.edu](mailto:rlevor@SanDiego.edu) or by phone at (619) 260-4604.

## **Trials and Tribulations of a New Law Librarian**

**By**

**Jennifer S. Murray, Senior Law Librarian-Research and Instructional Services  
Gabriel and Matilda Barnett Information Technology Center and the Asa V. Call Law Library,  
University of Southern California**

*Note: This is the fourth in what is hoped will be a series of columns about the experiences of those new to the academic law librarianship profession—ed*

It can be overwhelming to join a new profession, and law librarianship is no different. New law librarians face many challenges. In addition to learning the internal structure and procedures that come with any new job, new law librarians also face other obstacles including learning new jargon and how to network in their tight-knit new profession. How is a new law librarian to deal with these pressures?

By far the best way I deal with these stresses is having a mentor. Some of us luck out and have a built-in mentor, perhaps a former supervisor, current supervisor or library school professor. These relationships can be cultivated at any point along the career path. If you are a new law librarian, look around and see if there is someone with whom you can cultivate a mentor-mentee relationship. If you are fortunate enough to be a seasoned pro, look around and see if there is someone you know who is in need of mentoring. These relationships are mutually rewarding and well worth the effort.

But many new law librarians have no such mentor available. And without that built-in support system, it is easy to talk yourself out of going through the steps necessary to gain a mentor. The process requires you to actively seek out such a person. For some, this can be an intimidating task. There is, however, an AALL committee designed exactly this purpose. The AALL Mentoring Committee offers a mentor service for anyone in law librarianship who is interested (for more information, go to the committee website at [www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring](http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring)). This service can make the process of gaining a mentor or becoming a mentee as easy as the click of a button.

Another means to relieve the stress of being new to the profession is to have a colleague with whom you can commiserate. If you run across someone else new to the profession with whom you get along well, develop a relationship with that person. This relationship will allow you to have frank discussions and freely exchange ideas. Normally, this sort of relationship functions best if it is someone you do not work with because they will be objective and not emotionally invested in your work situation. If you aren't the type to network and rub elbows, don't despair. There are some easy ways to connect with your peers. If you haven't attended the Conference of New Law Librarians yet and are able to do so, it is a wonderful way to meet new law librarians and is offered each year prior to the Annual Meeting (additional information available at the Mentoring Committee website). In addition, taking the plunge and becoming active in your local or regional chapters is another great way to meet new people.

Every job comes with its unique challenges. Having people with whom you can discuss those challenges and get feedback will make the workplace much easier to manage. Becoming a mentor or mentee may require you to go outside of your comfort zone, but the effort is well worth it.

## YOUR SIS WANTS YOU!!

Working on an ALL-SIS committee is a wonderful way to make your mark in AALL. You get to work with colleagues who share common interests and help to mold the area of our profession that most interests you. Let me know how you want to help the SIS in 2003-04 ... volunteer for committee assignments!

Whether you're new to the SIS or the profession, or you just never got around to volunteering in the past, we want you. I'll be appointing as many of you as I can, and don't be surprised if I call you even if you don't respond. Have questions about the committees? Feel free to contact me by (swise@law.miami.edu) or phone (305-284-2755). Return to Sally Wise, University of Miami Law Library, P.O. Box 248087, Coral Gables, FL 33124 or via above e-mail. Deadline: June 27th.. Sally Wise Vice Chair/Chair-Elect ALL-SIS

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### ALL-SIS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REQUEST FORM

Please select 3 choices, ranking your preferences, with 1 being the highest.

#### COMMITTEES

\_\_\_\_\_ Awards Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Bylaws Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ CONALL/Mentoring  
Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Continuing  
Status/Tenure Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Program Committee  
(2005 Annual Meeting)

\_\_\_\_\_ Reception Local  
Arrangements

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership and  
Recruitment Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Nominations Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Public Relations  
Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Website Committee

#### ROUNDTABLES

\_\_\_\_\_ Legal Research

\_\_\_\_\_ Relations with Vendors

\_\_\_\_\_ Statistics

#### SPECIAL WORKING GROUPS-- ADVISORY

\_\_\_\_\_ CALI Research Project

\_\_\_\_\_ Visiting Librarian Project

#### TASK FORCES

\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Legal Research  
Web Sourcebook

\_\_\_\_\_ Library Support for Law  
Journals

\_\_\_\_\_ Web Redesign

\_\_\_\_\_ Educational Task Force

## **Seattle Annual Meeting AALL Advocacy Training Workshop**

The Government Relations Committee and Washington Affairs Office are cosponsoring the fourth AALL Advocacy Training Workshop in conjunction with our 2003 Annual Meeting in Seattle, and we sincerely hope that you can join us for this exciting event! The half-day workshop will be held the morning of Saturday, July 12th, from 8:30 to noon, and there is no registration fee. The goals of the workshop are twofold: to introduce you to the most important current issues on AALL's legislative agenda, and to give you the skills you need to participate effectively in our advocacy program.

