Summer 2008

Southeastern Law Librarian Summer 2008

SEAALL

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Presidential Postings

As I think of our profession I am struck by that fact that in many ways we as librarians are drawn to a profession of service. Each day we in some way help people who have specific needs – the single mother who walks into the courthouse library trying to solve a child support issue, the new associate trying to impress a law firm partner by finding that one esoteric piece of information that will help their case, the student who is trying to find information to write that all important seminar paper. Librarians willingly and gladly work each day to assist those with a need. But as I think about SEAALL I begin to realize that our willingness to serve and help others goes beyond the bounds of our daily jobs.

Over the last month you, like I have been receiving periodic emails updating you about the fundraising status of “Team Nancy.” For those of you not receiving these emails let me bring you up to date. Nancy Johnson, Director of the Georgia State University Law Library is one SEAALL’s most esteemed members. Nancy has served as President of SEAALL and given much of her time to our chapter and to AALL over the many years she has been a member. Recently, Nancy was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and many of her colleagues wondered what they could do to help her. As we are not all in Atlanta where we can be of immediate assistance, Ann Puckett of the University of Georgia Law Library devised an excellent way for all of Nancy’s colleagues to help her. Ann created “Team Nancy” to raise money as part of the Overcome Ovarian Cancer walk taking place in Alpharetta, Georgia on September 13th. As of August 19th “Team Nancy” had raised $7,000! This is no small sum and all of the credit for this success goes directly to Ann Puckett and to you the generous and caring members of SEAALL.

For many years now SEAALL has been reaching out to those in need. In August 2005 when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, heart wrenching images were flashed on our television screens. The needs of those affected were great and in the days following the tragedy food, water and shelter were of course the main concerns. However, it soon became evident that institutions such as libraries, courts and other government agencies would also need assistance. In response, the SEAALL Community Service Committee established the SEAALL Hurricane Relief Fund. The money from this fund helped devastated law libraries in the affected areas recover from the ravages of Katrina. As many of you know, in the Spring of 2006 the City of Baton Rouge was scheduled to be the host city for the SEAALL Annual Meeting. When Baton Rouge became overwhelmed by the influx of Katrina evacuees, Connie Matzen and the law librarians in North Carolina stepped forward and on very short notice organized and hosted a successful 2006 SEAALL Annual Meeting.

Our Community Service Committee has, since its formation in 2005, reached out to organizations throughout the Southeast to serve those in need. Among the groups which SEAALL has

And now, a word . . . or two

Please take note of the comments made by Amy Osborne, SEAALL President, and the article written by Ann Puckett with regard to “Team Nancy” and Lisa Williams, two of our colleagues who are currently battling ovarian cancer. Be inspired!! We hope to begin introducing new and exciting columns and articles in the Southeastern Law Librarian for our members. If you have any suggestions, comments, articles or musings, please send them along. Justine Roach has a short bit within the newsletter for one new column, “What’s New @Your Library”. Take a look and send her your items!

Enjoy!
Carolyn Santanella, editor
supported are the East Baton Rough Parish School System, the Raleigh Rescue Mission and Bread for the City, a charitable organization in Washington, D.C. In 2009, Ron Wheeler with the help of his Community Service Committee will select a worthy organization for SEAALL to support in the Athens area.

In his second inaugural address Franklin Roosevelt said, “The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.” I think that SEAALL has and will continue to progress in many ways not the least of which is looking out for those who may have too little. In closing let me salute Ann Puckett for her work on team Nancy as well as all of you who continually support the initiatives of our Community Service Committee. SEAALL truly is a chapter with a lot of heart.

What’s New @ Your Library?

If you have recently acquired a new database, discovered a new website or hosted a great program, we would like to hear about it. The SEAALL newsletter committee is thinking of adding a “What’s New” column to the newsletter, where you can share information about new print and electronic resources, programs, websites, and discuss the features and benefits of each. If you are interested in sharing information on something that you feel would be helpful, please send a brief summary to jroach@nhcgov.com.

