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Southeastern Law Librarian

Fall 2013

www.aallnet.org/chapter/seaall

Volume 38 Issue 4

Presidential Ponderings

SEAALL President

Pamela Melton

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“Sleigh bells ring. Are you listening? In the lane, snow is glistening.” Well, maybe there’s no snow for most of us, but there is definitely a festive feeling in the air. Thanksgiving is past, Christmas is upon us, and soon our thoughts will be turning to the annual meeting. The Knoxville Local Arrangements Committee, headed up by Katherine Marsh and Reba Best, is diligently preparing to host us. The Program Committee, under the guidance of our Vice-President/ President-Elect Fran Norton, has put together a very exciting and worthwhile Institute and annual meeting. The website will be going live soon and I encourage everyone to make plans to be in Knoxville in April.

Congratulations to Donna Nixon on her election to the AALL Executive Board as Member at Large. We are all very proud of her. We are also proud of the other SEAALL members who stood for office in this past election. It is an honor to be recruited to run in the AALL general election.

Anyone who has served on the SEAALL Executive Board or chaired a SEAALL Committee has discovered that the SEAALL Handbook is a valuable source of guidance. However, over the years, it has grown a bit unwieldy and perhaps longer than it needs to be, due to having material repeated in multiple places. Carol Watson, with the help and advice of the current board and committee chairs, has undertaken the task of revising the Handbook to make it even more usable. The revision is moving along and we hope to be able to present an updated version to the membership early in 2014, with the goal of formal adoption at the annual meeting.

I have been impressed this year, although not surprised, by the good work done by your officers and committee members. In spite of having demanding, full-time positions, every one of them has pitched in to complete their tasks on time, with professionalism, courtesy, and good humor. That’s the spirit of SEAALL! It makes the job of president a very pleasant one indeed. I wish you all happy holidays and a prosperous new year.

PRM

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Reader Feedback

If you have suggestions of articles or features you would like to see in the Southeastern Law Librarian please contact Brian Barnes, bcbarnes@loyno.edu.



2014 SEAALL Knoxville, TN April 3-5

The Local Arrangements Committee looks forward to welcoming you to Knoxville in just a few short months. The annual meeting dates are April 3-5, just in time for the beautiful Appalachian spring. You can register for the conference at: <http://library.lmunet.edu/seaall2014>.

The theme of this year's conference is "New Frontiers." Accordingly, we have chosen an opening reception with 360-degree views of the "old frontiers" – that is, the Smoky Mountains that our ancestors set out to conquer two centuries ago. Club LeConte, located at the top of the First Tennessee building on Gay Street, is an ideal place to begin exploring ideas about new frontiers for law libraries.

This year's headquarters hotel, the Crowne Plaza, is within easy walking distance of more than 25 non-chain restaurants and bars, more than 10 boutiques, an independent bookstore, 3 museums and other miscellaneous points of historical interest. Below are links to some of the highlights we hope you'll enjoy during your visit.

Downtown:

1. **Market Square**, the historical heart of downtown, with plenty of dining, shopping, and people-watching options: <http://knoxvillemarketsquare.com>
2. **World's Fair Park**, home of the Sunsphere: <http://worldsfairpark.org>
3. **The Old City**, a mix of eclectic restaurants and shops: <https://www.facebook.com/OldCityKnoxville>



Within 5 miles of downtown:

1. **McKay Books:**
<http://www.mckaybooks.com>
Buy, trade, or sell – thousands of books!
2. **Ijams Nature Center:**
<http://ijams.org/about> Local hiking gem on the Tennessee River.
3. **Knoxville Zoo:**
<http://www.knoxville-zoo.org> Located just east of downtown on 53 wooded acres.



Regional attractions:

1. **Smoky Mountains National Park:**
<http://www.nps.gov/grsm/index.htm>
Offers a plethora of outdoor activities.
2. Dollywood:
<http://www.dollywood.com>
3. Gatlinburg & Pigeon Forge:
<http://www.gatlinburg.com> &
<http://www.mypigeonforge.com>



If the Local Arrangements Committee can do anything to help you plan your visit or answer any questions, please contact co-chair Katherine Marsh at katherine.marsh@lmunet.edu. Katherine is the Information Services Librarian at Lincoln Memorial University's Duncan School of Law.

