A Message from the ASLS President

By the time you read this, we will hopefully have thawed a bit from the current blast of cold and wintry weather. The ASLS Board had its quarterly meeting scheduled on February 9, and opted for a conference call rather than an in-person meeting. Getting together in person is much more fun, but given the unpredictability of the weather in upstate New York and the fact that one of our Board members had been stuck in Buffalo for three days, a virtual meeting was more practical this time.

This issue of the ASLS Newsletter also serves as an introduction to our two new newsletter editors, Judy Fischetti and Tessa Killian, both from the Southeastern New York Library Resources Council (SENYLRC) in Highland, NY. ASLS sends a big "thank you!" to our retiring co-editors, Jean Sheviak and Christine Walker from the Capital District Library Council. For many years Jean and Chris did a wonderful job compiling and contributing articles and overseeing the production and distribution of the newsletter. We also send a big welcome to our new co-editors. As always, we invite our members to submit ideas and articles for future newsletters. Please feel free to contact our co-editors with your ideas: Judy Fischetti at judyf@senylrc.org or Tessa Killian at killian@senylrc.org.

We hope to include a "Spotlight on a Special Library" article in each issue of the newsletter. Recent "spotlight" articles have been between 300-350 words. If you work in a special library and would like to send us a brief article highlighting your library, please contact Judy or Tessa.

ASLS is in the midst of program planning for the 2007 Annual Conference in Buffalo. The Board has been working hard to compile all the wonderful ideas and make sure the program topics and presenters are especially relevant for academic and special libraries. (See Page 4)

As the NYLA section specifically designated for academic and special library workers, ASLS wants to make sure that NYLA has something to offer librarians and staff in these libraries. You can help by letting us know your thoughts. What do you think NYLA should be doing for academic libraries? What should NYLA be doing for special libraries? As a librarian or library staff member, what do you expect from your state's library association? I'd be happy to chat with you, demerson@rrlc.org or 585-223-7570.

Debby Emerson, ASLS President

Spotlight on a Special Library

Tucked away in a broad field on rural Curry Road between Albany and Schenectady, one finds a brick building that is home to the Northeast Campus of the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mid-America was founded in 1972 in Memphis, Tennessee by Dr. B. Gray Allison, for the sole purpose of training Southern Baptist men for pastoral ministry. Dr. Allison had spent many happy summer vacations in Upstate New York, so he was familiar with our region. In the early 1980s he began to feel a burden for training men to be pastors in the Northeast. So, starting in 1984 he and others began to plan for a branch campus of Mid-America in the capital region of New York. That dream was finally realized in 1989 when courses started being taught at the newly established Northeast Campus near the Pinebush region in rural Albany County.

At that time, the Main Campus in Tennessee had a thriving theological collection. To form a nucleus of a library collection for this branch campus, Dr. Allison suggested de-accessioning all the duplicate copies of books in the library, and shipping them to New York. With that done, the campus's first librarian, Dr. Barry Driver, began to round out the collection with other important theological titles. (Continued on page 3)
Legislative Committee Report

This year the Governor’s budget includes good news for libraries! A few highlights:

- Supplemental aid for library systems means more money for 3Rs programs for academic and special libraries.
- Libraries are funded using the 2000 Census figures, meaning increases for most areas but no decreases where population has decreased.
- $14 million in badly-needed public library construction aid.
  State General Fund support was increased for SUNY, CUNY, and community colleges.
  Much of this was a result of hard work by NYLA’s Michael Borges, who spent lots of time and effort answering questions from the Governor’s office and budget people. Note though, that the $3 million and $14 million are not yet permanent in the budget so will be subject to the whims of the moment in the future unless they are made permanent.

