

Message From the President

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AAHSL President's Message #1

November 29, 2007

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your President this year. My goals for AAHSL build on the legacy of previous presidents and the amazing work of all our committees and task forces. They include: Leadership Development, Advocacy, Partnerships and Engagement, Research and E-Science. More detail on some of the newer ideas and opportunities next month.

Annual Meeting Highlights: AAHSL held a successful annual meeting in November in conjunction with the AAMC in Washington, DC. Kudos to Linda Walton and the Program and Education Committee for the stimulating workshop on Saturday on Scenario Building facilitated by Joan Giesecke, and for Peter Morville's very interesting Matheson Lecture on Ambient Findability. The Scholarly Communication Committee, chaired by Karen Butter, planned an informative program on Sunday entitled Transforming Scholarly Communication with panelists from PLoS, Countway Library, and ARL. A highlight of the business meeting was the presentation of AAHSL's first Innovation Award by the Charting the Future Committee to Ohio State University for their work in developing OSU:pro. Finally, thanks to EBSCO for their sponsorship of the AAHSL/GIR reception Monday evening, an evening highlighted by the presentation of AAHSL's Cornerstone Award to Wayne Peay.

New Board Members: Julie Sollenberger, President-Elect, Paul Schoening, Secretary/Treasurer, and Jim Bothmer, Board Member, were elected to the AAHSL Board at the annual business meeting. Please join me in congratulating and welcoming them to the Board. We thanked departing Board members for their service: Logan Ludwig, Ruth Riley and Gary Freiburger.

Your AAHSL Board was well represented on the MLA Webcast: Scholarly Publishing and Open Access this month. Pat Thibodeau, Mary Ryan, Paul Schoening and I all had a part as did AAHSL member Carol Jenkins.

Appointments: Committee Chairs for FY 07-08 include: Karen Butter, Scholarly Communications; Gary Byrd, Assessment and Statistics; M.J. Tooley, Charting the Future; Carol Jenkins and Judy Consales, Leadership Committee; Joint AAHSL/Publisher Liaison Task Force, Gail Yokote and Michael Homan; Julie

Sollenberger, GEA Task Force. Michael Homan is Chair of the Joint AAHSL/MLA Legislative Task Force and Gary Byrd and Logan Ludwig are our CAS Representatives. Jim Shedlock serves as the AAHSL Information Technology Officer. The Program and Education Committee is not yet fully appointed, so more on that soon.

Advocacy: The Presidents of MLA and AAHSL signed on to a letter thanking those members of Congress who voted to override the President's veto of the FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill (which included the language to make deposit of NIH-funded research articles mandatory). AAHSL sent a letter to the President of the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science expressing concern about the withdrawal of Science from JSTOR.

Leadership Development: The 2007/2008 class of fellows and mentors met for the first time in Washington for their orientation and introduction to the program. NLM has agreed to support the program for another three years.

Annual Statistics: Three current AAHSL Annual Statistics surveys opened on November 27th for data entry: the 30th Edition Annual Statistics, and the Salary Survey due by December 31st, and the Descriptive Library Survey due January 15th.

Member Transitions: Several Board members and I were pleased to host a luncheon for 11 of the new or interim directors named this year to welcome them to our Association. Since the annual meeting, we've learned of several additional transitions. Joanne Muellenbach retired earlier this month as Director of Health Information Resources at Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Lakehead University and Laurentian University. Shelley Bader has announced her retirement at the end of December from George Washington University. And we have a new associate member, Interim Director Barry Linger, joining us from Commonwealth Medical College in Scranton, PA.

AAHSL President's Message #2 December 31, 2007

Looking toward 2008: Based on what we heard reported by our AAHSL committees and task forces at the annual meeting, it will be another busy and productive year for AAHSL. The Board of Directors is holding its planning retreat January 10-11 in Chicago, where we will finalize our 2008 budget based on committee requests and strategic priorities. I'm suggesting the following framework for those priorities: Leadership Development; Advocacy; Partnership and Engagement; Research, Outcomes and E-Science. All supported by an infrastructure that includes our financial resources as well as our information technology platforms. More on this after the Board meeting.

Matheson-Cooper Report Anniversary: It has been 25 years since the publication of Academic Information in the Academic Health Sciences Center: Roles for the Library in Information Management by John A.D. Cooper and Nina Matheson in the October 1982 issue of the Journal of Medical Education. Michael Homan and Jim Shedlock have

created a special website to commemorate the event. Take a look from the link on our AAHSL home page. We've shared this with Nina, who thought the site was excellent.