See you in Knoxville!

Service to SEAALL Nominations

The Service to SEAALL Award Committee seeks nominations for the award for 2014 given at the Annual Meeting in April. In addition to the person's name and employer, please outline the reasons you feel that person merits the award. The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, February 21, 2014.

The criteria for the award are:

1. The candidate must have given special service to the chapter.
2. The candidate must have a sustained record of service to the chapter.
3. The candidate must have been a chapter member for at least five years.
4. Current and immediate past officers are not eligible.

We look forward to reading your nominations. Please send them to pdeemer@gmail.com

Past recipients include:

1989 – Ed Edmonds
1990 – Larry Wenger
1991 – Carol Billings
1992 – Hazel Johnson
1993 – Mary Smith Forman
1994 – Betty Kern
1995 – Timothy Coggins
1996 – Pam Williams
1997 – Sally Wiant
1998 – Ed Schroeder
1999 – Kay Todd
2000 – Connie Matzen
2001 – William Beintema
2002 – Sue Burch
2003 – Donna Bausch
2004 – Jim Heller
2005 – Joyce Manna Janto
2006 – Carol Avery Nicholson
2007 – Nancy Johnson
2008 – Terry Long
2009 – Anne Klinefelter
2010 – Sally Wambold
2011—Georgia Chadwick
2012 – Pam Deemer
2013 – Jack Bissett

The Committee:

Pam Deemer
Jack Bissett
Ed Hart

5 Questions ... with Wendy Moore

featuring Wendy Moore,
Acquisitions Librarian @ Georgia Law

1. What is your favorite legal book and why?

That has to be Prince's Bieber Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations, currently in its 6th edition! What's not to love – it is filled with abbreviations and acronyms for all sorts of legal resources and entities. AND there is a reverse look-up – all of the best dictionaries have reverse look-up! It helps me perform “magic” for students at the Reference Desk and makes everyone happy – well, at least most of the time. Fairly certain my (unhealthy) love of reference books was a major factor in my desire to become a librarian.

2. Who has had the biggest impact on your law librarian career?

I've been fortunate to have many mentors and peers who have influenced my law librarian career. Also my colleagues through the years here at the University of Georgia Law Library have been supportive and encouraging of professional development. The biggest impact on my career has

been from Carol Watson. She demonstrates professional involvement by example, offers a helping hand when needed, and pushes me to try new initiatives and articulate my viewpoints.

3. If you could have a law library animal mascot and danger was not an issue, what would you choose and why?

The University of Georgia Law Library already has a pseudo-mascot in UGA Law Hawk, a female red-tailed hawk that likes to hang out in the oak trees outside the Law Library's main reading room windows. She seems to be eyeing the law students for signs of weakness. Sometimes she eats a squirrel in front of the windows to frighten the law students. She's been known to swoop down close to people's heads occasionally, adding a nice element of danger to bird-watching. You can follow her on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/UgaLawHawk>

4. What is the coolest thing you've seen another library do that you wish you had at your library?

For years I wanted a coffee bar in our Law Library like I'd seen at other libraries. But then our Law School was remodeled – adding a great coffee bar just a quick walk from my office. I've always been intrigued by the Ping-Pong, pool, and chess tables offered by The College of William & Mary's Wolf Law Library. However, I want a foosball table! Library supply company Gaylord makes them available at <http://www.gaylord.com/adblook.asp?abid=18395> with the claim that the foosball table will be “forging a lasting relationship and leading to increased use of other library services and materials.” How can we NOT have foosball table, if it will do all that?

5. What is something important you have learned at a SEAALL Annual Meeting?

Know your drink limit and stick to it. Or, at least pace yourself.