NYLA will continue to move forward with its legislative agenda. NYLA is proposing a $27 million increase in state aid formulas (Chapter 917) as the best way to ensure that all types of communities, libraries and library systems in New York State receive adequate funding to meet increased demands on their services. This proposal includes:

- A 100% increase in coordinated collection development aid for academic libraries
- A 20% increase in operating aid for every library system
- $5 million annually to expand NOVEL (New York Online Virtual Electronic Library)
- A 66% increase in operating for public libraries across the state
- Increase in Library Materials Aid from $6 to $15 per pupil for school libraries.

The NYLA website has many good resources, including a region-by-region guide to exactly how much money would come if this proposal were adopted. Check that out at http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=1304. Also available is a great set of advocacy tools at http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=514.

By the time you read this, NYLA’s March 13 Lobby Day probably will be just a memory. But plenty of work remains. It’s up to each of us to inform our legislators what is important to us. If libraries are important to you, write a letter and let them know!

Jean Sheviak

Report on 2006 Conference

Your Academic and Special Libraries Section (ASLS) hosted five program sessions and a delightful off-site membership meeting at the 2006 Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs. Beyond the Bulleted List: Creative Uses of PowerPoint attracted an audience of 75 people, and those who attended said they learned a lot of new ideas and applications for PowerPoint. People who attended Statistics: Numbers That Add Value to Your Library learned a lot about what we should - and should not - do when using statistics and graphs to illustrate something. There were 60 in the audience. Three special research libraries were highlighted in the session Is a Researcher a Researcher? Featured speakers were Jim Gandy from the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center, Mary Beth P. Bobish from the New York State Library, and Joshua Waller from the Fashion Institute of Technology. Since there are a number of "solo librarians" in the special library field, ASLS offered a session called Issues in Managing the One-Person Library. Rounding out the programs for 2006 was Navigating the Waters: Tips for New Librarians, which featured both an academic librarian and a special librarian.
**2007 BOARD ROSTER**

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Email: eputnam@skidmore.edu

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**... Spotlight on a Special Library**

*(Continued from page 1)*

After Dr. Driver returned to the South in 1995, Dr. T. Van McClain began serving as Library Director at the Northeast Campus. In the summer of 2000, the Director of the Seminary, Dr. David Shepherd, hired Jim Mancuso to serve as Assistant Director and as such to be closely involved with all the day-to-day operations of the library, from reference and interlibrary loan to new acquisitions.

Soon after Jim arrived on the scene, he secured membership in the Capital District Library Council, which linked the library to union listing, a direct access program, continuing education, and a variety of other services. Interlibrary loan requests from staff and faculty, though, for the most part are still satisfied by the collection of 125,000 volumes at the Main Campus library in Tennessee.

The library collection now stands at more than 23,000 books and 375 journal titles, many of which are unique in the region. Notable collections of materials not held anywhere else in the region include videos, multimedia kits, booklet files, and books devoted to the theological history of the region. Collection strengths of the monograph collections include church planting, church growth, church history, evangelism and discipleship, missions, systematic theology, pastoral theology, preaching, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

What about the future? Well, Mid-America hopes to greatly enhance the specialized collection of materials relating to the theological history of the region.

By J. James Mancuso

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This newsletter is also published electronically and is available on the ASLS section of the NYLA website at [http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=304](http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=304).

If you would prefer to read your copy online and not receive a paper copy, please email the newsletter editors at judyf@senylrc.org or killian@senylrc.org and we will take your name & address off the ASLS mailing list.

Thank you!
New York Library Association
Academic and Special Libraries Section
2007 Budget

REVENUES

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Submitted by Elaine M. Lasda Bergman
ASLS Treasurer

ASLS Announces Programs for the 2007 NYLA Annual Conference
October 17—20, 2007 Buffalo, NY

ASLS has an exciting and varied line-up of programs for the NYLA Conference in Buffalo this October. Here are a few tasty tidbits to whet your appetite.

Join folks from University of Rochester as they discuss the methods and findings of the two-year ethnographic study on the research habits of undergraduates in What Are They Thinking?

Michele Brown will take us on a journey through a forest of fungi, in Mold, It’s Not Just For Breakfast.