Advocacy: A wonderful holiday gift! On December 26th, President Bush signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2007 (H.R. 2764), which includes the provision that directs the NIH to change its existing Public Access Policy, implemented as a voluntary measure in 2005, so that participation is required for NIH-funded investigators. Researchers will now be required to deposit electronic copies of their peer-reviewed manuscripts into NLM's PubMed Central and have them available to the public no later than 12 months after publication in a journal. This is a huge step forward for proponents of open access, and I know how hard many of you have worked to help this happen. Now we need to help our institutions comply. Also in this spending bill is a directive to the Environmental Protection Agency to reopen many of its libraries that had been closed over the past few years - another issue on which our associations have weighed in. Our collective voice matters!

Annual Statistics: Hope you all completed your 30th Edition Annual Statistics and the Salary Surveys that were due December 31st, and are working on the Descriptive Library Survey due January 15th. Thank you Gary Byrd for keeping us informed of tips and tricks in using the new input system.

Cornerstone Award Nominations: The AAHSL Board is soliciting nominations (including self-nominations) for the AAHSL Cornerstone Award. This award is given for a notable or important contribution made during the most recent four years that has assisted AAHSL in achieving its mission or had significant impact on the profession of academic health sciences librarianship. The award may be given to an individual (member or non-member), an informal or formal group working on a project or activity (committee, task force, ad working group, team, etc), or an institution (library, university, or association). The deadline for submittal is April 30, 2008. For details about criteria and how to submit a nomination, please see the AAHSL website:

http://www.aahsl.org/Applications_Awards_Scholarships/cornerstone.cfm

Member Transitions: We welcome a new director, Steward Brower, at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa. Marianne Burke at the University of Vermont is taking a 6 month sabbatical January-June 2008; Jeanene Light will be Acting Director.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year!

AAHSL President's Message #3

January 29, 2008

The AAHSL Board of Directors met January 10-11 at the Chicago O'Hare Hilton for our annual planning retreat. We approved the 2008 budget which supports a number of

ongoing initiatives as well as some notable new ones. Some highlights of our discussions:

AAHSL IT Roadmap Revision: Jim Shedlock, AAHSL Information Management Officer, and Tom Singarella who has agreed to be a technology advisor this year, joined the Board for a discussion of the progress on our IT Roadmap and will be providing a revision to guide our work for 2008 and beyond. More on this next month.

The AAHSL Teaching/Learning Oversight Committee (formerly known as the GEA Task Force) will expand its activities this year through the appointment of two task forces. The first is the LiME/AAHSL Joint TF which will support librarians as they assume responsibility for the literature searching module in the AAMC's Medical Education Research Certificate program and work to develop (with staff from AAHSL member libraries) self-paced, interactive, modules that teach, and most importantly assess competencies related to evidence-based search, retrieval and evaluation skills. The second task force is the Education Research TF charged to explore collaborative research that addresses priorities outlined in the IIME and GEA Reports. The Board has approved funding for a part-time (estimated 5 hours per week) program coordinator who will be recruited and in place by March. Look for announcements of Task Force appointments later this year.

TLOC member Terry Burton submitted a response to AMIA's call for input on Applied Clinical Informatics Core Content as AMIA seeks to have clinical informatics approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties as a new subspecialty. AAHSL's response included a strengthening of the role for evidence-based knowledge in clinical decision support. AMIA's FAQ on this can be found at <http://www.amia.org/inside/initiatives/rwj/faq.asp>.

I have also asked this Committee to craft a response to the recent call by the new editor of Academic Medicine for readers to contribute their thoughts on the "grand challenges" in academic medicine today. I also encourage you as individual AAHSL members to consider submitting your ideas to the journal. To read Dr. Kanter's editorial, visit the journal's web site at <http://www.academicmedicine.org>.

A Year of E-Science Programming

Barbara Epstein and Linda Walton have agreed to be co-chairs of AAHSL's Program and Education Committee, and will work with Neil Rambo from ARL and the University of Washington to develop a series of events and opportunities in the months leading up to our annual meeting program in November. The concept is for us to engage in conversation and learn more about e-science and related translational research infrastructures such as CTSA, and how our libraries can and should be involved. Committee members include Marianne Comegys, Tom Basler, Dottie Spencer and Jacque Doyle. Highly recommended reading to get you all thinking about this is the ARL E-Science report at http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/ARL_EScience_final.pdf.

Matheson-Cooper Report Anniversary: I hope you have had a chance to take a look at the anniversary site on our AAHSL website (<http://www.aahsl.org/Matheson/index.cfm>). I have invited testimonials from NLM, MLA, AMIA, AAMC, and the IAIMS Consortium to add to the site. We'll be providing a way for individuals to contribute their thoughts as well, so stay tuned.

Advocacy:

As you know, Science has reconsidered its decision to withdraw from JSTOR. I received a letter from Alan Leshner, CEO and Executive Publisher of Science, thanking us for sharing our views with them in our November, and notifying me of this decision.

On January 30th, Pat Thibodeau and I will be attending a meeting hosted by ARL in Washington to discuss the implementation issues and strategies surrounding the newly mandated NIH Public Access Policy. We'll report back to you after the meeting.