The SEAALL Annual Meeting: How a Law Student Became a (almost) Librarian

Katie Ginnane

Law Library Fellow

Daniel F. Cracchiolo Law Library, James E. Rogers College of Law

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Generally speaking, law students spend their three years of law school with access to limited funds. I was no different. As I began to round out my third year, approaching the impending catastrophe that the summer might provide without a job and without access to financial aid, I found myself with limited funds and a desire to attend the SEAALL annual conference. I had already submitted, and had accepted, a proposal for a poster presentation, my first foray into the world of law librarianship, and it would have been incredibly embarrassing if I could not go due to the cost of attendance. Fortunately, the Atlanta Law Library Association (ALLA) stepped in and awarded me their annual meeting scholarship. With that money, I was able to begin my first steps away from law school and towards a career in law librarianship.

The SEAALL annual meeting provided me with several important insights that I believe will make me a better librarian. First, it helped me to understand the collaborative nature of the profession. Every meeting I attended, from those focused on faculty services to those focused on student outreach, all had some forum built into the presentation to discuss ideas. On my last day, I attended “Revisiting Student Services.” The entire small group session amounted to a great dialogue between all the librarians present about how to interact with students. Although many of the people present had attended law school prior, I had a particularly unique view within this discussion simply because I was still a student. Many of the ideas resonated with me, and I could see the importance of this collaborative effort by the way everyone interacted. Participants offered ideas of things that did and did not work in providing student services, and from my perspective, I could tell each attendee of that session walked away with a variety of ways to demonstrate the library’s worth to the student body. The collaborative nature of the profession was evidenced further by the way that each person I met provided some bit of helpful advice to me, a budding librarian, even if such advice was merely reassuring me that law librarianship is great field to start a career. I was even able to contribute to the collaborative effort, if only just a small amount, through my poster presentation. Throughout the session, I answered questions and provided insight based on a small digitization project I completed while interning at the Georgia State Law Library. I also began to realize fully the various issues presented when digitizing information, particularly as they relate to copyrights, through the questions that I received and the feedback I got.

The annual meeting also provided me with a sense of the issues faced consistently by law librarians and how the profession is attempting, if possible, to rectify those issues. Fortunately, on top of attending the main portion of the annual meeting, I was also able to attend the institute through the generosity of ALLA. The institute’s focus, “Finding Common Ground to Produce Practice Ready Graduates,” provided me with a great introduction to what the rest of the meeting would hold. As a law student at the time, I developed an entirely different perspective of how each sector within law, both academic and private institutions, interacted with one another to achieve a common goal. After all, one of the main purposes of a law school is to produce graduates who are ready to contribute to the legal field. Throughout each session, I felt that much of the discontent with the current system reflected the sentiments of my law school peers and myself. Not only did it reaffirm my views, but it also helped me to understand that these problems are universal to the profession. I realized the importance of establishing the ability to effectively act as a force for change and growth within any institution into which I am (hopefully) hired.

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Finally, the annual meeting helped me to understand my career trajectory much better. The great part about attending a meeting like this is the variety. I attempted to vary the group sessions in which I participated to a range of different aspects of law librarianship, and I would recommend any new or incoming librarian to do the same. I find that my capabilities as a contributing member to the profession depend largely on my knowledge of the profession. By offering such variety, the annual meeting truly provided me, and all of the attendees, with the opportunity to understand every facet of the field better, not just the aspect in which I want to specialize. Further, the presentation “Getting Hired Using Social Network” provided a great introduction to utilizing social media to demonstrate mine and my someday colleague’s worth.

Now in Arizona, in the first few months of a fellowship at the Cracchiolo Law Library, I can appreciate even more the experiences that I gained and connections that I made at the annual meeting. I developed a sense of what kinds of issues law librarians handle regularly, and I felt that I began to understand the necessity for collaboration both inside and outside of each individual institution. I would recommend that any student interested in law librarianship attend this meeting, or one like it, to gain a sense of what it means to be member of the profession. My attendance further solidified my goal of becoming a law librarian, and I thank the members of ALLA for providing me with that opportunity.

Call for Articles for *Spectrum*’s Architectural Issue

Each year, *AALL Spectrum*’s May issue features articles about law libraries that have been recently remodeled or renovated. *Spectrum* is currently seeking article proposals for the 14th Annual Architecture Series.

If your library has undergone a recent renovation project and you would like to highlight that project in the May 2014 issue of *Spectrum*, please send a brief summary (one to two paragraphs) by January 5, to Catherine Lemmer, *Spectrum*’s editorial director, at calemmer@iupui.edu.

