A message from the ASLS President

Did you know that ASLS received the best booth award at the 2005 NYLA Annual Conference in Buffalo? Congratulations to the hard working ASLS membership committee, chaired by Carol Anne Germain, and to the members of ASLS! For those of you not attending the conference, the ASLS booth featured titles -- contributed by you, our members -- that represented your individual institutions. The membership committee received more than 120 responses - which speaks volumes [no pun intended!] about the strong and diverse ASLS membership. The titles were transformed into “books,” which made up the booth. [see p.5 for additional information about our 2005 booth].

The diversity of ASLS members is not just evidenced by the libraries that participated in the booth, but also by the scope and range of programs we presented during the 2005 conference as well as those scheduled for 2006 in Saratoga Springs. Mark your calendar now for NYLA 2006, November 1-4. Planned programs will be of interest to academic and special library members, and to the library community as a whole. Scheduled topics range from using statistics as a marketing tool to skills you may not have learned in library school [how to run a meeting, for example] to issues in managing a one-person library. We also invite you to the ASLS membership meeting the Thursday evening of the conference, which is always a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues and to meet new friends. Our membership meeting is open to both current and prospective ASLS members; bring a friend that can be introduced to all ASLS has to offer.

Prior to the conference, we also invite you to consider applying for an ASLS award. Nominations are needed from you for both the Spirit of Librarianship Award as well as the ASLS/Ridley Book Bindery Student Internship Grant. See inside for application information and consider who might be a recipient of these important awards.

In this issue of our newsletter is a column contributed by Patti McCall, Librarian at Albany Molecular Research, Inc. We’ve heard from our special library members that we need to focus on their needs and services, and this new column is one goal toward that. Of course we are also interested in news from our academic members and encourage you to consider contributing an article to a future ASLS newsletter. Although special libraries and academic libraries have their own issues and considerations, the true value of ASLS is the ability to share thoughts and solutions with one another regardless of the type of library you might serve. Do you have ideas on ways to better blend our section across the various types of libraries we serve? Is there a topic we should be addressing in our newsletter, and if so, would you be willing to write it?

In my “real” job at Nylinc, as a membership organization we are always interested in getting our members involved in the services and programs that we provide. The same holds true for ASLS. You are our membership and our section’s strength depends on the dedicated contribution of the volunteers, past and present, which make up our section. There are many ways to get involved, whether it’s by contributing to the content of our conference programs, playing a critical advocacy role as the ASLS representative for NYLA’s Legislative Committee, or assisting with the planning and staffing of the ASLS booth. How can you get involved? Consider running for an ASLS office [see page 2 for information], or if you’re not quite ready for that, contact a current ASLS board member to see how you can help. I can honestly say that becoming involved with ASLS is a wonderful experience-you meet great people, stay informed about library services, and as a board member, get to attend board meetings that are actually fun!

Please contact any ASLS board member if you’d like to become more involved in our section, and again, mark your calendars now for NYLA 2006 and the ASLS membership meeting in Saratoga Springs. We hope to see you there!

Kathleen Gundrum
ASLS President
Are you interested in becoming more active in ASLS?

Would you like to play a role in planning the NYLA conference? Are you new to NYLA - ASLS and would like to network?

Consider running for an ASLS board position.

At the end of 2006 a number of ASLS board positions will be open - so contact ASLS - ASAP if you would like to run for one of the following upcoming board openings. All open board positions are elected positions and take effect right after the 2006 NYLA conference. Please contact Jane M. Verostek, ASLS Past President (via phone 315-470-6718 or email jmveros@esf.edu) if you are interested in running for one of these positions. Thank you in advance for your interest and support of ASLS.

Opening positions include:

**Vice President/Conference Programmer**
Position description:
Program Chair for the Annual NYLA Conference.
Attends 3 NYLA Programmer’s meetings.
Chair of the ASLS program committee.
Agrees to serve for 3 years as VP/President-Elect, President and Past President.