In the January issue of JMLA, Sheldon Kotzin and Becky Lyon of NLM's Library Operations Division mention their support of AAHSL's Leadership Fellows program as part of their tradition of supporting training for librarians and information specialists. They note, "With many graduates moving into director positions, the program is rapidly showing dividends for our investment."

Innovation Award Nominations: The Innovation Award is given to honor and acknowledge an AAHSL member library demonstrating innovative programs, products, services or projects in support of an area of knowledge management outlined in Building on Success: Charting the Future of Knowledge Management in the Academic Health Center. AAHSL libraries are encouraged to apply for the award or nominate another AAHSL library. Deadline for submission is April 30, 2008. Award criteria and the application/nomination form can be found at:
http://www.aahsl.org/Applications_Awards_Scholarships/Innovation_Award_Fall_2008.pdf.

Cornerstone Award Nominations: A reminder about our Cornerstone Award. The deadline for submittal of nominations is April 30, 2008. For details about criteria and how to submit a nomination, see
http://www.aahsl.org/Applications_Awards_Scholarships/cornerstone.cfm .

Miscellaneous

The Blue Ridge Academic Health Group has produced the 11th in their series of reports recommending actions for academic health centers to "create greater value for society." All the reports can now be downloaded from their website:
<http://www.blueridgegroup.org/>. Report #7 "Reforming Medical Education" might be of particular interest.

President's Message #4 – February 2008

Teaching Learning Oversight Committee (TLOC)

Julie Sollenberger and I had two productive meetings in Washington on February 11-12 to further the work of our Teaching Learning Oversight Committee. We met with Brownie Anderson, the deputy director of AAMC's Division of Medical Education, and Marian Taliaferro, AAMC Librarian, to follow up on potential collaborations. [Marian will be at the MLA meeting in Chicago to exhibit AAMC's MedEd Portal]. We talked about the Northeast Region GEA meeting in April at which Lauren Maggio (LiME) will co-teach the literature searching course in the Medical Education Research Certificate program. We also discussed the possibility of a joint GEA/RIME/AAHSL session at the November AAMC meeting around collaborative research ideas. The TLOC will be exploring these opportunities in the coming months.

The second meeting was with AAHC and its affiliate members. Executive directors and leadership of associations of colleges of medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, osteopathic medicine, psychology and the CEO of the University HealthSystem Consortium met to discuss the possible formation of an "Alliance for Interprofessional Health Professions Education and Practice." The group also explored a proposal from AMIA concerning the development of web-based informatics curriculum for all health professions students, and one from the AAMC on developing cross-disciplinary approaches to collecting workforce data including development of common definitions. It is likely that working groups will be created around these two proposals. Julie and I expressed AAHSL's interest in participating in the informatics project.

With all the work to be done by our TLOC, we are so fortunate that we were able to coax Rick Forsman back to work part-time on our behalf as our Project Coordinator. Rick will start working with us in March.

Advocacy

On January 30th, I attended a meeting hosted by ARL to discuss NIH Public Access Policy Implementation. Neil Thakur represented NIH, and Betsy Humphreys was there from NLM. Pat Thibodeau and Alexa McCray were other AAHSL colleagues attending along with several ARL library directors, the senior leadership of the National Association of State and University Landgrant Colleges and the Association of American Universities, several vice presidents for research, ARL and SPARC staff, and a copyright lawyer. As follow up, ARL has developed a website of resources <http://www.arl.org/sc/implement/nih/guide/index.shtml> and is sponsoring a free webcast on March 7th on institutional compliance (register by March 3rd). <http://www.arl.org/sc/implement/nih/webcast/>.

AAHSL signed on to several advocacy letters this month – one to thank leaders of Congress (Harkin and Obey) for their support of the NIH Public Access Policy, and asking them to stand firm in the face of publisher protests, a similar one to Michael Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and finally a letter to Congress as

part of a Coalition for Health Funding to request significant funding increases for NIH and other health and human services agencies for FY09 budgets.

Conflict of Interest Policy

AAHSL has a Conflicts of Interest Policy and Disclosure of Certain Interests Policy http://www.aahsl.org/Publications/Appendix_C_Conflict.pdf which requires all Board officers and Committee Chairs (defined as volunteer leaders in our policy) to disclose any potential conflicts of interest with their participation in AAHSL activities. With the heightened awareness of this issue nationwide, the Board voted to extend this requirement to any committee or task force member, not just the chairs. We will also be working with the Program and Education Committee to require disclosure statements from any speakers we engage. You all might be interested in a recent report from AAMC entitled The Scientific Basis of Influence and Reciprocity: A Symposium which you can access at www.aamc.org/publications .

Meetings at MLA

The AAHSL Office has been able to reserve a meeting room for AAHSL Committee meetings during the MLA meeting in May. Committee chairs are beginning to schedule those meetings now.

