A Message from the ASLS President...

The Board of Directors and committee members of ASLS are working hard to prepare programs for the Annual NYLA Conference that will be held in Saratoga in November. This year we hope to add a new program track that will focus on Library Education. We will also continue to present programs that will appeal to our colleagues in special and academic libraries.

Each year ASLS supports several awards. Look inside this newsletter and in future issues for information about the ASLS Internship, the Spirit of Librarianship Award, and conference scholarships.

As a section of NYLA, ASLS supports NYLA’s mission and purpose. Accordingly, at its October meeting the ASLS Board decided to pledge $2,500 to NYLA’s new Centennial Endowment Society. The Endowment Society “provides a buffer against changing economic circumstances, adding a measure of stability, security, and confidence for planning the future of NYLA.” ASLS recognizes the relevance of this fund to the financial health of our state professional organization.

The Board recently appointed an historian to delve into our old records, many of which are at the State Library. Carol Lagasse, longtime member of ASLS, has agreed to begin some essential organization of the documents related to our history. We hope to put the records in order and make this information available to the membership and Board. If you have any ASLS records, anecdotal or on paper, that you would like to add to the ASLS history please contact Carol at clagasse@cdlc.org.

You have received this newsletter as a member of ASLS. As a member of this organization I hope you will choose to become more involved. I continue to find my involvement with NYLA and ASLS to be one of the most rewarding professional experiences I have outside my job. I have met people who are dedicated librarians and have worked with them to plan ASLS-sponsored programs of interest to academic and special librarians – we can always use your help. Feel free to e-mail any of the Board with your questions or suggestions, and plan to join us at our membership meeting in Saratoga.

Cara Molyneaux
ASLS President 2002-2003

ASLS Historian is Looking for Information

The history of the Academic and Special Libraries Section of NYLA is hidden in thirteen folders at the New York State Archives. These folders cover the time period from the Section’s inception in 1954 to 1986. Additional material from 1991 to the present has been recovered from boxes that have traveled the state with numerous board members. This has been an interesting project for Carol Lagasse, ASLS’s newly appointed Historian, but she could use some help. So far her focus has been on the general history (http://www.nyla.org/asls/ASLS_Home/history.htm), conference (and other) programs, awards offered over the years and a roster of past presidents. A list of the past presidents can be found on the ASLS webpage (http://www.nyla.org/asls/ASLS_Home/presidents.htm). Can you fill in any of the gaps? Any historical information from ASLS members would be greatly appreciated, especially for the years 1986 to 1990. In particular, we are looking for “the manual” distributed each year to incoming board members. Please contact Carol Lagasse (clagasse@cdlc.org) with any comments, reminiscences or information.
NEWS, NOTES, ETC . . .

NYLA Annual Conference 2003. ASLS is sponsoring six programs, our annual membership meeting, and a Continuing Ed program at the 2003 conference in Saratoga. Watch for the preliminary conference schedule in the NYLA Bulletin for program information. Be sure to consider attending our CE workshop on website accessibility presented by the folks from MicroKnowledge, Inc. Computer Training.

New this year – ASLS is sponsoring a new track for the conference (in addition to our usual programs). The Library Education (Library School) Track will feature a series of presentations by a number of the seven NYS library schools. Each library school will have a 75 minute presentation by one or more faculty on what’s going on at their school (research, new projects, etc). We hope that these programs will reconnect/connect more closely practicing librarians with their library schools as well as draw library educators to the NYLA Conference.

Save The Date! The NY3Rs and the Academic and Special Libraries Section of NYLA are pleased to announce the 5th Biennial Conference for NYS Academic Library Directors to be held October 2-3, 2003 at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Syracuse, NY. This year the conference will be open to senior management in addition to the Directors of academic libraries in New York.

The general theme will be Assessment and topics are expected to include:
* LibQUAL+ assessment project by NYS libraries: follow-up and next steps.
* Assessing information literacy programs in academic libraries.
* Assessment of the library's contribution to student education (Middle States issue).
* The library's role in academic program review assessment.