The authors of projects selected will be notified shortly after January 5. If selected, articles and photographs will be due on February 21. Don’t hesitate to contact Catherine if you have any questions.

A Girl Walks Into a Bar Exam ...

Amy Lipford
Research & Instructional Technology Librarian
Florida State University College of Law
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To take the Bar or to not take the Bar, that is the question. Precisely, that is the first question followed by additional considerations about the logistics of when and where. While only about a third of law librarian jobs currently require both a JD and MLIS, there has been a recent shift among academic positions to prefer both degrees. As this trend continues, librarians graduating from law school will be considering whether to take the bar exam and must weigh their options. Membership affords numerous benefits including greater employment opportunities, enhanced credentials, additional education, and networking.

“What is this, some kind of joke?”

Being a licensed attorney allows flexibility and advantages in career choices. Law librarians are a passionate bunch about their profession and many (myself included) could not fathom leaving this rewarding and challenging field. However, having bar membership not only provides another career option to practice law, but could lead to other professional opportunities. This can be particularly useful if job or geography changes limit availability of typical law library positions.

Adding another set of letters to your name and a line to your resume increases your credentials and in some cases, your credibility with your patron base. Directors of academic institutions are considered faculty and usually required to have both degrees. Having bar membership can increase perception among faculty and law firm colleagues. In turn, being licensed can lead to greater opportunities within the field of law librarianship.

Bar membership allows librarians to maintain connections in two worlds in part by involvement in law and librarian professional organizations. The American Bar Association as well as state bar associations offer their members a variety of resources, including teaching tools and webinars that your library or firm may not otherwise have access to. Bar membership also provides great networking opportunities to experts in the field. Often, when teaching research courses, demonstrating the practical quality of legal research is difficult. By networking, law librarians are able to meet practicing attorneys who can offer insight about what skills, or lack thereof, students have or need when starting jobs or summer associate positions. These attorneys also make excellent guest speakers in classes and can provide valuable examples for teaching. Also, these attorneys can be an excellent networking opportunity for the benefit of the students.

“Why the long face?”

The bar exam doesn't come without its own drawbacks. There are considerable costs associated with taking the exam. These include study materials, application fees, hotel and travel money and also the opportunity cost of giving up your life for three months. Studying for the bar is a long, arduous task that can take both a mental and physical toll. You may be able to study while working or you may have to take a break from your job to dedicate your time to studying. The break may be unpaid, and a real bar to taking the exam.

After choosing to begin the process, there is serious planning that must be done. If you are a procrastinator, preparing for the bar is not something you can do on the spur of the moment. With the bar exam only offered

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twice a year, librarians must evaluate their upcoming schedules and determine if a July or February date works for them and doesn't conflict with teaching or other professional obligations. For the new graduate, becoming employed is the biggest concern which may conflict with the July test date. Much of entry-level interviewing occurs at the AALL conference, which is typically right before the bar exam. For me, it occurred two weeks before the test date, and I made the difficult decision to forgo the annual conference in order to get in some extra study. Waiting presents another problem, because by the time February rolls around many new graduates are then employed and some employers may not have the ability to give any leave time for taking the exam.

There may be unanticipated side effects of the decision to take the bar exam, including dealing with well intentioned (yet clueless) friends and family. Many are already oblivious to what law librarians actually do and may not be as supportive as you'd like when you give up your personal life during the study process. Once you pass the bar, some in your life may struggle with your decision not to pursue the practice of law. In the end though, questioning your motives does not diminish your accomplishment or the fact that you have the best job in the world.

Taking the bar is a very personal choice that every law school graduate must answer. It requires planning and dedication for three months (or more) of your life, and usually cooperation from your employer, and support from family and friends. It is not without its own complications, including timing, costs, and the difficulty of the process. Those considerations are offset by the positives that are associated with bar membership such as continuing education resources and networking. For many, passing the bar is reward enough in itself.

Day in the Life Contest

It's almost time for AALL's annual Day in the Life Contest! Sponsored by the AALL Public Relations Committee, the Day in the Life Contest invites AALL members to take a wide range of photographs and videos of law librarians working, meeting, teaching, and doing everything else that law librarians do in a given day. The contest runs January 1 through February 28, 2014.

