Letter from the President

Dear ENY/ACRL Members,

As I write to you, plans are well underway for our Spring meeting. The theme has been set as “The Librarian Has Left the Building! New Pathways for Connecting Librarians, Users and Resources”. The meeting will be held at Skidmore College in Saratoga on May 23. One new feature this year that I’m particularly looking forward to will be a lightening round session with several speakers doing short, targeted presentations. So be on the lookout for calls for participants for the lightening round and be sure to mark your calendars for the 23rd as it looks to be an exciting day.

Leading up to our conference and following along the theme, our upcoming Fall Brown bag series will focus, more locally, on how we actually are (or are thinking about) getting outside of our traditional spaces. The Brown bags are a great low-key way to spend time with colleagues in your area. I’m looking forward to the session at SUNY IT and to hearing the reports from the conveners of the meetings at SUNY Albany and SUNY Potsdam. You can find directions and the details on how to register on the ENY/ACRL website.

The Board met on August 17th and welcomed John Cosgrove, Programming Chair/Vice President to the group. We discussed the upcoming Brown Bags and Spring Meeting, as well as some administrative changes to our handbook. I also filled the group in on my trip to ALA this summer where I represented ENY/ACRL at the Chapters Council meeting. I met with fellow ACRL members and had the chance to find out what’s going on at other local chapters. In addition, we hear from Megan Oakleaf who was, at the time, in the process of preparing a report (since released and available online at www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/value/val_report.pdf) in response to ACRL’s call for research on the value of libraries. The call was to examine how our stakeholders evaluate us. In other words, to find the measures that are valuable to our stakeholders, like our prospective students and faculty, current students and faculty, administrators, and Boards of Trustees.

As we are all busy navigating the “new economic environment”, and with the growing stress on assessment - it seems to me that it couldn’t be a more opportune moment to examine our worth with an outsider’s eyes.

If you are interested in becoming a more active member of ENY/ACRL please consider joining one of our committees. It’s a nice way to give back to the profession locally. Soon Suzanne Turner, Past President, will begin putting together the ballot for the Winter elections to the Board. If you’re interested in that type of work, please let her or me know.

Be well,

Francesca
Call for Board Members

Suzanne Turner, Past President,
University at Albany

Dear Members of Eastern New York ACRL:

It’s my role as your Past President to solicit nominations for our elections which, as always, take place in the spring semester. Now is the time to consider running for a position on the ENY/ACRL board. This year, the positions that need to be filled are: Secretary, Communications Chair, Government Relations Chair, and Vice President/President-Elect/Program Chair. Please consider running for an office on the board of our organization.

If you think that you may be interested in a position, feel free to e-mail me at STurner@uamail.albany.edu. I’ll be happy to answer questions you may have about the positions, which are also detailed in the Officers’ Handbook posted on our Web site, http://www.enyacrl.org. I encourage you to consider contributing your talents to our organization. The work is rewarding, causes you to think about the major trends and issues impacting our libraries, and puts you into contact with some wonderful librarians across our region. Thank you.

Suzanne Turner
ENY/ACRL Past-President/Nominations and Elections Committee Chair

Notes from the Field

Herkimer Community College

The HCCC Library welcomes Drew Urbanek as Director of Library Services. Drew graduated from SUNY Albany with a BA, MA, and a MLS in 1998, where he received the Alice B Hastings scholarship. His career has taken him from a position at Syracuse University through the University System of Georgia, and back into the SUNY system at Oswego, Potsdam, and Canton where he served as Library Chair. In his spare time, he laments the weekly fate of his beloved Buffalo Bills, he writes — then deletes — then rewrites his secret novel, and tinkers with everything from Kendo to Curling. Also, he's keeping a much tidier office this time, he promises.

Morrisville State

Staff Changes at Morrisville State College Library

The Morrisville State College Library staff has undergone quite a few changes in the last eight months. In February, Christine Rudecoff was appointed the new Director of Libraries, replacing Marion Hildebrand who retired in July 2009. Our systems librarian, John Schuster, resigned his position in June 2010 to take a job with the International Baccalaureate program in Germany.