Justine Roach,
SEAALL Newsletter Committee Member

“Knowledge is free at the library. Just bring your own container.” —author unknown
Battling Ovarian Cancer, SEAALL Style

Two well-known SEAALL members are in the fight of their lives. Lisa Williams, Director of Library and Research Services at Parker, Poe, Adams & Bernstein LLP, and Nancy Johnson, Law Librarian and Professor of Law at Georgia State University College of Law, each received a diagnosis of ovarian cancer, Lisa last year, and Nancy this year. Ovarian cancer is the most deadly of gynecological cancers, not because it is necessarily more aggressive than other cancers, but because it is typically not found until it is at an advanced stage. There are few symptoms and no routine screening tests to detect ovarian cancer.

Lisa began experiencing symptoms in February, 2007. Here is how she describes her symptoms and her follow-up advice for other women who might experience them:

gastrointestinal upset like gas, indigestion, and/or nausea; unexplained change in bowel and/or bladder habits; unexplained weight loss or weight gain; pelvic and/or abdominal pain, discomfort, bloating or swelling; constant feeling of fullness. If these symptoms persist for 3 weeks, women should see their gynecologist and request an ultrasound and CA125 test.

Lisa had surgery March 22, 2007, followed up by six chemotherapy treatments spaced out from April to August. While Lisa believes she will need additional chemotherapy in the future, she emphasizes her appreciation for the excellent medical care she has received as well as her gratitude for the great support from friends and family.

Nancy’s pre-diagnosis experience was quite different from Lisa’s. Nancy had no symptoms until she twisted a particular way while gardening and felt a sudden sharp pain. The pain continued to worsen for several hours before she called her doctor, who advised her to go to the emergency room. By the end of that day in the emergency room, she had a diagnosis of stage 3 ovarian cancer. The pain was caused by a tumor that ruptured when she twisted her body. But for that, it could have been much longer before the cancer was discovered. Nancy’s oncologist opted for chemotherapy first, followed by surgery.

Both Lisa and Nancy maintain positive outlooks. Both women have been considerably strengthened by activities with their local ovarian cancer organizations. Since September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, local organizations all over the country are planning fund raising events. Lisa’s Angels are raising money for the Gail Parkins Memorial Ovarian Cancer Awareness Walk in Raleigh: http://www.ovarianawareness.org/home.aspx

The walk takes place on September 27, 2008, and donations of all sizes are welcome.

Nancy’s local organization is the Georgia Ovarian Cancer Alliance (GOCA), and the Overcome Ovarian Cancer Walk is scheduled for September 13, 2008, in Alpharetta. Team Nancy is raising money for that event, and at this writing is well ahead of the other teams: http://www.gaovariancancer.org/

I will end this story with Lisa’s inspiring words and Nancy’s call to battle:

Lisa: Life has a way of throwing you curve balls and you just have to look at the positives: chemo was tough, but not that bad; my new hair style _ short and gray _ is really easy to manage, and the (NC) Ovarian Awareness Walk is a wonderful new place to make friends and develop new talents.

Nancy: What a riot today!! Team Nancy showed up in chemo as a celeb!! All the nurses wanted to meet me! One of the fundraisers said that the last two weeks before the walk everyone really ramps it up!! Now, we have to win!! If there are a few individuals that said they would contribute, you may want to remind them. We don’t want to be nags, but we want to win.
In our previous article the SEAALL 2009 Local Arrangements committee introduced you to Athens and presented an overview of the delights of our fair city. In this and future articles, we will focus on a particular aspect of Athens and the surrounding area. For this article historic Athens takes center stage.

Athens was actually founded by a committee as the site of an institution of higher learning. In 1785 the Georgia legislature endowed a “college or seminary of learning”, making it America’s first state chartered university. This action is recognized as the beginning of state-supported higher education. Unfortunately, it was not until 1801 that a group of five men were charged with finding an appropriate spot for the college. They eventually purchased 633 acres of wilderness on a hill overlooking the Oconee River. Because of the river Athens became a center for textile manufacturing. Many of the mill owners built mansions that are now a part of the historic fabric of the city and part of the delightful walking or driving tours.