We are pleased to announce a new category this year, Best Video, and a special category, Student Services. We are also pleased to announce an expanded time frame for taking photos and videos! Entries must be submitted between January 1 - and February 28, 2014, but **your photos and videos can be from any time between March 1, 2013 and February 28, 2014.**

Have you captured your library's events on film in the past year? Do you have a great idea for a photo or video that captures the spirit of law librarianship? This contest is for you!

Entries will be judged online through membership voting in April. Winners will be recognized on AALLNET, in the July issue of AALL Spectrum, and during the 2014 Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

Please visit the AALL Day in the Life homepage for complete contest details:
<http://community.aallnet.org/DayintheLifeContest/Home/>.

SEAALL Library Profile

Kathrine R. Everett Law Library at the University of North Carolina School of Law

Information by Nick Sexton; Layout by Brian Barnes



The Kathrine R. Everett Law Library occupies four floors of Van Hecke-Wettach Hall on the campus of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. A renovation that opened in 1999 moved the Law Library's entrance from the main part of the building to just off the newly constructed rotunda, a move that gave it higher visibility and appeal. The law school's approximately 750 students can find plenty of large tables and carrels on its fourth (main) floor reading room to spread out on and study in. The circulation and reference desks are also located on this floor, as are kiosks of public computers and many shelves of essential state and federal materials. Patrons can find a selection of law-related

DVDs and a variety of general periodicals here. A total of six private study rooms, most of which feature large monitors that can connect to laptops and the Internet, are available on the Law Library's third and fourth floors.

What eventually became the Kathrine R. Everett Law Library started life in 1894 as 300 volumes housed in the law office of the university's second law professor, John Manning. The collection moved to the Smith Building on UNC's campus in 1907 and at that point officially became known as the Law Library. In 1923 the Law Library (then about 7,000 volumes) moved again, this time to UNC's Manning Hall, and Lucile Elliot became the first custodian (that is to say, director) of the collection. Mary Oliver was made director of the Law Library's 70,000 volumes in 1955 and served in that position for 30 years. In 1968 the School of Law and Law Library (the latter with a staff of seven) moved to its current location on campus, Van Hecke-Wettach Hall. Lolly Gasaway became director in 1985, when the collection was at 280,000 cataloged items, and left the post when she became the School of Law's associate dean for academic affairs in 2006. In 1993 the Law Library was named in honor of Kathrine R. Everett, a 1920 graduate of the law school who was first in her class and the top scorer on that year's state bar exam. In 2007 Anne Klinefelter became only the fourth director in the Law Library's history; she now oversees more than half a million titles, thousands of microforms and microfilm, and (because the Law Library shares resources with the university at large) hundreds of databases.

The Law Library's librarians are very active in teaching full-credit courses in the law school such as Advanced Legal Research (ALR), Advanced Legal Writing, Privacy Law in Practice, ALR Corporate & Transactional, and Introduction to the Law of the United States (this last course is for visiting foreign students). Some have



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taught a course in Law and Librarianship out of UNC's School of Information and Library Science. And it's not unusual for a pair of Law Library reference librarians to visit a local city or county library and provide instruction to librarians there on how to answer legal questions.

UNC's Law Library is a public institution and as such is open to anyone in the community who wishes to use its collection. Its full-time staff of 18, including 11 professional librarians, work assiduously to serve students, faculty, and the general public. Copying machines, scanners, a computer lab, wireless connectivity, and two computers devoted to providing patrons with a version of Westlaw contribute to making the Law Library a pleasant and comfortable place to conduct research and find legal information.

For more information about the Law Library, please visit its website at <http://library.law.unc.edu>.

Have an idea to share?

Need publications to help with achieving promotion or tenure?

Want to promote a project you have done at your library?

Become an author in the Southeastern Law Librarian !!!

Contact Brian Barnes, bcbarnes@loyno.edu.