*** Award Nominations Reminder***

April 30th is the deadline for nominations for AAHSL's two awards: the Cornerstone Award (for an individual) and the Innovation Award (for an AAHSL institution). Please review the criteria for the awards on the AAHSL website, and follow the instructions there for nomination.

Member Transitions

New or interim directors (Welcome!):

- *Liz Bayly (acting), McMaster University Health Sciences Library
- *Onadell Bly (interim), Northeastern Ohio University
- *Melanie Shuran, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science
- *Patty Fink (acting), Northern Ontario School of Medicine
- *Julie Voelck, Oakland University.

Retirees (Farewell and best wishes!):

- *Dorothy Fitzgerald, McMaster University Health Sciences Library
- *William Postell, Tulane University Medical Center Library
- *Dave Hulkonen, University of South Dakota School of Medicine

Departures:

- *Tom Williams, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

President's Message #5 – March 2008

Advocacy

All NIH all the time! This has certainly been a busy month as we all work with our institutions to plan for NIH Public Access Policy implementation. You've seen more than a few messages from me as well as from Karen Butter and the Scholarly Communications Committee as we've worked together to share information we are learning from colleagues in ARL and from each other, and as we've developed official AAHSL communications. I hope you've taken a look at the updated Scholarly Communication Toolkit with its emphasis on the NIH Policy and joined the SCC Blog. http://www.usc.edu/hsc/nml/aaahl/open_access_toolkit.html. Thank you to Bill Clintworth and the SCC for their good work. If you didn't get an invitation to the blog, please let Bill Clintworth know.

With input from the Board and from Karen, I submitted a comment on behalf of AAHSL to NIH in support of the Public Access Policy. You can see all the comments received and watch a videocast of the public comment session here: <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/comments.htm>. An additional comment period from March 31 – May 31 has just been announced at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-08-060.html>. NIH will post the results and their analysis by September 30th.

AAHSL was a sponsor, along with ACRL, SPARC and the Greater Western Library Alliance of ACRL's first OnPoint live chat on the topic of the public access policy. I was one of the conveners (it was my first use of Meebo!). The chat is archived at ACRL-Insider <http://www.acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/> (I'm not sure whether you need to be an ACRL member or not to access). Also note that our Scholarly Communication Committee is planning an Open Forum on the NIH Public Access Policy at the MLA meeting on Tuesday, May 20th from 3:30-4:30.

AAHSL/Publisher Dialog

The Joint AAHSL/Publisher Liaison Task Force co-chaired by Gail Yokote and Michael Homan has been busy planning a meeting with publishing representatives to discuss a broad range of issues important to publishers and AAHSL libraries. The Task Force was established by President Elaine Martin last year to develop a "strategy to promote direct ongoing dialog and examination of issues of joint concern and importance to AAHSL and STM publishers". A planning meeting involving publisher representatives and Task Force members will be held in Chicago at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel on May 22 at the conclusion of the MLA Annual Meeting. The meeting will explore a variety of topics of joint concern (e.g., branding, discoverability, preservation, licensing) and will address actions that could be taken to keep the AAHSL/Publisher dialog alive. This may include educational activities at existing conference venues, joint position papers, and other strategies. An invitation to a number of publisher organizations (e.g., Society for Scholarly Publishing) was sent by the Task Force to solicit participation in the May

planning meeting. Thus far, the response rate has been wonderful. Other members of the Task Force include Karen Butter, Pat Thibodeau, Logan Ludwig, Jean Shipman, and Scott Plutchak.

Award Nominations Reminder

April 30th is the deadline for nominations for AAHSL's two awards: the Cornerstone Award (for an individual) and the Innovation Award (for an AAHSL institution). Please review the criteria for the awards on the AAHSL website, and follow the instructions there for nomination. http://www.aahsl.org/Applications_Awards_Scholarships/index.cfm

Member Transitions

Leslie Schick has been named director of the Health Sciences Library at the University of Cincinnati.

President's Message #6 –April 2008

Advocacy

On April 8th and 9th, I participated in a meeting of the Joint Legislative Task Force, and our spring visits to Capitol Hill. Other AAHSL members included Jane Blumenthal, Karen Butter, Marianne Comegys, Sandra Franklin, Michael Homan, Pat Thibodeau, Marty Thompson. This year for the first time, with the help of AAMC and Health and Medicine Council of Washington, we held a lunchtime briefing for members of congressional staff on the topic of the National Library of Medicine, and why we advocate for support. Mark Funk and I gave a presentation with screen shots and information provided by NLM staff. We used Autism as a theme to present the wide range of resources and services supported by NLM, from researcher to health professional to patient and family. We were competing with a number of other activities on the Hill, so were disappointed that we only had 8 staffers attend, but the presentation we prepared can be repurposed and used by any of you in your own environments if you want to give a general overview about NLM resources and services to your community. It will be posted shortly on MLANet. Finally, we all crowded into Representative Obey's office to present him with MLA's Distinguished Public Services Award.