Probably to our benefit, Athens played but a minor role in the Civil War, although the town was the home of the Cook and Brother Armory, a converted textile factory. Cook and Brother manufactured the famous Enfield rifle and the less successful double-barreled cannon. The cannon is on display next to the unique Beaux-Arts style city hall. The city hall anchors one of the most unique and colorful downtowns anywhere.

Georgia’s “Classic City” has 15 neighborhoods on the National Register, including four house museums open for public tour, and its largely intact nineteenth-century townscape abuts the historic North Campus of the University of Georgia. The following websites have more information and will be useful in planning your visit to Athens:

- Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation: http://www.achfonline.org
- Athens Welcome Center: http://www.athenswelcomecenter.com
- Historic Tours of Athens: http://www.visitathensga.com/stay_and_do/classic_city_tours
- New Georgia Encyclopedia: http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-2210

The September 2008 issue of Southern Living has a great article about what to do and where to dine in Athens. Hope to see you in April 2009!!
My name is Louis Rosen, and I was a recipient of one of SEAALL's generous scholarships at the end of 2007, as a library school student who already had a law degree. The scholarship helped me pay for my final two classes in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Florida, from which I graduated in May, 2008. I am honored to have received a year-long SEAALL membership along with the award, and hope to play a more active role and begin to have an impact in the organization.

The SEAALL scholarship aided me in finishing my degree and having that award on my resume was a plus factor toward my new position at the Barry University School of Law in Orlando, Florida. As a law student and during the brief time I practiced law, I always felt that the profession was somehow not quite right for me. I believed that there was a professional field out there that would be a better blend of interests and talents for me. I realized that the research process was my favorite part of law, that I loved books, obsessed over organization, dreamed of using the Internet to its full potential as an information-gathering tool, yearned to answer questions and solve problems. I found the profession of law librarianship to be the most direct way to combine the best of both worlds.

At USF, I took a wide variety of classes, making certain to take the Law Librarianship elective. That one class in particular, taught by visiting Professor Roy Balleste, Law Library Director at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, had a tremendous influence on my decision to become a law librarian. The class opened up the various options available as a law librarian as well as provided essential resources helpful for professional development, including joining the AALL. In Law Librarianship, I wrote a paper on law libraries and emerging technologies, but I tried to cover law librarianship-related topics in my other classes I took as often as possible. In Research Methods, I designed a research study for evaluating lawyer and law student preferences for print versus electronic materials, and in Public Librarianship, I wrote a paper on law library services aimed at the general public, a topic of strong personal interest.

I also tried to gain as much practical library experience as I could over a relatively short period of time. I spent the majority of my library school experience working two part-time jobs, both with flexible and odd hours, ideal for being a student. By day, I worked for Everlove & Associates, Inc., a St. Petersburg, Florida-based company that outsourced law librarians to private firms that did not require full-time librarians, or as support staff to firm librarians who needed extra help. While traveling between eight and ten firms a week, mostly in the Orlando area, I was able to set my own schedule and performed tasks from book ordering and billing to legal research, from shelving and shifting to copious amounts of loose-leaf filing. It was an invaluable experience for learning law library mechanics and materials very well.

By night, I performed a second part-time job from home, a paid internship that worked perfectly with my online classes. I worked as a Virtual Reference Provider for Florida's Ask a Librarian program, run by the Tampa Bay Library Consortium in Tampa, Florida. I answered reference questions from public and academic library patrons across Florida in real-time chat sessions, which allowed me the opportunity to hone reference and customer service skills as well as strengthening my typing and multitasking skills. Whenever possible, I would direct patrons to their local libraries' databases and other online resources, and often seized "teaching moments" to demonstrate efficient web research techniques and source evaluation criteria. I was able to help patrons after their libraries' normal hours, either answering their questions or pointing them in the right direction for further assistance. Working for Ask a Librarian helped me gain confidence in my developing reference skills, but most of all, it was different every night and it was FUN. Virtual reference is one tool all types of libraries have begun to use to adapt to the ever-changing needs of patrons. I was fortunate to be able to learn and to grow in this area of library service.