SEAALL Quarterly Report

July 1, 2013-Sept. 30, 2013

| | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------|
| Opening Working Balance | | 22,870.29 |
| INCOME | | |
| Dues | | 9,160.00 |
| Individual | 420.00 | |
| Institutional | 8,600.00 | |
| Associate | 100.00 | |
| Student | 40.00 | |
| SEAALL 2013 Decatur Opening Reception Ticket | 40.00 | 40.00 |
| SEAALL 2014 Knoxville Sponsorships | 1,350.00 | 1,350.00 |
| COSELL Disbursement | | 4,288.04 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 14,838.04 |
| TOTAL WORKING BALANCE | | 37,708.33 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| AALL 2013 Seattle | | 529.62 |
| reimbursement | 437.34 | |
| VIP reimbursement | 92.28 | |
| SEAALL 2015 Lexington Opening Reception Deposit | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Miscellaneous | | 1,130.15 |
| File Transfer -Postage | 110.74 | |
| Treasurer Software | 273.17 | |
| Tax Preparation | 568.84 | |
| Refund for Overpayment of Dues | 20.00 | |
| Reimbursement - Service to SEAALL | 157.40 | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | | 2,159.77 |
| CLOSING WORKING BALANCE | | 35,548.56 |
| FIDELITY INVESTMENTS | (Jan. 31, 2013) | 6,391.32 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 41,939.88 |

Scholarship Committee Report

Every year, the SEAALL Scholarship Committee awards Student Scholarships to encourage library school students to pursue a career in law librarianship. Student Scholarship applicants have to submit an official application, a personal statement indicating their genuine interest in the profession of law librarianship, and two letters of recommendation from teachers or employers.

This year, the Scholarship Committee received 15 applications from hard-working library school students, and after careful consideration, the Committee elected to award six scholarships, listed below. In addition to the financial awards, Student Scholarship recipients are also granted a one-year SEAALL membership.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Library School</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------|---|---------------|
| Rob Beharriell | University of Alabama | \$1,250 |
| Lesley Boyd | Florida State University | \$1,250 |
| Katherine Dickson | University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill | \$1,250 |
| Kathleen Klepfer | Florida State University | \$2,000 |
| Esther Ojuri | University of Maryland | \$2,000 |
| Sara Pic | Louisiana State University | \$1,250 |

As a condition of accepting the awards, they will be required to write an article for the *Southeastern Law Librarian* on a topic they learned about in library school or in an internship, preferably on a topic related to law librarianship.

The Scholarship Committee is proud to support these dedicated and deserving students in their efforts to become law librarians, and we look forward to welcoming them as members of SEAALL.

Winter is SEAALL Scholarship Application Season!

The Scholarship Committee encourages SEAALL members to apply for the scholarships and grants listed below that will help defray the cost of attending conferences or pursuing other professional development opportunities. The remaining 2013 - 2014 scholarship deadlines are all in January and February, so please apply or help us spread the word among your colleagues.

Visit the SEAALL website for application materials:

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/seaall/members/scholarships.html>

Lucile Elliott Scholarship. Provides financial aid for any purpose reasonably designed to improve one's career in law librarianship. The amount of the award will vary depending on the proposed activity. Application deadline: January 23, 2014.

Kathryn P. Mattox Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is intended to defray the cost of attendance at the AALL or SEAALL annual meetings. Application deadline: January 23, 2014.

AALL Annual Meeting Registration Grant. This grant was created to provide funding for a law librarian who needs financial assistance to attend the AALL Annual Meeting. The award will be the cost of a full registration to the AALL Annual Meeting. Application deadline: February 28, 2014.

CONNELL Grant. This grant was created to provide funds for CONELL registration and one night's hotel stay for a newer law librarian who will attend the AALL Annual Meeting but needs financial assistance to attend CONELL. Application deadline: February 28, 2014.

Stamp of Approval

Brian Barnes
Interim Law Library Director
Loyola University New Orleans - College of Law Library
bcbarnes@loyno.edu

As we head into the holidays and wrap up a semester it gives all of us a chance to reflect not only on our selves but as our institutions in general. As we look at the institution we invariably talk about what our co-workers have or have not done and their overall contribution to each of our libraries (and even perhaps SEAALL).