On April 10th, Julie Sollenberger and I made our annual spring visit to AAMC and ARL, unfortunately without Elaine who had the flu. At the AAMC we met with Dave Moore (Government Relations), Valarie Clarke (Faculty Affairs), Tony Mazzaschi (CAS), Eric Wilkerson (MedEdPORTAL), Bob Sabalis (LCME) and Morgan Passiment (GIR). We had a wide ranging discussion about the outlook for NIH and NLM funding, the implementation of the NIH Public Access Policy, and AAMC's work on conflict of interest issues. Tony is working on preliminary plans for a session at the annual meeting on the

NIH Policy, geared to research deans. We told him we'd be happy to work with him on that, although he expressed some concern that this not be pegged as a "library issue". He also told us that many of the societies (particularly those under FACEB's umbrella) were now actively pursuing helping their members comply with the policy – including addressing their journal policies. Others continue to resist. Valarie was interested in hearing about our NLM/AAHSL Leadership Fellows program, and was quite impressed. She encouraged us to publish our experience so far (which Wayne, Elaine and Carolyn are pursuing). We learned of proposed new medical schools at some stage in the pipeline of LCME accreditation. This website: <http://www.lcme.org/newschoolprocess.htm> provides a good summary. Two thoughts occurred to us: potential new AAHSL members down the road, and will our LCME Information Resources standards continue to stand the test of time as the new schools look at different ways of providing library services.

At ARL, we met with Duane Webster, Jaia Barrett, Pru Adler, Karla Hahn, Jerome Offord, Martha Kryillidou, and by conference call, Neil Rambo. We talked about our complementary efforts at educating our members about E-Science (and how that relates to CTSA in some of our institutions), and in developing or recruiting staff who have background and experience necessary for us to make sustained contributions in this area. We mentioned the Informationist model. We also discussed the NIH Public Access Policy, diversity efforts, and statistics.

Regarding the NIH Public Access Policy, we discussed concerns that publishers might try to attribute any journal cancellations that libraries do because of serious state budget cuts to impact from the NIH Policy, and thinks we need to get our in front of this in how we each characterize any cuts we might make this year. Plans are in the works by ARL for another webcast in early May to discuss the latest round of public input solicited by NIH. Karen Butter and I are tracking this.

Teaching and Learning Initiatives

In February, I told you about the AAHC Affiliates meeting that Julie and I attended and the consideration of a proposal from AMIA concerning informatics curricula and competencies. A Steering Committee is now being formed to explore these issues, with AMIA taking the lead, and we have asked Rick Forsman, AAHSL's Teaching/Learning Project Coordinator to be our representative to the Committee. We will report more as this project unfolds.

Future Leadership

Congratulations to the latest cohort of AAHSL Leadership Scholarship awardees: Doreen R. Bradley (U Michigan), Katherine V. Chew (U Minnesota), Jane Fama (U Massachusetts), Douglas L. Varner (Georgetown), and Frances M. Yarger, (U Pittsburgh). And thank you to their directors for supporting them!

I hope to see everyone in Chicago in May!

President's Message #7 – May 2008

Many of our AAHSL Committees had an opportunity to meet at the MLA meeting in Chicago earlier this month. Thanks, April, for arranging for the meeting room! We've asked the committees to do mid-year reports this year, so you'll be hearing about their progress in June, either here in this message or from the Committees directly. While at MLA, we heard about projects that have a lot of synergy with some of our priorities. The MLA theme of "connections" was very pertinent in this regard!

Advocacy

On May 5th, a number of AAHSL members participated in a webcast sponsored by ARL to review potential talking points for the NIH Public Access Policy Request for Information. On May 20th, at the MLA Annual Meeting, the Scholarly Communication Committee facilitated a standing room only Open Forum on the NIH Public Access Policy where it was clear there are many unanswered questions from both authors and librarians. Of particular concern are issues around deposit requirements, copyright and version control. We added these points to our submission to the most recent NIH Request for Input in which we reiterated our strong support for the policy. You can read AAHSL's comment (look for a May 29th submission date) as well as others at http://publicaccess.nih.gov/comments2/comments_web_listing.htm .

Teaching and Learning Initiatives

Among the priorities for the Teaching Learning Oversight Committee and its two task forces is to seek synergies in the work of other organizations as we move through an ambitious agenda. One potential partner in our work is the GIR. At their spring meeting in San Francisco the GIR Education SIG developed several working documents that may be of interest to AAHSL members. They can be found on the GIR wiki at <http://tinyurl.com/5zasep>.

