

ACRL / NY

Association of College and Research Libraries

The Greater New York
Metropolitan Area Chapter

Connections:
The Quarterly Newsletter of ACRL / NY

Volume 22, Number 2
Summer/Fall 2003

Message from the President

Eloise Bellard

Welcome back to another new fall semester, always a busy time for many academic librarians. This issue of the newsletter *ACRL/NY Connections* will be a combined summer/fall issue so it will be filled with very interesting and important information.

First, in 2000 ACRL/NY was incorporated, necessitating the merging of two documents, the ACRL/NY Constitution and the ACRL/NY Bylaws. The Executive Board has recently finished the consolidation and revision of these two documents into the new proposed ACRL/NY Bylaws available on the website at <http://www.acrlny.org/bylaws.htm>. Please take this opportunity to familiarize yourself with our new revised version. Enclosed with this issue of the newsletter is the ACRL/NY Ballot for new officers. Included in this year's ballot is the approval of the new bylaws. Please vote and return the ballots to me at your earliest possible convenience. My address is on the ballot. This year's executive board candidates are:

- I. Vice-President/President Elect ACRL/NY -
Ann Grafstein
- IVa. Vice-Chair/Chair Elect of the Long Island
Section – Janet Clarke

- IVb. Vice Chair/Chair Elect of the New York
City Section – Vincent Munch
- IVc. Vice Chair/Chair Elect of the Westchester/
Lower Hudson Valley Section - Agnes
“Teddy” Cameron

Another item of importance, The Executive Board has instituted a ‘Distinguished Service Award Fund’. This year we are requesting that the membership contribute to the fund to commemorate the tragic loss of Francie Davis, this year’s Co-President of ACRL/NY. All the funds collected will to be donated to the Francie Davis Scholarship Fund at Dowling College. Future funds may be used to support a library school scholarship fund or purchase a book that will be given to a library school student in honor of the distinguished service of a former ACRL member.

Another former President of the ACRL/NY chapter, Charles Kratz, has been very active in ACRL on the national level and is now a candidate for ACRL Vice President in the upcoming Spring 2004 election.

Finally, in closing the 23rd Annual ACRL/NY

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Symposium will be held this year at Baruch University on Friday November 21st 2003. This year's symposium "Operation Intellectual Freedom: Librarians on the Front Line" will cover the Patriot Act, and other topics on Intellectual Freedom that have recently been in the news and of interest to librarians. The morning program will present an exciting array of speakers from a broad spectrum of backgrounds presenting different points of view on these extremely timely topics. In the afternoon, the speakers will be available for a roundtable discussion moderated by one of our guest speakers. We hope you will all mark your calendars and join us for this stimulating and thought provoking day.

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Previous issues of *ACRL/NY Connections* may be found on the chapter's website:

Distinguished Service Award Fund

As stated in our mission statement the ACRL/NY chapter is dedicated to "mentoring librarians, and enhancing professional development through a variety of educational programs." Over the years the chapter has promoted professional development by awarding scholarships in the form of free registration to our annual symposium and book gifts to library students from local area schools. When Rochelle Sager, a former president of the ACRL/NY chapter, passed away the scholarship fund came to be known as the "Rochelle Sager Award." This year the ACRL/NY chapter suffered another loss with the untimely death of the chapters Co-President Francie Davis. Rather than create another award, the Executive Board has decided to change the name of the scholarship fund to the "Distinguished Service Award Fund" to honor these dedicated librarians. For this year only, the award will be dedicated to Francie's memory and her remarkable record of service to ACRL/NY. The Executive Board will collect funds and a donation will be made to the Francie Davis Scholarship Fund set up at Dowling College.

All members who wish to contribute to this year's fund can do so by checking the allotted box on the membership renewal form or symposium registration brochure. Just add your desired contribution and send your check for the total amount! Thank you all for your continued support of educational programs.

Join ACRL/NY
when you register for the
Annual Symposium
and get the member rate.

ACRL Symposium on Intellectual Freedom

“Operation Intellectual Freedom: Librarians on the Front Line” will be the topic for the 23rd annual symposium of the Greater New York Chapter of ACRL. The symposium will take place on November 21, 2003 at Baruch College in New York.

The program will feature the following speakers (in order of Presentation): **Judith Krug**, Director, ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom; **Lee Strickland**, Visiting Professor at the University of Maryland and U.S. Senior Intelligence Service Officer; **Steven Carlotta**, Chief, Division Counsel for the NY Office of the FBI; **Siva Vaidhynathan**, Assistant Professor, Department of Culture and Communication, NYU, author of *Copyrights and Copywrongs* and the forthcoming *The Anarchist in the Library*; and **Rick Karr** of National Public Radio.

Librarians have always been concerned with issues of censorship, patron confidentiality, and abridgment of readers' rights and opportunities. This program topic came about because of the concern of librarians regarding the Patriot Act and these other issues. Suddenly libraries and librarians are in the headlines! The current tension between national security and individual freedoms is complex and the symposium committee agreed that this was the optimum time to explore it as it relates to librarians and the responsibility to their jobs and their patrons.

This will make for a very exciting program because, as librarians, we represent all sides of issues in our collections and in our discussions, and on Friday, November 21st, we will do just that.

Gloria B. Meisel
Chair, ACRL/NY Symposium Committee

ACRL/NY Membership News

This year's Annual Symposium, which explores the many facets of the Patriot Act and Intellectual Freedom, is certain to be of interest to all. And what better time is there to renew your membership in ACRL/NY and help us continue to bring you worthy programs and services? As a member, you receive the quarterly newsletter, participate in discussion group meetings and events, and have the opportunity to network with colleagues. In addition, the organization is always looking for leaders to work with our groups and geographic sections.

As part of its mission, ACRL/NY seeks to men-

tor those new to the profession. We welcome library school students, and we ask that you encourage librarians and information specialists just starting out at your institutions to join as well. Non-members who wish to attend this year's symposium at the member price may do so by sending in their ACRL/NY membership for 2004 along with their symposium registration.

Academic librarians face great challenges and opportunities in the coming year. Make your voice heard by joining ACRL/NY!

Marsha Spiegelman,
Membership Secretary

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Highlights of the ACRL National Conference April 7-10, 2003

Sixty-four scholarships were given to the 2003 conference this year through the Friends of ACRL. The next conference will be in Minneapolis, April 7-10, 2005. This fall there will be a call for proposals. We want to get people involved. We also want proposals that speak to all aspects of the profession. Proposals are needed that are concerned with technical services and the computer support side of the profession, along with a variety of programming.

The following information was shared vis-a-vis advocacy. A letter was sent for administrators to have peer-to-peer file sharing. They have been working with the media industry on the question of music downloads. Mention was made about a white paper against publishing mergers. There have been face-to-face meetings about ERIC. It was reported that there were 2200 letters of protest received about the ERIC reorganization.

Mary-Ellen Davis spoke at her Provost's Dinner and covered topics such as copyright, the Patriot Act, and scholarly communications. Speaking at events such as these raise awareness of the profession. We need more visibility in the media, mention was made of the library media kit on the ALA website. Chapter members should be encouraged to join ACRL. A video is being shot at the conference to encourage recruitment. Spectrum scholars are being provided with an academic librarian mentor. The Investment Task Force is looking at effective use of funds. There will be a First Year Experience workshop for teaching faculty of incoming undergraduates and librarians. Also there should be a local effort to make sure that state organization and chapters are subscribed to the ALA chapters council listserv.

Sheila Kirven