**Treasurer**
Position description:
Maintains financial records of the section.
Provides financial reports to the section board and membership.
Develops and presents budget to the board for approval.
Handles all financial transactions for the section.
Liaison with the NYLA office.
Retains seven years of records (keep current 2-3 years/pass others on to historian).
Agrees to serve for 2 years.

**Director (three openings)**
Position description:
Attends ASLS board meetings.
Works with rest of board to set direction of the section.
Actively participates in activities of the section.
Votes on decisions of the ASLS board.
Participates as a member of the program committee.
Agrees to serve for 2 years.

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**AL 2005 Information Commons**

On November 10 and 11, 2005, 150 librarians and other information professionals met in Saratoga Springs for the biennial Academic Libraries 2005 conference, *The Information Commons: Adapting to the Culture of Net Generation Students*. The program opened with keynote speaker Joan Lippincott, Associate Executive Director of the Coalition for Networked Information, who focused on “Net Gen Students, Learning and Libraries.” The program continued with Barbara Dewey and Brice Bible (University of Tennessee) discussing relationships and campus politics in building the information commons, and featured successful information commons models described by Crit Stuart (Georgia Institute of Technology) and Suzanne Thorin (Syracuse University). Barbara Higginbotham (Brooklyn College) discussed the planning process. Maryruth Glogowski and Maureen Lindstrom (Buffalo State) were involved in a closing panel discussion. Academic Libraries 2005 was sponsored by ASLS and the NY3Rs Association. Additional support was provided by Barnes and Noble, Ebsco Information Services, Perry Dean Rogers Partners Architects, and WALDO. Thanks to Carol Anne Germain, ASLS representative on the planning committee, for helping to develop this very successful program!

The NY3Rs Association will sponsor a follow-up program at the NYLA conference in the fall with speakers from Binghamton University and Hamilton College.
Academic and Special Libraries Section of the New York Library Association

Annual Budget Report 2005

Beginning Balance (1/01/05) 9,108.61

REVENUES
Dues Allocation 4,495.02
Conference In* 1,198.00
Grants 1,000.00

TOTAL REVENUES 6,693.02

EXPENSES
Awards 38.88
Ballots/Mailings 1,094.55
Travel and Meetings 521.40
Membership Outreach 137.04
Conference** 2,745.17
Internship 1,000.00
Grants to NYLA 200.00
Miscellaneous*** 1,110.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 6,847.04

Balance as of 12/31/05 8,954.59

* We earned $1100 on the CE class, and $98.00 on the raffle
** This amount includes $275 CE admin fee and $500 CE speaker fee
***Miscellaneous expenses include $1,000 for NY3R’s conference and $110.00 for an ASLS Banner

Conference expenses for 2004 were $4112.72, so we did a much better job at keeping those costs down this year, even though we had the added expense of putting on a CE program. Conference expenses this year were $2745.17. Travel and meeting expenses were comparable and Publications/mailings were slightly higher (929.88 last year compared to 1094.55 this year).

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Lasda Bergman
Treasurer

2006 BOARD ROSTER

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Focus on Special Libraries . . . .

The New York State Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Research Network located in Albany was established in 1991 to support the efforts of SBDC advisors located in twenty-three regional offices located throughout the state. The SBDC advisors work directly with potential and existing business owners to provide assistance with business planning, answer questions, and address problems and issues.

After meeting with a client, the advisor may need assistance in seeking answers to questions that arose during their discussion. This is where the librarians at the SBDC Research Network play a critical role by ferreting out necessary information for advisors and their clients to help convince potential investors/financers of a business plan’s worthiness or to avoid making costly mistakes. This means a wide variety of reference questions on virtually any related business topic or idea are posed to librarians at the SBDC, keeping them on their toes. If you are wondering how to start your own vineyard or contemplating opening a convenience store the SBDC Research Network can help you out.