Matheson Cooper Report Testimonial

Check out the latest from Darrell Kirch from AAMC at http://www.aahsl.org/Matheson/Darrell_Kirch_ltr.cfm

Member Transitions

Retiring: Ada Seltzer (Mississippi); Wilba Swearington (LSU-New Orleans)

Interim Director: Mary Bushing (South Dakota); Deborah Sibley (LSU-New Orleans)

Director Appointment: Wallace McClendon (Florida); Rajia Tobia (UT-San Antonio); Nadine Dexter (Central Florida); Fatima Mncube-Barnes (Meharry); Jean Shipman (Utah)

New Associate Member: Katherine Russell (King/Drew Health Sciences Library in Los Angeles)

Relocation: Tamera Lee (Medical College of Georgia) moving to Louisiana.

President's Message #8 – July 2008

Changes at Headquarters

AAHSL's Account Manager, April Thanos, left AAHSL Headquarters on June 13th to join a Seattle non-profit in scholarship development. April did a great job for AAHSL and we are greatly appreciative of her service. We are welcoming Louise Starr Miller on July 1st as our new Account Manager. Louise has 15 years of national association management experience, with a background in executive level organizations at the Association Management Center in Illinois. She has served as Executive Director of the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses, and also has worked for the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the American Osteopathic Association. Louise has CAE Certification (Certified Association Executive) - an education held by only 5% of association professionals. Ceri Farrow, in the AAHSL Office will continue with her many skills in supporting Louise as we make the transition.

Advocacy

The presentation that Mark Funk and I gave to Congressional staffers in April as part of the Joint Legislative Task Force can be found on MLANET at www.mlanet.org/government/ . It is titled: "Health Information for All: From Research to Health Professional to Patient".

While at the MLA meeting, Naomi Broering asked me if I would pass a message on to the AAHSL membership about joining the Friends of NLM as an institutional member. Many of us are individual members, but the website is now a bit more explicit about institutional membership for your consideration. There is no list of current members that I could find, so it's possible that some of your institutions may already be members. Here's the website: www.fnlm.org/.

Teaching and Learning Initiatives

Back in February, I reported on a meeting of the AAHC affiliates that Julie Sollenberger and I attended in DC at which a proposal by AMIA was endorsed to develop a web-based informatics curriculum for all health professions students. A Steering Committee

has just been formed on behalf of AMIA and AAHC for the joint project to develop a Common Multidisciplinary Informatics Curriculum for Clinical Students. A two phase project is envisioned: Phase One will involve development of learning objectives and curriculum and Phase Two will assemble and/or create assessment tools and learning materials. Rick Forsman is our representative to this group, and will be keeping us informed, and will no doubt be soliciting all our input toward the task.

Leadership Committee

NLM/AAHSL Leadership Fellows, mentors and faculty participated in the Leadership Institute on May 21, 2008, in Chicago at the MLA Annual Meeting. Sheldon Kotzin from NLM joined the group for lunch. The program focused on practical career guidance drawing on mentor experience. Fellows were asked to prepare for a mock interview exercise pairing fellows with mentors other than their own; mentors acted as their medical school dean or other officer and provided feedback to the fellows on the interview and their CVs. Wallace McLendon, University of Florida, and former fellow Jerry Perry, University of Colorado, participated as a guest panel describing their recent experience in interviewing for directorships as external and internal candidates and their perspective as new directors. The cohort engaged in a guided discussion on organizational politics, life of the director, and work/life balance.

Annual Statistics

You received a message from Gary Byrd on June 16th about the 30th Edition statistics (printed version with an accompanying CD for many of the tables in the Descriptive Survey), which you should be receiving soon. Thank you to Gary and his committee for all the work they have done this year. Gary also reminds us of an earlier deadline for the 31st Edition (October 15th) so as soon as most of your fiscal years close out on June 30th, get counting!!!

Matheson Cooper Report Testimonial

Check out the latest from Dr. Lindberg at www.aahsl.org/Matheson/Donald_Lindberg_ltr.cfm

Speaking of which – we are very pleased that Nancy Lorenzi has accepted our invitation to be the Matheson speaker on November 3rd. More details will be forthcoming from the Program and Education Committee soon, including information about our Saturday workshop on the topic of measuring ROI in academic health sciences libraries.

Member Transitions

Interim Director: Susan Clark, University of Mississippi

Have a wonderful July 4th holiday, everyone!

President's Message #9 – July 2008

AAHSL Committee Appointments

Look for the call soon from President-Elect Julia Sollenberger for committee assignments. There are many opportunities to get involved in AAHSL.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (Chair Julia Sollenberger, Carol Jenkins and Linda Walton) have put together a terrific slate for consideration at our November business meeting: Candidate for President-Elect Connie Poole (Southern Illinois University); Candidate for Board Member MJ Tooley (University of Maryland).

IT Roadmap

In June and July, the Board held a number of conference calls with headquarters staff Marlis and Louise and with Jim Shedlock (Information Technology Officer) and Tom Singarella (Technology Consultant) to determine how best to move the recommendations of the IT Roadmap along with a focus on enhancing member services. More details will be available in August as we review what additional web-related services might be provided by Headquarters. So stay tuned and thank you for your patience!