So You Want to Be in Charge, will feature presenters from academic and special libraries, sharing practical advice and tips on how to interview, and how to be interviewed, for a leadership position.

Our experts share their experiences, joys, and frustrations in cataloging the oddities of special collections in You Want to Catalog What!

Isola Ajiferuke introduces us to data mining for libraries in Bibliomining Made Easy.

There will be a Web/Library 2.0 current running through the conference programs, here’s what ASLS will be offering: Baby Busters, Gen X, and Born Digital Babies, with Stephen Abram; and a full-day workshop digging into Social Networking Tools, with Jill Hurst-Wahl.

We’re looking forward to seeing you there!
THANKS!
WE WON AGAIN!

Yes, ASLS and its members won the 2006 Best Exhibit Booth at the annual NYLA Conference. Thanks to our booth volunteers who sold lots of raffle tickets to the lovely quilt made by Cara Molyneaux. John Shaloiko, Executive Director of the Southeastern New York Library Resources Council, was the lucky (and much envied) winner of this beautiful quilt, entitled “Wrap Yourself Up in a Good Book.” We extend a very special thank you to Cara for her generous energy and creativity.

As usual, the booth also provided informational materials on ASLS and this year, a great handout was created by Lorie Wies, which had helpful hints on winning at the races – a must in Saratoga!

ASLS also sold t-shirts with a new ASLS penguin logo. We went all the way this year to entice attendees to visit the booth. Our “happy penguin” (see inset) roamed the exhibit floors handing out invitations to the booth as well as the annual ASLS membership meeting. Are you curious about the penguin? If so, contact one of the ASLS board members to get the scoop on our new friend!

Interested in helping us keep up our winning streak?

Then contact Carol Anne Germain (cg219@albany.edu) to help with organizing next year’s booth at the NYLA conference in Buffalo.

YOU CAN HAVE ONE OF YOUR VERY OWN!

Yes, The ASLS T-shirt, penguin/ASLS logo is available in a variety of sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2X

Shirts are $6.50 / ASLS members $8.00 / non pls $4.05 shipping

Make checks payable to New York Library Association, specify size(s) and send to:

Carol Anne Germain 12 Second Street Albany, New York 12210
ASLS Award Recipients Recognized at Annual Conference

ASLS presented three awards at its annual membership meeting, held during the NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs in October.

ASLS was pleased to present the ASLS Conference Scholarship to Erin Rushton, Science Reference Librarian/Bibliographer, Binghamton University. Erin was able to use these funds for attendance at the 2006 conference in Saratoga.

The ASLS/Ridley Book Bindery Student Internship Grant was presented to The Rakow Research Library of the Corning Museum of Glass. The grant money, generously donated by Ridley, is being used toward a project to increase the use of the museum’s unique resources. Well known to glass researchers, historians and artists throughout the world, the museum’s rich collection remains unused by most K-12 schools in the Corning area. For schools to most fully utilize the museum library’s resources, the museum must have grade-specific information on core curriculum objectives defined by the state Education Department and they need to match these objectives to their own staff and collection strengths. The money received from this grant will allow an intern at the library to look at the state curriculum requirements to see how they relate to the library’s collection. The intern will also work closely with the public services unit of the library to understand the collection strengths and to evaluate the curricular goals for their relevance to the collection. The intern will also need to work in collaboration with the librarians to identify selected goals and to design library activities based around fulfillment of the requisite learning outcomes. Through this project, the intern will gain substantial experience in the critical skills of identifying user needs, evaluating collection strengths and designing enriching and interactive user education experiences for all different levels of users.

Continuing the tradition, a well-deserved individual received the ASLS Spirit of Librarianship Award for 2006. Carol Anne Germain, the Networked Resources Education Librarian with the rank of Associate Librarian at the University Libraries, University at Albany, received this award in recognition for her hard work, creativity and enthusiasm as a member of the ASLS board, and currently serving as the chair of ASLS’s Membership Committee.