Staffed by four full time librarians and interns from the University at Albany’s College of Computing and Information Studies (formerly the School of Information Science and Policy), the SBDC Research Network is only accessible to SBDC advisors and program partners. The collection contains approximately 930 print volumes, 25 CD ROMS, 35 small business serials and regional newspapers, videos, and a variety of other documents, including New York State census data.

One of the SBDC’s four librarians is a new member of NYLA and ASLS. Mary Beth Bobish, a 2001 graduate of the University at Albany’s School of Information Science and Policy M.L.S. program, joined SBDC Research Network in 2001 after completing a stint as an intern with The New York State Assembly Information Center. She is very active in the Special Libraries Association and is currently serving as the President of the Upstate New York Chapter of SLA. Excited to be a new member of NYLA, she graciously provided the information for this article. Welcome to NYLA Mary Beth!

Patti McCall
Albany Molecular Research, Inc.

Looking for more information about NYLA and ASLS? You’ll find lots of information about NYLA’s activities, member resources and benefits on the NYLA web site at www.nyla.org. And, under “About NYLA and “Sections” (http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=48), you can learn about ASLS including events, past copies of our newsletter, by-laws, awards and more!

From the NYLA Legislative Committee . . . .

While this newsletter was in press the big push was on for library funding in New York. Last-minute details were coming together for Lobby Day on March 14, 2006, which included plans for a Legislative breakfast for legislators and staff. A photographer was ready to take photographs of legislators for READ posters, and library advocates planned to rally together in the Well of the Legislative Office Building to hear Speaker Silver, Assemblymember Eddington (new chair of the Assembly Library Committee) and Senator Farley. Lobby Day T-shirts were ready to be distributed, and we hope that you were part of the academic library groups visiting legislators on March 14th.

Advocacy efforts don’t stop after Lobby Day! 2005 library funding in New York was the same as it was in 1992. In an effort to be sure that library needs begin to be noticed, NYLA hired Patricia Lynch Associates, a prominent New York lobbying firm, to help assure that increased library funding remains “on the table at midnight” when budget negotiations end. You can play a part in this effort! Tell your legislators that libraries are important! Not sure what to say? Go to http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=514 for talking points and other tools to help.

Jean Sheviak
ASLS Representative to the NYLA Legislative Committee
WE WON
AND HAD FUN!!

Yes, ASLS and its members won the 2005 Best Exhibit Booth at the annual NYLA Conference. Thanks to the many titles (book and other library resources) contributed by academic and special librarians across New York State. We received entries spanning the entire state: from the Department of Homeland Security Library, in Greenport to the Rachel R Savarino Library, in Buffalo.

Many of the titles were very apt for their respective libraries and all drew attention from conference attendees. Here is a sample of selections submitted for the ASLS Believe in Books display:

- **Handbook of the birds of the world**, by Josep del Hoyo from the Adelson Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca
- **The play of nature: experimentation as performance** by Robert Crease, form the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton
- **The Elmira prison camp: a history of the military prison at Elmira, N.Y. July 6, 1864, to July 10, 1865**, by Clay W. Holmes from Elmira College, Elmira
- **Women's dermatology: From infancy to maturity** edited by Lawrence Charles, contributed by the Estee Lauder Library in Melville
- **Crystal palaces: Garden conservatories of the United States** by Anne S. Cunningham submitted by the Florence DaLuiso-Zoll Library at the Buffalo and Erie Country Botanical Gardens located in Buffalo
- **Farewell to Fifth Avenue** by Cornelius Vanderbilt, a title contribution from Dowling College
- **Quakeline [Database]**, the choice of the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research, (MCEER) Information Service SUNY at Buffalo
- To see more titles contributed from academic and special libraries from across the state go to www.albany.edu/~cg219/aslsbooks.pdf. If your library would like to add a title to the list contact Carol Anne Germain (cg219@albany.edu).