This year, the hottest issues on our agenda include:

- the Federal Depository Library Program in the 21st century;
- balance between public access to government information and national security concerns;
- fair use in the digital environment;
- database legislation; and,
- permanent public access (PPA) to federal and state electronic government information.

While all these issues are extremely important to law libraries, the last issue, AALL's advocacy initiative on permanent public access, is brand new and very exciting! The Government Relations Committee and Washington Office have been very active this past year in doing a state survey to determine whether state governments have begun to ensure the permanent public access and preservation of state government information, especially "born digital" publications. One of the goals of the study is to coordinate efforts in the states to educate officials about the need for PPA and, where possible, to work with legislators to enact PPA legislation. This is a major AALL initiative and we need a great turnout of members who share our concerns about the loss of electronic state government information and are willing to begin to work in their home state to do something about it!

Speakers for this session include the 2003-04 GRC chair, Elizabeth LeDoux; GRC members Richard Matthews, Judy Meadows and David McFadden; and Mary Alice Baish, Associate Washington Affairs Representative. In addition, Carolina Rose, president of Legislative Research, Inc., will talk about her 7-years of experiences as a staff member in the California state legislature and share practical tips about the do's and don'ts of lobbying.

In addition to providing updates on these current issues, the workshop will also cover the best methods of capturing your legislators' attention; how to approach a meeting with your legislators or their staff; how to set legislative priorities; and how to work with your chapter and other state organizations on any of these important issues. If you are tired of sitting on the sidelines and want to add your voice to make AALL a stronger player on the legislative front, now is the time to join our advocacy efforts. Our speakers will energize and guide you to action!

We are limited to the first 60 registrants and hope this year to have broad coverage from every chapter and every state. If you have attended a previous workshop, please help us by inviting others in your state who might share your interest and enthusiasm in our advocacy efforts. We need to continue to build a dedicated core group in each state to help us coordinate our efforts.

AALL recognizes the importance of these training sessions as a benefit for our members and will cover the costs of this session so there is no registration fee. If you are interested in attending the July 12th session, all you need to do is send an e-mail message with your contact information as soon as possible to [baish@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:baish@law.georgetown.edu), subject line: 2003 Advocacy Training.

We look forward to seeing you in Seattle for this fun event. Thank you!

Elizabeth LeDoux, 2003-2004 GRC Chair  
Mary Alice Baish, Associate Washington Affairs Representative

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#### The ALL-SIS Listserv

The ALL-SIS listserv is used for official ALL-SIS announcements, news from AALL, and discussion of topics of interest to our members. If you're a member of ALL-SIS, please subscribe! To subscribe, go to < <http://lists.washlaw.edu/mailman/listinfo/all-sis>>.

To send a message to the list, address the message to < [all-sis@lists.washlaw.edu](mailto:all-sis@lists.washlaw.edu)>. Please direct any questions to the list owners Mark Folmsbee ([zzfolm@acc.wuacc.edu](mailto:zzfolm@acc.wuacc.edu)) or James Duggan ([duggan@siu.edu](mailto:duggan@siu.edu)). List archives are available at <<http://lists.washlaw.edu/mailman/private/all-sis>>.

#### ALL-SIS on the Web

ALL-SIS is on the web! Visit the ALL-SIS Home Page at <<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/>>. Electronic versions of *The ALL-SIS Newsletter* are available on our website, as well as other vital information. Contact David Burch, Website Manager ([david.burch@lls.edu](mailto:david.burch@lls.edu)).

#### Newsletter Deadlines for 2003-2004 Academic Year

An email will be sent to the ALL-SIS listserv later this summer announcing deadlines for next year's issues.

Please submit all articles and announcements to the ALL-SIS Newsletter editor. Are you working on any interesting special projects? Have you attended a meeting and learned something you want to share with colleagues? Do you just want to rant and rave about some problems related to academic law librarianship? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please send your thoughts. Any format, printed, faxed, or e-mailed will do, but it would be easiest for Newsletter production if the article is sent either as an attached text or word processing file or as the body of an e-mail. Thank you for your contributions and for your consideration.



*ALL-SIS was established in 1979 to promote interest in and to address issues of common concern to those employed in academic law libraries. The SIS serves as the umbrella organization for all interests--administration, collection development, consortia, directors, fees for service, interlibrary loan, public services, technical services, middle management, etc....*

*ALL-SIS provides opportunities for all librarians to contribute to the overall betterment of the entire academic law community. ALL-SIS has grown to more than 800 members and is the second largest SIS in AALL. Our members come from all aspects of academic law librarianship. Because of the SIS's broad coverage and subtopic focus, all those working in academic law libraries can benefit from membership and are encouraged to join.*