Dear ASLS Members,

Welcome Spring! Finally!! Did you think that Spring would never come? I was beginning to have my doubts. But I certainly have no doubts that ASLS conference planning is well underway and Justin Kani has a report for us that will provide some details.

And speaking of Justin, he will be resigning from his position as ASLS Vice President/President Elect and Conference Planner at the end of June. Please join me in thanking Justin for his hard work for ASLS. I am sure that I speak for all of us in wishing him well in all of his future endeavors. I will be taking over his duties as conference planner as of July (he already did the hard work) and will continue as President for another year.

Don’t forget about the Academic Libraries conference which is being held this year as part of the Empire Collaborations at University at Albany. Academic Libraries conference is held every other year and is co-sponsored by ASLS and the NY 3Rs. It has always proven to be a great conference and this year looks to be even better. Carol Anne Germain, NYLA Immediate Past President has a report on the full week of activities planned for this event (really, three events in one). Please join us for this great event. Hope to see you there.

Karen Gardner-Athey
ASLS Membership Report
By Suz Massen, Membership Chair

As of March 2014, there are 355 members of ASLS. As Membership Chair of the section, I would like to see this number grow as the date of the annual NYLA Conference and Trade Show approaches. Please let your colleagues know about the benefits of becoming a NYLA and ASLS member. The objectives of ASLS are to represent the interests and concerns of academic and special libraries to NYLA, and to provide means for further education and professional development of academic and special librarians in New York State. It also provides an excellent forum for networking with colleagues from different institutions. ASLS is active throughout the year and plans programming for the annual NYLA Conference and Trade Show. The next conference will be held in Saratoga Springs, NY, November 5 through 8, 2014. See the programming article in this newsletter for information about ASLS’s presence at the upcoming NYLA conference.

ASLS Awards and Grants
By Sarah Maximiek

ASLS will soon be seeking nominations for the ASLS Excellence in Library Innovation Award and the ASLS/NY 3Rs Special Project Grant.
The Excellence in Innovation Award is given to one visionary and innovative ASLS member in an academic or special library to support NYLA conference registration or other travel. The member must attend the 2014 Annual NYLA Conference to accept the award.
The Special Project Grant is for an academic or special librarian to pursue a project to benefit both the recipients’ professional development and the mission of the institution. More information on the application process and deadlines will be out shortly. Keep your eyes open for details!
Treasurer’s 2014 Report

Academic and Special Libraries Section
New York Library Association

Beginning Balance—2/2014 $16,856.48

REVENUES

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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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Closing balance 2/28/2014 $22,565.81

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2014 ASLS Conference Programs

ASLS is sponsoring some diverse conference sessions this year! They include a panel on the spiraling costs of textbooks and what SUNY Geneseo is doing to combat these costs with open textbooks. Obstacles to Good Customer Service is an interactive session that will focus on the “realities of working in a library environment that hinder optimal customer service practices and share ideas on how to overcome those obstacles.”

We also have a session on visual storytelling through the use of infographics, and a session on Virtual Reference services which will explore some of the exciting uses and efficiencies of Springshare products in an academic setting.

The New York State Library session aims to highlight some of the library’s unique collections, programs and services that are of interest to Academic and Special Libraries. Lastly, the session, Library to Learning Commons, will focus on major changes happening with the physical library space on campuses across the country.

By Justin Kani
Excellence in Library Innovation Award Winner Donates Prize to Her Library

In 2012, NYLA ASLS awarded its Excellence in Library Innovation Award to Elizabeth (Lisa) Bouchard, librarian at Maria College in Albany, for her project involving processing, cataloguing, and digitizing an archival collection documenting Maria College’s origins and early years. Lisa was able to participate in the New York Heritage digitization project and also coauthored (with two colleagues) an academic paper published in the American Catholic Studies Journal about the monastery affiliated with Maria College.

The recipient of each Excellence in Library Innovation Award receives a $500 cash award in recognition of his or her project or activity. Although this award is for the individual, not the institution, Lisa decided to donate her award to the Maria College Library for the purchase of a curio cabinet housed in their reference room. This cabinet will be used to display interesting items from the Maria College archival and rare book collections.

The NYLA ASLS Board commends Lisa on her generous donation to Maria College, and is pleased to see the funding being put to a positive and enduring benefit for Maria College and its Library.

If you are interested in learning more about the awards available from the NYLA Academic and Special Libraries Section, here is the web link: http://bit.ly/1fnnvbw. The application process typically begins in late summer/early fall, so be on the lookout for more information at that time!
Empire Collaborations, Three Conferences, One Trip

To foster stronger academic library collaborations in New York State, a collaborative effort between SUNYLA, NYSHEI, the NY 3Rs Association and the Academic and Special Libraries Section of the New York Library Association has been developed to combine 3 conferences at one location. This weeklong extravaganza is scheduled from June 9 through June 13, 2014 at the University at Albany. Plans are underway and include some exciting guest speakers (including Wicked’s Gregory Maguire, Barbara Stripling, Lee Rainie and Maureen Sullivan, to name a few), a Thursday evening cruise along the scenic and historic Hudson River, and plenty of time to socialize and share ideas.

Over the five days, presentations will focus on a variety of topics including Big Data, faculty engagement, advocacy, collection development, information literacy, library systems and IT, public services, and technical services. Friday’s Publisher’s Playhouse will showcase new books, ARCs, posters, and more from publishers including Random House, Black Dome Press, SUNY Press, Abbeville Press, Dreamspinners and many others. Authors will be on hand for signings as well! Whatever your interest, we have something for you!

Poster Sessions will be held on Thursday, June 12 as well, complete with a chocolate fondue bar and wine tasting. Poster session proposals will be accepted until May 20th via the link on http://www.sunyla.org/conference/ This is a wonderful networking and professional development opportunity – please share your ideas and encourage others to do so as well.

Website: http://empire2014.org

Registration: http://empire2014.org/registration/

Dates: June 9-13, 2014

Location: University at Albany

Vendors:

- Tuesday, June 10 (9:45 a.m.–3:30 p.m.) No conflict time 9:45-10:30; 2:10-2:45
- Wednesday, June 11 (9 a.m.–3:00 p.m.) No conflict time 10:00-10:30; 2:30-3:00
- Thursday, June 12 (7:30 a.m.– 11:00 a.m.) No conflict time 7:30-8:30; 9:15-10:15

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