Advocacy

In May, the Joint AAHSL/Publisher Liaison Task Force held an initial planning meeting in Chicago with representatives of a number of STM publisher and editor organizations to discuss the formation of a new collaboration emphasizing open communication and shared common interests around the grand challenges and opportunities of scholarly communication. The Board recently approved funding for a second meeting to take place in August/September to further the discussion of how to develop a sustainable mechanism for ongoing conversation and action. You will hear more details soon about this important new initiative directly from co-chairs Michael Homan and Gail Yokote.

Charting the Future Committee

Committee members began sharing trend documents on the AAHSL list earlier this year and are working on ways to integrate those documents into a permanent site to which AAHSL members can refer. The Committee is also planning the most effective ways to update our Building on Success document.

Annual Statistics

You should have received your print copy of the Annual Statistics by now with its accompanying CD-ROM of supplemental information. The main survey was completed by 122 of us; 114 completed the Salary Survey, 107 the Descriptive Statistics Survey and 93 the Services & Resources Profile Survey. Gary and the staff at Buffalo are now working on enhancements to the web portal survey tool. Thanks to Gary Byrd and his committee and to Headquarters staff for all their hard work on this.

Annual Meeting Plans

The AAMC meeting is October 31-November 5 in San Antonio, and you should each have received the preliminary program in the mail from AAMC. You must register before you can reserve a hotel room in one of the conference hotels – you can do both online. The major plenaries will take place at the Convention Center but most of the AAHSL events (and others) take place in the Hyatt. Our full AAHSL schedule will be coming out shortly and will follow past years patterns, and most of our committees are meeting, but here are some highlights.

IME Posters: The AAHSL/LiME Joint Task Force will have another poster this year updating their work. In addition, I have reserved a spot for a general AAHSL poster as well so that we can highlight the 25th Anniversary of the Matheson-Cooper Report and other activities. I will be asking for volunteers who want to work with me on this and who can help staff it. As you recall, we did a similar exhibit for AAHSL's 25th Anniversary, so there may be elements from that poster that can be incorporated in this one.

Saturday Workshop: Stay tuned for registration information for the workshop on the value of libraries and return on investment in academic health sciences libraries. Our hard work at the workshop will be rewarded by a reception that evening at Briscoe Library at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center - San Antonio hosted by Rajia Tobia and her staff.

Sunday CAS Session: Be sure to mark your calendars for this session from 10:30-12:00 on NIH Public Access Policy Compliance. Pat Thibodeau will represent the academic health sciences library view.

Sunday New/Interim Directors Luncheon hosted by President-Elect Julia Sollenberger and the Board. Invitations have been sent to 19 newcomers!

Monday Matheson Lecture. I invited Nina to join us in San Antonio, but unfortunately she had other commitments. She is very pleased that Nancy Lorenzi has agreed to give the lecture.

Monday Meetings also include a Statistics Update, our AAHSL business meeting, and the AAHSL/GIR reception.

Hope your summers are going well, and that you've had at least some time to relax with friends and family!

President's Message #10 – August 2008

Advocacy

Five years ago, I was privileged to be a part of the April 2003 meeting hosted at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute that resulted in the development of the "Bethesda Principles" on Open Access. HHMI is hosting a follow up to that conference on October 10th to "take stock of what has been achieved and to identify obstacles that remain to achieving full open access to the results of scientific research. This meeting will focus on identifying – based on the experiences and experiments of the last five years – the lessons that have been learned and the specific, practical steps that are needed to continue, if not accelerate, the move toward full open access." AAHSL will be represented by Gretchen Arnold, Mary Ryan and me. Mary will be a bridge between these conversations and the dialog that has begun within the AAHSL/Publisher Liaison Task Force, and of course our Scholarly Communications Committee.

AAHSL and MLA signed on this month to a letter generated by the Coalition for Health Funding urging Congress to provide additional funding for federal public health programs in any potential continuing resolution-type legislation.

E-Science

At our 2007 business meeting, I noted my interest in exploring how to keep members informed about e-Science and CTSA programming. Over the summer, the Program and Education Committee explored with Neil Rambo the possibility of organizing a webcast for us on the topic and a rough plan was outlined. For reasons of timing and budget, we've decided to hold off on that for now and reconsider for late winter. In the meantime, as you may have seen in a message to the list by Jim Shedlock earlier this week, Neil and I will be presenting with Betsy Humphreys at an ARL/CNI forum on Reinventing Science Librarianship on October 16-17th on a panel entitled "Lessons & New Roles: the Experience of Health Sciences Libraries." You may be hearing from us in the next few weeks as we solicit and test some ideas for our discussion. The forum is open to non-ARL folks, so those of you within easy driving distance might want to consider attending. Here is the agenda and registration information.
<http://www.arl.org/events/fallforum/forum08/index.shtml>

Annual Meeting Plans

An intrepid group has volunteered to help me develop and staff an AAHSL poster and exhibit in the IME Exhibits at the AAMC Meeting: Marianne Burke, Marianne Comegys, Jacque Doyle, Jean Shipman, Pat Thibodeau and Gail Yokote. Mary Piorun has volunteered to lend her artistic talents to actually producing the poster. Stay tuned for a masterpiece!