Please watch for more information on the detailed agenda and conference and hotel registration. In the meantime, get these dates on your calendar! The planning team looks forward to seeing you in Syracuse and any of them would be glad to receive ideas from you about the content or format of this conference.

Betsy Elkins (aelkins@esf.edu) Mary Casserly (mccasserly@uamail.albany.edu)
Mary Donohue (mdonohue@fmcc.suny.edu) Jean Sheviak (jsheviak@cdlc.org)
Carol Ann Germain (cg219@albany.edu) Jean Currie (jcurrie@lakenet.org)
David Chatham (dwchatha@naz.edu)

Webmaster needed. ASLS needs the help of an individual who would be willing and able to serve as webmaster for the Section web pages. Our pages reside on the NYLA website and will soon need to conform to NYLA guidelines. Please contact any one of the Board members listed on Page 3 of this newsletter if you would like to be considered for the position.

ASLS Award Opportunities for 2003 (more award opportunities on Page 6)

Send a Colleague to NYLA Conference. ASLS is again sponsoring a scholarship for full NYLA conference registration. ASLS members may nominate a colleague or themselves. Nominees should be a “front-line” librarian and an ASLS member. To nominate someone - or yourself - send a one-page letter, including brief biographical information as well as a statement describing why the nominee is deserving and what they might gain professionally from this award. Send or e-mail nominations to Carol Anne Germain, University at Albany LI128, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12222 (cg219@albany.edu).
Treasurer's Report

I am happy to report that ASLS is in excellent fiscal health. I have entered into the responsibilities of Secretary/Treasurer with perfectly balanced books and immaculately maintained records. A big "thank you" goes to Thomas Lawrence for serving the Section so well over the past four years.

We had a positive cash flow for the year of $1,372.64. Our end of the 2002 year balance stands at $13,703.80. Below, I've provided a condensed financial statement for the 2002 year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the financial status of ASLS and I will do my best to answer them.

Beginning of Year Balance 12,407.71

Revenues
Dues Allocation 4506.26
Conference Event 148.90
Total Revenues 4655.16

Expenses
Meetings/Travel 1764.66
Conference Expense 1594.36
Total Expenses 3559.02

End of Year Balance 13,503.85

Submitted by
Sheri Webber
sheribwebber@purchase.edu

2003 ASLS BOARD ROSTER

Cara Molynex, President
Schaffer Library
Union College
Schenectady, NY 12308
Phone: 518-388-6279
Email: molynex@union.edu

Jane M. Verostek, Vice Pres/Pres Elect
SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry
1 Forestry Drive
Syracuse, NY 13210
Phone: 315-470-6718
Email: jmverostek@sfasu.edu

Carol Anne Germain, Past President
University Libraries ~ UL 132
University at Albany
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12222
Phone: 518-442-3590
Email: eg219@albany.edu

Sheri Webber, Secretary/Treasurer
Purchase College
735 Anderson Hill Road
Purchase, NY 10577-1400
Phone: 914/251-6413
Email: sheribwebber@purchase.edu

Kathleen Gundrum, Director
NYlink, State University of New York SUNY Plaza
Albany, NY 12246
Phone: 800-342-3353 Fax: 518-432-4346
Email: kgundrum@nylink.suny.edu

Elaine Lasda, Director
University Libraries LI 132
University at Albany
1400 Washington Ave.
Albany, NY 12222
Phone: 518/442-3598 Fax: 518/442-3567
Email: elainelasda@yahoo.com

Frank Queener, Director
Charles J. Meder Library
Finger Lakes Community College
4355 Lakeshore Drive
Canandaigua, NY 14424
Phone: 585/394-3500 Ext. 7375
Email: queenefr@flcc.edu

Gail M. Staines, Director
Western N Y Library Resources Council
4455 Genesee Street, P.O. Box 400
Buffalo, NY 14225-0400
Phone: 716/633-0705
Email: gstaines@wnyclrc.org