Many of these titles came with special stories; we thought you would enjoy them. Here are just a few

Geneva Historical Society selected *Embers from Fossenvue Backlogs 1875-1900*. Fossenvue was the camp on the east side of Seneca Lake owned by Elizabeth Smith Miller (a prominent suffragist / social activist) her family, and friends. Fossenvue is an anagram for the "Seven of Us" which was the number of people involved in the initial founding of the camp. The people who visited the camp, often activists for one cause or another, wrote in a guest journal and "Embers" is a very limited printing of some of those journal entries, bound and given to special friends. I believe Christmas 1901 was the occasion of the gift. Karen Osburn

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control Academy of Fire Science suggested *Methods of structure fire attack*, a video by Andrew Fredericks. “Andy was a great supporter of libraries and research; at one time in his career with FDNY he was assigned to the Mand Library at the FDNY Training Academy on Randalls Island. He authored many fire service articles, as well as a very popular series of videotapes for PennWell Corp. A nationally recognized educator, he was also active in online publishing. He had begun work on a book, but was killed in the line of duty at the World Trade Center on September 11th, 2001. Always concerned with "giving back" to the profession, Andy was a genius at finding information and using it to help his colleagues work safer and more effectively. Andy was an adjunct instructor here for many years - we miss him very much.” Diana C. Robinson
Student Internship Grant Opportunity

ATTENTION
Members of the NYLA Academic and Special Libraries Section

Your library is invited to apply for the 2006 ASLS/RIDLEY’S BOOK BINDERY Student Internship Grant.

Since 1992, the Academic and Special Libraries Section of the New York Library Association has awarded an annual grant award of $1,000 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.

For grant application guidelines and application form please visit the NYLA ASLS website http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=299

Please note that the application form must be emailed, faxed, or postmarked by July 1, 2006 to:

Jane M. Verostek, ASLS Past President
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 12310
Phone: 315-470-6718  Fax: 315-470-6512  Email: jmveros@esf.edu

Know someone that deserves recognition for their work in or with libraries?

Consider nominating them for the 2006 ASLS Spirit of Librarianship Award.

Each year ASLS presents this award to a section member who clearly exemplifies an exceptional and unique spirit in academic and special libraries.

To nominate someone, send a one page nominating letter and include a brief biography on the nominee, explaining why you feel this person exemplifies the "spirit" of ASLS - Academic and Special Libraries librarianship.

Submit nominations to:

Jane M. Verostek, ASLS Past President
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 12310
Phone: 315-470-6718  Fax: 315-470-6512  Email: jmveros@esf.edu

For a list of past recipients please visit the NYLA ASLS Spirit of Librarianship website http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=297
Tips for New Librarians: Becoming Professionally Active

Since you’re reading this column, you’ve taken the first step in being professionally involved since you belong to an organization (NYLA) and signed up for one of its sections (ASLS). By participating in library organizations you have the opportunity to learn more about the profession, network with newbies and experienced professionals, and grow into your new profession. There are many ways to become actively involved in a professional organization. Here are some suggestions:

Starting out – 1st Year
Volunteer to serve on a committee
Highlight your talents and ask for a doable project
Read the newsletter to learn more about the organization
Participate on the listserv (if there is one)
Attend membership and/or board meetings
Partake in Library Lobby Day
Go to the annual conference and sample the sessions and exhibits
Submit a poster session at the conference

On Your Way 2nd & 3rd Years
Run for an official position (e.g. secretary, treasurer, director)
Create and deliver a conference presentation
Write a short article for the newsletter
Chair or co-chair a committee or sub-committee
Work with a new 1st year librarian and co-present a poster
Help co-ordinate Library Lobby Day events
Serve as a jurist on an awards committee

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH!!!

Cut this out and pass it along to a new colleague

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Brought to you by the ASLS Membership Committee

Early Invitation!

You will definitely want to visit the ASLS Booth at the NYLA Annual Conference Trade Show in Saratoga this fall! A feature of the booth will be a book-themed quilt lovingly made and donated by past ASLS president Cara Molyneaux. The next newsletter will have details about the raffle for this beautiful quilt!