As I begin in my new Reference Librarian position at Barry University School of Law, I look back over the last two and a half years and see how much I've grown as a librarian and as a person. I received a crash course in law librarianship in the private sector, general reference experience, and a solid library science education, bolstered by SEAALL's scholarship. Now, as a member of AALL and SEAALL, I am extremely excited about continuing on as a law school librarian and making my mark in the profession as a whole.
Burnout 101

Gail Warren, Director of the Virginia State Law Library, coordinated this advanced level program and spoke along with her colleague Jean Holcomb, retired Director of King County Law Library. Both Gail and Jean are excellent speakers and they in no way disappointed their large audience.

They began by defining burnout, which is a loss of job satisfaction and can have such symptoms as fatigue, insomnia, weight change, anger, cynicism, different behaviors, loss of self-esteem, and inability to complete tasks, to mention a few.

They then explained why law librarians are ripe for burnout. Many law librarians have been in their positions for over ten years. Studies have shown that challenging responsibilities and opportunities are more important to law librarians than is compensation. It stands to reason that a position of long duration might have fewer challenges and opportunities than a new job would. Compassion fatigue is another reason for burnout. Law librarians encounter patrons who are trying to do their own legal research without the needed skills. Many law librarians are not authorized to practice law or to advise anyone who seeks to litigate without counsel. This can present a particularly frustrating and awkward dilemma. SEAALL librarians are probably well aware of these concerns and the many other reasons for burnout for law librarians.

Gail and Jean did not merely explain burnout. They gave the audience a tool to evaluate the status of their libraries regarding burnout. Most importantly, they provided practical strategies to prevent, address, and intervene when necessary.

Some of these strategies include:

- Praise without clichés, meaning to tailor compliments to the personality of the person being praised
- Express expectations so that they are known
- Determine rewards, especially inexpensive and intangible ones
- Acknowledge an individual’s place in the culture of the workplace and how each individual contributes
- Be a good role model to those you supervise: get adequate rest, express trust, exhibit high ethical standards, and use self-evaluation (create a form for self-evaluation if there isn’t one)
- Make time for others
- Encourage peer networks (pay SEAALL dues for employees, for example!)
- Support individual thinking and reward risk
- Share credit
- Make training available
- Fit the job to the employee!

Gail and Jean addressed manager burn-out also, with equally excellent suggestions:

- Managers need a buffer zone between home and work—commuting can provide a time of transition
- Know your personal pressure points and address them with time-outs at lunch, adequate vacations, and whatever is needed to compensate
- Invest in happiness (I love this one!!)
- Match your biorhythms to those of others (If you are a night person and others are morning people, meet for lunch or early in the afternoon.)

Intervention is necessary when the burnout is severe and disrupting the workplace. These are the most necessary parts of intervention:

- Address the problem immediately
- Explain the problem and the impact it is having
- Ask for suggestions in an effort to understand what is underlying the unacceptable behavior
- Set a timeline for improvement
- Consider and/or offer a leave of absence

Gail summarized the program by saying that managers need to practice what they preach. She noted that even Pollyanna had a bad day.

References provided by this program include two articles by Jean Holcomb in the Law Library Journal 98 and 99 (links below):

Gail also recommended:


A final resource mentioned was:

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Southeastern Law Librarian
Florida Coastal School of Law

Colleen Martinez Skinner has joined Florida Coastal School of Law as our newest Reference Librarian. She received her JD from our very own Florida Coastal. Colleen is excited to start her career in law librarianship while working to complete her Masters of Information Science at Florida State University.

Also new to Florida Coastal as our Head of Reference is Jennifer Lunt. She earned her MLS and her JD from the University of Alabama. Jennifer comes to us most recently from Michigan.