The ASLS Newsletter is published three times a year by the Communications Committee of the Academic and Special Libraries Section of the New York Library Association, Joan Sheviak and Christine Walker, Co-Editors. ADDRESS: ASLS Newsletter c/o Capital District Library Council, 28 Essex Street, Albany, NY 12206; Phone: 518-438-2500 Fax: 518-438-2872; email: jsheviak@cdlc.org or cwalker@cdlc.org.
Report from NYLA Legislative Committee

The Governor's proposed budget, released a few weeks before the publication of the *ASLS Newsletter*, included 15% cuts in library programs. These cuts are substantial and deep, and they will be felt in academic and special libraries. A 15% deduction from state aid to library programs includes a reduction of more than $232,000 in the Coordinated Collection Development Program; a reduction of more than $190,000 in aid for the hospital library services program, which delivers expertise and materials to health care providers throughout the state; and a reduction of more than $323,000 in the regional bibliographic and data bases program, which drives technology into libraries of all kinds throughout the state. In fact, these cuts take us back to 1993 funding levels. If approved by the legislature, the cuts translate to 7,000 fewer up-to-date clinical and medical journal articles for physicians and nurses, 6,400 fewer academic library books, far fewer research databases for students of all ages, and far fewer technology training opportunities for library staff throughout the state. Cost effective regional and statewide resource sharing will suffer, as will currently developing projects such as digitization of research materials, enhanced digital reference services, and shared book storage.

What can you do to help? Make your voice heard at the Rally for New York's Library's in Albany on March 18!

Jean K. Sheviak
ASLS Representative to NYLA Legislative Committee

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**Come to Albany on March 18 for NYLA Lobby Day!**

**Attention! RALLY FOR LIBRARIES!**

The New York Library Association sponsors the Annual NYLA LEGISLATIVE DAY IN ALBANY MARCH 18, 2003 WITH A SPECIAL RALLY from 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm ON THE STEPS OF THE CAPITOL TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR LIBRARIES

Show your support. Attend the entire Legislative Day or just the Rally. Meet us on the Capitol steps at 12:30 or meet in the NYLA briefing room (Meeting Room 6 in the Concourse) at noon. The Rally will be a show of support and solidarity, so a good turnout of supporters is essential!

**Need more information?**

Check [http://www.nyla.org/office/lobby/index.html](http://www.nyla.org/office/lobby/index.html) for details on NYLA’s lobby day activities.

Contact your local 3Rs about their Lobby Day activities.

We need your support in this important effort!
Advocacy With Meaning! By Gail M. Staines, Ph.D.

When it comes to advocating for libraries, academic and special librarians often ask: "Why do we need to do this?" The perceived notion that one goes "hat-in-hand" to ask government representatives for financially support libraries may seem dated and not too effective. After doing legislative visits for many years and without much success, the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) (one of the nine 3Rs councils in New York State) asked the same question - "why do we need to do this?" After a brainstorming session, the idea of pairing legislators and/or their aides and area librarians in a teaching/learning environment arose.

Putting It Together
Planning, organizing, and designing instruction for the target audience of legislators and their aides was relatively easy. Legislative aides are the people who work on behalf of the legislators by gathering research and information on various topics related to public policy. Whether it be bioterrorism, health care, or the impact of casinos on the local economy, the bottom line was that these important individuals needed quality information to assist them in making public policy decisions.

Phone calls were made to local, county, state, and federal government officials to seek their interest in attending a half-day session on how to locate information on public policy issues. Simultaneously, a call for participation was announced to all WNYLRC members asking them if they would like to be paired with a legislator/aide from their district in order to assist them in learning how to search for information effectively. After a date was scheduled, both the legislators and librarians each received a letter of confirmation. Participating librarians were requested to contact their legislative "partner" so that introductions could be made prior to the workshop.

Why Do We Need To Do This?
Just talking about the types of programs and "things" (i.e.: equipment, software, etc.) that you need to provide top-notch library service to your clientele does not get your message across. Having people who fund these programs and infrastructures actually use your online library systems and learn what rich resources are contained in your collections does.

The benefits of teaching our government representatives how to locate information effectively have been great, including:

* The opportunity to highlight libraries of all types from across the region.
* A chance to have librarians interact with their government representatives one-on-one, making connections for the future.
* A forum to showcase publicly funded programs.
* Creating and strengthening relationships between libraries and all levels of government.
* Giving our government representatives the opportunity to become information literate.