The Library is pleased to have two new librarians on staff to fill the vacancies that resulted from Rudecoff’s promotion and Schuster’s departure. Wenli Gao, our new Instructional Services Librarian comes to us by way of the University of Central Oklahoma Library where she was a member of the instructional services team. In addition to her library science degree, Wenli also has Master’s degree in communication from the Rochester Institute of Technology. Along with overseeing our on-campus instructional services, Wenli will help us develop Web-based information literacy initiatives.

Angela Rhodes has joined the Library faculty as our new Systems and Electronic Resources Librarian. Angela, previously the Systems and Instruction Librarian at SUNY Dehli, will play a key role in evaluating and implementing emerging library technologies appropriate for moving Morrisville College Library services into the future, in addition to overseeing our systems and electric resources.

Just prior to the start of the new academic year, Morrisville’s Cataloging and Technical Services Librarian, Sue Greenhagen, decided to take advantage of the State’s early retirement incentive. Sue started as a part-time reference librarian at Morrisville in 1990 and in 1997 was appointed as the Library’s Technical Services Librarian. In addition to keeping our OPAC in order, Sue’s great passion for history, Morrisville State College history, local history and especially New York State Civil War history, has been a great asset for the library, our campus and the community. We wish her all the best in her retirement. A search to fill Sue’s position will take place in Spring 2011, with a Fall 2011 start date for the successful candidate.

Continued on page 3
Notes from the Field, Cont’d

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Irv Stephens retired from Rensselaer on September 8th after 41 years of service. Irv had been working for the Rensselaer Libraries for six years when the present Folsom Library was constructed. He authored the specification for RPI’s initial circulation system, the first in the nation to provide users with access to personal records and the ability to request online book services and the first in the nation with a web-based electronic reserves system. Irv led one of the first electronic interlibrary loan installations. He played a lead role in the Rensselaer Libraries’ electronic theses project. In his most recent position as Manager of Public Services, he was instrumental in the Rensselaer’s RapidILL implementations. He is pursuing becoming a “Master Gardener” in retirement.

The Rensselaer Libraries recently released a special collection of Rensselaer theses and dissertations. Coordinated by Irv Stephens, the collection focuses on New York State geology and environmental science dating from the 1950s to the present. These publications contain many large format charts, maps and photographs, some hand drawn and beautifully colored. While electronic access to the full theses is restricted to the Rensselaer community, abstracts are available for anyone to see.

Skidmore College

Kathryn Frederick, Systems Librarian, will be conducting a workshop, Secrets of the Web Masters: Web Design from A to Zen, on November 3rd at the NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs.

Susan Zappen, Associate College Librarian for Collections, has written “Managing Resources to Maximize Serials Access: The Case of the Small Liberal Arts College Library” appearing in The Serials Librarian, volume 59 issue 3.

SUNY Oswego

Natalie Sturr and Michelle Parry are the co-authors of "Administrative Perspectives on Dynamic Collections and Effective Interlibrary Loan," which is published in the most recent issue of the Journal of Interlibrary Loan, Document Delivery and Electronic Reserve. The article focuses on key facets of successful practices and administrative issues that maximize efficient resource sharing, particularly in light of increasingly dynamic collections and services that serve the resource needs of library users.

SUNY Potsdam

Nancy Alzo (Reference Coordinator) attended the 5th annual Canadian Learning Commons Conference in Kingston, Ontario in June.

Patrick Patterson was hired as Web Services Librarian. Patrick comes to us from the Indiana University Foundation. Marianne Hebert has been promoted from Associate Librarian to Librarian.

In order to meet users’ needs Nancy Alzo, Keith Compeau and Dan Newton spearheaded a number of projects this summer to rearrange and weed collections to make better use of space, and to create additional study spaces.

Jane Subramanian served as a grant reviewer for New York State Archive’s Documentary Heritage Program in May. She also has been serving on an advisory committee for New York State Archives’ NHPRC SNAP (State and National Archival Partnership) grant to develop a workshop for training titled “Preserving Electronic Records in Colleges and Universities.” That program has now been fully developed and has been offered 3 times since June in different geographic areas of the state, with more in the future planned. After 36 years of service to SUNY Potsdam and the College Libraries, Jane will be “retiring” the end of October (but actually continuing on for awhile!). To provide for appropriate transitioning, she will work full-time in November and December, and will continue on a part-time basis from January 2011 through May 2012.