In the question and answer session that followed the program, Gail and Jean addressed the very important issue of distinguishing between burnout and very serious problems such as alcoholism, addiction and depression, to name a few. The manager needs to consult experts and not make a diagnosis on his/her own. The work discussion addressing the problem will give information and clues. The manager must avoid judging the employee and criticizing the employee unfairly.

This program was well worth attending and SEAALL members might consider ordering the recording of it.

Wake Forest School of Law

Kate Irwin-Smiler just started a job as Reference Librarian at Wake Forest as of August 1. Previously she was Senior Research Librarian at Western New England College School of Law (Springfield, MA). She is teaching legal research to 1Ls and also is working with Interlibrary Loans.

Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP

Carolyn T. Santanella announces that her firm has recently merged with Leatherwood out of Greenville SC to form Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP. She says that they are excited about the merger and look forward to working with the SC group.

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This program was well worth attending and SEAALL members might consider ordering the recording of it.

f) Nominations: Georgia Chadwick’s committee will begin work after the Portland meeting.

g) Placement: Rob Farmer delivered the report of the committee.

h) Program: Maureen Eggert reported that her committee is seeking topics and keynote speakers. They will use forms for program proposals to be submitted after the AALL August deadline. She encouraged proposals of technical services topics and also recycling Portland programs and topics.

i) Scholarship: Katie Brown reported on behalf of Jason Sowards. The committee recently awarded a rotating annual meeting grant, funded by AALL, to Ulysses N. Jaen, Access Services Librarian at West Virginia. The committee is looking forward to awarding scholarships in the new year, including the first Kathryn Mattox Scholarship. The committee is planning to step up activities to publicize SEAALL scholarships and will be soliciting comments from former winners; comments will be used in publicity efforts.

j) Service to SEAALL: This committee will work with Ken Hirsh and Terry Long.

6. Future Meetings/Local Arrangements

a) Athens, April 16-18, 2009: The Committee distributed flyers and reported that the opening would be at the State Botanical Gardens.

b) Williamsburg, April 15-17, 2010: Jim Heller reported to the members on the plans.

7. Administrative Positions

a) Archives are still at University of Richmond.

b) Database is managed by Ken Hirsh.

c) Handbook will be updated by Laurel Birch.

8. There was no Old Business.

9. New Business

a) There will be a student registration fee of $50.00 for the Athens Annual Meeting. The Board will reevaluate this fee after the meeting.

b) Carol Billings told the members that SEAALL Rules! Amy Osborne reminded the members to vote in the AALL election and invited everyone to the SEAALL Reception right after the meeting.

10. The meeting adjourned in record time at 6:04 pm.
SEAALL Committees

**Articles and Bylaws**
Reviews and revises Chapter articles of incorporation as directed by the Executive Committee.
Kenneth J. Hirsh, Chair, Immediate Past President (2009)
Amy Osborne, President (2010)
Maureen Eggert, Vice President/President-elect (2011)

**Community Service**
Identifies, promotes, and implements non-political volunteer and community service activities.
Ron Wheeler, Chair (2009)
Pam Deemer (2009)
Sarah Mauldin (2009)
Jennifer McLean (2009)
Olivia Weeks (2009)
Marin Dell (2010)
Sally Irvin (2010)
Anne Burnett (2010)
Joyce Janto (2010)
Ismael Gullon (2010)

**Education and Publications**
Responsible for the development of publications for the benefit of the Chapter’s members; also, responsible for developing SEAALL program proposals for the AALL annual meeting. (2 year term)
Elizabeth Outler, Chair (2009)
Tom Latuszek (2009)
Iris M. Lee (2009)
Terrance Manion (2009)
Constance M. Matzen (2009)
Phebe Poydras (2010)
Lillian Weeks (2010)
James Donovan (2010)
Adeen Postar (2010)