Earl Mackey, in his "Legislatures for the 21st Century" article (Point of View column, The Chronicle of Higher Education, 7 June 2002, page B20) talks about the need for state legislatures to change the way they do business. He says, "First, a major enhancement of legislative research is required. Legislatures must reconsider their current research capabilities, and create a new class of "super staff" positions. These nonpartisan positions should be filled by senior officials with broad backgrounds in business, education, technology, and government - chosen for their understanding of the new " technological system" and the interrelated nature of issues coming before the states." Librarians are integral to this model.

Future Activities
Will we continue to offer these workshops? You betcha! Participants requested that we do the workshops a minimum of once per year, if not quarterly. In planning future sessions, we will replicate our past success of contacting individuals to participate as well as asking legislators and their aides on what topics they need to locate information.

Are we making progress? Progress is slow in coming and the challenge continues to exist. On a recent NYLA Library Lobby Day visit, I was struck by two things: 1) that an operator still sits in the Capitol Building elevator to take you up-and-down the floors and 2) that there was no Internet access nor computer in the inner office of the legislators I visited. One legislator even bragged to me, "I do not know how to use a computer. I have people to do that for me." However, we will continue to rise to the challenge by creating nurturing environments in which decision-makers have the opportunity to become familiar with the role of the librarian and the usefulness of the library programs they fund.

Gail M. Staines is Executive Director of the Western New York Library Resources Council. She holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University at Buffalo along with an MLS and BA in political science. She can be reached at: gstaines@wnylrc.org
Liz Lane, Retired Director of the NYS Research Library, Awarded the 2002 ASLS/NYTRO Spirit of Librarianship Award

The Academic and Special Libraries Section of the New York State Library Association

SPIRIT OF LIBRARIANSHIP AWARD

LIZ LANE
2002 RECIPIENT

AWARDED TO AN ASLS MEMBER WHO DEMONSTRATES THE HIGHEST QUALITIES OF LIBRARIANSHIP. IN ADDITION TO BEING AN EXCELLENT LIBRARY ADMINISTRATOR, LIZ HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL MENTOR TO MANY LIBRARIANS. THOSE WHO HAVE BENEFITED FROM HER FRIENDSHIP BELIEVE THAT SHE INDEED EXEMPLIFIES THE "SPIRIT OF LIBRARIANSHIP."

ASLS Award Opportunities for 2003 (more award opportunities on Page 2)

Applications are now being accepted for the 2003 ASLS/Ridley's Bindery Student Internship Grant, generously supported by Ridley's Book Bindery in Syracuse. The annual $1,000 award is given to a New York State academic or special library to support a paid internship for one graduate student in library studies. The purpose of the grant is to provide practical work experience for a graduate library student who is interested in pursuing a career in academic or special libraries.

This year the recipient library will be chosen from the Northern New York Library Network region or the South Central Regional Library Council region. Academic and special libraries in these regions are eligible to apply for the internship grant. Once the award has been made, the library chooses an appropriate intern to complete the project.

Criteria for judging the successful internship project:
- Strength of the applicant's statement of project need, the clarity of project goals, and the presentation of an achievable work plan.
- Evidence of value to the student in preparation for professional work in academic or special libraries.
- Evidence of value to the student through the successful implementation of a project that has the potential for significant impact on the host library's programs or services.

For application information, contact Carol Anne Germain (cg219@albany.edu), ASLS Past President.
**ASLS SPIRIT of Librarianship Award Application**

Each year ASLS presents this award to a section member who clearly exemplifies an exceptional and unique spirit in academic and special libraries. This award is cosponsored by the New York 3Rs Council. To nominate someone, fill in the following application.

Name of nominee

Contact information

Brief Biography

Why does this person exemplify the “spirit” of ASLS Librarianship?

Name of nominator

Contact information

Mail completed application and any additional materials to:
Carol Anne Germain
University at Albany LI128
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12222
cg219@albany.edu
518-442-3590