As I wrote that last line I hesitated. When we generally “talk” about our colleagues there is a default to a negative connotation. Even just generally saying you are “talking about someone” has a negative connotation in today’s parlance. Why I left that sentence in and where I am going with this thought process is that thinking about others work and talking about it doesn’t need to be negative; in fact, it should be positive much of the time. Too often we go to work, come home, we have all done everything asked of us, and rarely someone says “good job” or “that looks really good” or “that is a really helpful feature”.

That is all well and good, kumbaya, and all that stuff, but it is just part of the discussion. One thing we need in our individual lives, in our careers, in our libraries, and I definitely believe in our profession is a stamp of approval. Many people respond really well to positive feedback, it creates momentum and the world becomes a more vibrant and useful place. So ... How do we get a stamp of approval? Work with your colleagues on coming up with some sort of a plan that goes beyond the daily routine, even if it is fairly easily accomplished, and then present it to your supervisor. Does she approve the plan? If so consider it stamped. Work with those coworkers and create a low-key accountability system. When its done, stamp it.

All of this seems a bit forced but by actually doing these steps you have created something with much more emphasis behind it than a simple sticky note on your desk that you know your boss would approve. By using the steps we created a personal investment in an idea by talking about it with a colleague, this creates some level of responsibility to not just “drop it”. By doing this you also break the idea out of the pile of a thousand other ideas you have by decluttering the thought and giving it a slice of forward momentum that might otherwise save it from not happening.

By presenting it to your supervisor you are then on some level ensuring you are thinking more about this thought than some random idea on your desk. This is because you don’t want to look like an idiot to your boss so the idea naturally has a bit more inertia behind it. And finally, when your boss gives their stamp of approval this can work as a powerful lever for momentum as you first have a “call” to do something now supported by your supervisor, i.e. this is now your job not just an idea. Perhaps more powerful, is that you have put yourself on the responsibility hook because you have said you can do this and no one wants to be a failure. I will also include a third positive that when the idea or goal is accomplished you have built in recognition waiting on the result. This is a powerful incentive in a profession that is seemingly underrecognized and underappreciated by our faculties, students, and at times even our selves.

You may now wonder how in the world do these two themes of “talking” about someone and stamp of approval end up in the same editorial. Quite simply I believe that we as librarians need to “talk” more to each other and help each other achieve these stamps of approval. The world is a large place and we have many tasks but if we work together and support and help each other it can be conquered.

AALL Local Advocate Lobby Day

Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014

Time: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm EDT

Location: Capitol Hill*
Washington, D.C.

Who: Washington-area AALL members and local chapters, including LLAM, LLSDC, SEAALL, VALL, and others who can visit D.C.

Join AALL President Steven P. Anderson, AALL's Government Relations Office staff, local chapters, and AALL members at **AALL's second-annual Local Advocate Lobby Day on March 27.**

Last year's lobby day was such a success, we're doing it again! At this full-day event, you'll become an expert on our top priority issues and learn best practices for successful advocacy. Then, you'll put your knowledge into practice, attending pre-scheduled meetings with your members of Congress and/or their staff to advocate for AALL's policy positions.

According to a [2011 survey](#) by the Congressional Management Foundation, **97 percent** of congressional staff say that in-person visits from constituents have an influence on the member. As law librarians and members of AALL, **you are experts who represent not only yourselves, but your profession, other librarians, and your patrons.** Exercise your influence to make a difference for your libraries!

The Lobby Day is **free of charge** for all AALL members and chapter members. Breakfast, coffee, lunch and an afternoon snack will be provided. Participants will have the opportunity to visit area sites including the Library of Congress, Law Library of Congress, and Folger Shakespeare Library during afternoon free hours.

RSVP to Elizabeth Holland at eholland@aall.org by **March 1.**

*Training will take place at a TBD location on Capitol Hill within close walking distance of the Senate and House Office Buildings, where lobby meetings will take place.

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Submission Guidelines

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Brian C. Barnes -- Deputy Law Library Director -- Loyola New Orleans -- bcbarnes@loyno.edu

Submissions are preferred to be sent electronically in MS Word format.

Newsletter Deadlines are:

Spring -- May 31, 2013

Summer -- August 31, 2013

Fall -- November 30, 2013

Winter -- February 28, 2014

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This Newsletter is provided in a paperless format.

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