**Government Relations**
Monitors legislative, regulatory and judicial developments that affect SEAALL, the practice of law librarianship or the creation and dissemination of information for the states in the southeast region of the U.S. This committee keeps the membership informed by print and electronic means. (2 year term)
Dionne M. Dockendorf, (2009) - Virginia
Sharon Bradley (2009) – Georgia
Pam Brannon (2010) - Georgia
Kevin Butterfield (2010) - Virginia
Melane Sims (2010) - Louisiana
Marilyn Estes (2010) – D.C.
Dee Dee Bradsher - Alabama(2010)

**Local Arrangements: Athens, 2009**
Ann Puckett, Chair (2009)
Deb Baker
Sharon Bradley
Anne Burnett
Maureen Cahill
James Donovan
Suzanne Graham
Wendy Moore
Cheryl Solomon
Carol Watson
Pam Brannon
Quin Cui
Trina Holloway
Nancy Johnson
Terrance Manion
Michael Tillman-Davis
Ron Wheeler
Suzanne Cassidy
Denise Gibson
Ismael Gullon
Williamsburg, 2010
Jim Heller, Chair (2010)

**Membership**
Promotes chapter membership and vitality within the region, maintains and distributes a biannual membership directory and coordinates activities for new members, retiring members and the organization. (2 year term)
Edward T. Hart, Chair (2009) - Florida
Margaret L. ztiansen (2009) - Virginia
Penny Gibson (2009) – Alabama
Rebekah Maxwell (2009) - Virginia
Dee Wood (2009) – Kentucky
Cathy Wagar (2010) - Louisiana
Reba Best (2010) - Tennessee

**Newsletter and Public Relations**
Responsible for the publication of the "Southeastern Law Librarian" four times a year. (2 year term)
Carolyn T. Santanella, Chair (2010)
Chris G. Hudson (2009)
Justine Roach (2009)
Ryan Valentin (2010)
Elizabeth Farrell (2010)
Jessica de Perio Wittman (2010)
Nominations
Georgia Chadwick, Chair (2009)
Charlie Condon (2009)
Karen Nuckolls (2009)
Nancy Johnson (2009)
Jennifer Sekula (2009)

Placement
Communicates the availability of new positions in the southeast; also, responds to potential employers with information about SEAALL members who are interested in new employment opportunities. (2 year term)
W. Robert Farmer, Chair (2009)
Sarah Maudlin (2009)
Denise Gibson (2010)
Michelle Cosby (2010)
Trina Holloway (2010)

Program
Plans and implements the educational program for the chapter’s annual meeting.
Maureen Eggert, Chair (2009)
Jaime Edge (2010)
Sarah Glassmeyer (2010)
Ismael Gullon (2009)
Sally Irvin (2010)
Iris Lee (2009)
Terry Long (2010)
David Lehmann (2010)
Katherine Marsh (2010)
Terrance Manion (2010)
Susan Skyzinski (2009)
Ron Wheeler (2009)

Scholarship
Publicizes, manages and awards the annual Lucille Elliott scholarships. (2 year term)
Jason Sowards, Chair (2009)
Donna Bausch (2009)
Marie Summerlin Hamm (2009)
James S. Heller (2009)
Ray Lytle (2009)
Nichelle Perry (2009)
Denise M. Uzee (2009)
Lorelle Anderson (2010)
Kathleen Brown (2010)
Masako Patrum (2010)

Legal Limericks

New Statutes
Oh for joy
and great elation!
We have new statutes
from the latest session!
They’re numbered,
carded and on the shelves,
Placed with loving care by
your library elves....
On each corner,
on each floor....
Not 20 paces
from any door.

12 sets do rest
from floor 15 to number 12,
So all who wish can
dig and delve
Into the laws
of this great state...
Enough volumes so no one
should have to wait!

Now, all we ask is that
you keep in mind,
That all are of a
similar kind....
Finding what you need
(hopefully) won’t be hard,
But if you take one,
please sign the card....

Feel free to send in a musing, limerick, rhyme, or other short pundit about your office or institution. Let’s have a little fun!
Carolyn Santanella, editor