Nominated by Jean Currie, South Central Regional Library Council and Jean Sheviak and Chris Walker, Capital District Library Council, they noted Carol Anne’s “outgoing, bubbly personality, her willingness to give all her energy and enthusiasm to both her work and her profession, and the creativity of all her ideas and projects.”

Her nomination statement went on to say:

Carol Anne's enthusiasm for the profession is clear when it comes to her work in and for NYLA and ASLS in particular. She has thrown herself into ASLS activities including several years of wonderful booth "constructions" at the annual conference. The one with all the book titles submitted by directors of libraries and library organizations not only drew rave reviews and an award, but raised the visibility of the section and of NYLA itself as she called for suggested titles. She has taken very seriously member recruitment and has had success in increasing the number of academic library members. She also takes seriously NYLA's advocacy activities and works hard on speaking out for libraries.

Those of us lucky enough to work with her in any capacity, are delighted to see her infectious smile and hear her laugh - her spirit brightens any day and any job.

Congratulations Carol Anne and thanks for all you do for ASLS!

Celebrate National Library Week!
April 15 - 21, 2007

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation’s libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries – school, public, academic and special – participate.

For more information about National Library Week, including sample press materials, visit this ALA website: http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.htm.
**Tips for New Librarians: The Advocacy Neophyte**

You may find it hard to believe but libraries and librarians need to advocate for resources. As a new librarian, it may seem awkward to be campaigning for book and database funding for your academic library, money for library construction or even dollars to heat your public library. Yet it is a part of the profession, and you have plenty of library friends who will help you along the way. Here are some tips for getting started:

- Regularly visit this site and read minutes, actions and information
- Read the NYLA Legislative Committee report in the *ASLS Newsletter* to learn about issues of importance to academic and special librarians
- Look at your local 3Rs Council Advocacy Web site - there's plenty to do
- Attend the annual NYLA Library Lobby Day in Albany (this year it's on March 13, 2007)
- Tag along with members of your 3Rs Council on legislative visits
- Get involved with local “Legislative Breakfasts”
- Write to your legislators about your library concerns
- Send thank you notes to your legislators when they vote positively for library initiatives
- Participate in National Library Week activities
- Join your New York colleagues and attend the National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. (this year it’s on May 1-2, 2007)

*Brought to you by the ASLS Membership Committee*

*Cut this out and pass it along to a new colleague*

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**Tips for Mid-Career Librarians**

Dear Lorol,

At this point in my professional career, I feel as if I am burned out. All of my responsibilities have been fulfilled: I’ve completed my permanent review; I’m considered “an expert” in my job duties; ALL my ducks are in row. However, I just can’t seem to recapture the excitement that I had at the beginning. Do you have any recommendations?

*The Toasted Librarian*

Dear Toasted,

Careers, like good, long relationships have their ups and downs. The excitement of initial love often mellows into a comfortable settling. The trick to keeping a spark in your professional life is to reignite your passion by finding and engaging innovative challenges.

You need to explore and discover new opportunities for yourself. Is there some aspect of your professional position that you love and would like to take one step further? Perhaps it is time to expand your knowledge or share your expertise with a broader audience. Now is the time to actualize that paper you’ve forever been thinking about writing. Or maybe the strategy is to develop a “fun” workshop that you can take on the road! Or maybe stir up some creative juices and sponsor open mic night with your poetry, short stories….The possibilities are endless, you need only use this catalyst to turn that burned toast feeling into a toast to cheer!

Cheers,

*Lorol,*

*The Liberated Librarian*

Are you a mid-career librarian looking for some professional answers? Lorol, The Liberated Librarian would love to answer your mid-career queries. Please send them c/o the ASLS Newsletter Editors: judyf@senylrc.org or killian@senylrc.org
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c/o Southeastern NY Library Resources Council
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Highland, NY 12528