Syracuse University

Carnegie Library photo featured on C&RL News September cover

The cover of this month’s issue of College & Research Libraries News features a photograph from the Carnegie Library Centennial Digital Collection. The image is of a researcher in the stacks of the George Arents Rare Book Room in Carnegie, circa 1957. <http://crln.acrl.org/content/vol71/issue8/home_cover.gif>

Michele Combs, Librarian for Manuscripts Processing, was recently hired as a consultant by the Smithsonian Institution’s Archives of American Art (AAA). She will conduct a gap analysis study for the AAA and nine other Smithsonian units to identify informational gaps in their finding aids against two description standards. To be completed in March 2011, this analysis will help the Smithsonian determine the feasibility of a future mass EAD (Encoded Archival Description) conversion.

Continued on page 4
Notes from the Field, Cont’d

Syracuse University, cont’d

Michele has worked for the past five years converting SCRC’s print-based finding aids to EAD. To date, more than 1,800 EAD finding aids, representing 85% of all SCRC manuscript collections, have been created or converted.


Susan Kline, Cartoon Archivist, attended the Society of American Archivists conference in Washington D.C. and on August 14, 2010 delivered the presentation, “Cartoons in the Archives: Laughing Our Way Through 1,000 Feet,” as part of the panel chaired by Michele Combs: “Perspectives on Cartoons: Art, Archival Objects, Assets”. C-SPAN3 taped the session and is scheduled to air it later this fall. Susan also published two short articles about Syracuse’s NHPIC grant project: “Behind Cartoon Archives,” in the July/August issue of Archival Outlook and “Perspectives on Cartoons,” in the August issue of VIEWS, the newsletter for SAA’s Visual Materials Section. The cover is viewable at <http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/77/AO-JulAug2010%28med%29.jpg>

Sean Quinby, Director of the Special Collections Research Center, chaired the session “But He’s Really Rich!: Selection, Appraisal, and Fundraising Campaigns at the Society of American Archivists annual conference in Washington, D.C. this past August 14. Appraisal, or selection, is central to our identity as archivists. We choose what will and what will not be the raw material of future scholarship. But what happens when the goals of the development office collide with those of the archivist? Session panelists, Meredith Evans Raiford and Steven Mandeville-Gamble discussed the George Washington University’s acquisition of the records of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and how librarians collaborated with development officers to raise the funds necessary to build an archival and scholarly program in labor history. Syracuse University’s David Murray offered the perspective of a fundraising officer by detailing Syracuse’s ongoing history of plastics project.


Continued on page 5
University at Albany

The University at Albany’s Reference Department collaborated on the Spring 2010 issue of the peer reviewed Journal of the Library Administration and Management Section, a publication of NYLA’s Library Administration and Management Section. The theme of the issue is 2010: Managing and Delivering Reference Services. The four academic librarians in the department successfully submitted articles for the issue including 3 for peer review (McLaughlin, Kessler, Dwyer) and 1 for editorial review (Anderson). The University Library’s reference area is featured on the journal cover. The issue is available online at http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=922

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHRPC) awarded a 2010-2011 Detailed Processing Grant of $58,380 to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives, University at Albany Libraries. The grant supports the processing, creation of bibliographic records and completion of finding aids using Encoded Archival Description (EAD) for the papers of Pulitzer Prize winning novelist William Kennedy, atmospheric research scientist Vincent Schaefer, and renowned death penalty historian M. Watt Espy. The NHRPC is the only federal agency that provides grants specifically for archives, which it does through competitive grants for projects with a national scope, and the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives was one of thirteen repositories nationwide to receive a Detailed Processing Grant. The principal investigator and project director for the NHRPC grant is Brian Keough, Associate Librarian and Head of the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives. Keough will direct the project staff and insure that the collections will be processed and cataloged over the next twelve months so they are available for research by September 2011.

Yu-Hui Chen and Mary Van Ullen co-authored a paper entitled “Helping International Students Succeed Academically Through Research Process and Plagiarism Workshops.” Their paper has been accepted by College & Research Libraries, and the preprint of this article is available at http://crl.acrl.org/content/early/2010/07/23/crl-117rl.full.pdf+html