Member Transitions

Departing: Joanne Sparks (Memorial Sloan-Kettering)

Acting Director: Donna Gibson (Memorial Sloan-Kettering)

Retired: Spencer Marsh (SUNY Stony Brook)

New Director: Heidi Heilemann (Stanford)

Happy Labor Day Weekend!

President's Message #11 – September 2008

Advocacy

I hope that many of you were able to answer the Call to Action this month to express opposition to HR 6845, the Fair Copyright in Research Works Act, introduced to the House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet, on September 11, 2008 which would have reversed the NIH Public Access Policy.

Leadership

I was able to attend the NLM/AAHSL Leadership Fellows Capstone Event in Washington DC this month to talk with the fellows and mentors about AAHSL and our various partnerships. I was also privileged, along with Betsy Humphreys, to hand out the certificates at their graduation on September 26th. Five new leaders are now officially launched with new skills and perspectives, and much to contribute to our libraries and our profession. Congratulations!

Disasters

Our members in many parts of the country have coped with much destruction and disruption caused by Mother Nature over the past several months. Even those of us not directly affected have provided support (both moral and actual) as disaster plans kicked in. Our AAHSL community is a close-knit one. It is a comfort to know we can call and count upon one another for help in many ways. Thanks to all of you!

November Elections

Since most of us will be in San Antonio on Election Day, don't forget to vote absentee!

President's Message #12 – October 2008

Advocacy

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute sponsored a meeting in Maryland on October 10th to address the lessons learned over the past five years and the specific, practical steps that are needed to continue, if not accelerate, the move toward full open access. AAHSL was represented by Gretchen Arnold, Mary Ryan and me. Reports on the conference should be available soon.

The AAHSL/Publisher Joint Liaison Task Force held their second meeting with the "Chicago Collaborative" in September and will be sharing information with AAHSL members at the annual meeting in a special session on Monday, November 3rd from 8:00-9:00 in Room Bonham C.

AAHSL joined with MLA and many other health-related organizations on a letter to Congress urging additional funding for NIH in the economic recovery package being developed.

ARL/CNI Forum

A number of AAHSL members attended the ARL/CNI Forum on Reinventing Science Librarianship on October 16-17 in Arlington, VA. On a panel moderated by Neil Rambo, Betsy Humphreys and I gave our views on "Lessons & New Roles: Experiences from the Health Sciences". The conference proceedings (including my powerpoint) as well as some useful talking points for library directors is available at <http://www.arl.org/events/fallforum/forum08/index.shtml>

Annual Meeting – AAHSL Highlights

In addition to all the committee meetings, here are some highlights not to miss. And since most of us will be in San Antonio on Election Day, don't forget to vote absentee!

Saturday Workshop has about 100 of us registered to learn more about ROI for academic health sciences libraries.

Saturday Reception at Briscoe Library at UT Health Sciences Center - San Antonio hosted by Rajia Tobia and her staff from 7:00-9:00 pm. Share a cab with some of your colleagues.

IME Posters: Be sure and check out our posters in the Exhibit Hall. The LiME/AAHSL Joint Task Force is #418; the AAHSL poster is #120. The poster sessions open on Sunday at 9:00 am.

Sunday CAS Session on NIH Public Access Policy Compliance: 10:30-12:00.

Sunday New/Interim Directors Luncheon hosted by President-Elect Julia Sollenberger and the Board.

Monday AAHSL/Publisher Joint Liaison Task Force Update, 8:00-9:00 am

Monday Matheson Lecture: Nancy Lorenzi is the speaker, and I also have a statement from Nina Matheson to share. 1:30-3:00 pm

Monday Meetings include a Statistics Update at 3:30, our AAHSL business meeting at 4:00, and the AAHSL/GIR reception at 6:00.

Member Transitions

David Ginn retired as Director of Boston University Medical Center library this month.

Thank you

This is my last monthly President's Message as I turn over the reins to Julia Sollenberger on November 3rd. Thank you all for the privilege of serving you as President this past year – a year marked by significant accomplishments carried out by able and energetic committees and task forces, and through the insightful discussions among all members. We have celebrated the successes of our NLM/AAHSL fellows, and welcomed new or interim directors to our midst as we wished a number of our colleagues a happy retirement. We have embarked on a number of new important partnerships which should pay dividends into the future to validate the critical role we play in national issues of scholarly communications and health professions education, and in the value we bring to our institutions. Yes, it has been quite a year, and I look forward to our continued success. Thanks again! See you soon in San Antonio.