

NEXT MEETING

- April 8, 2009

Accounting Basics for
Law Librarians—
Spencer Simons, Uni-
versity of Houston

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HALL Grants 2

AALL Goes 2
to Congress

AALL 3
Leadership

Get Well, 3
DeCarlous

AALL 4
Meeting
News/
Twitter

HALL 6
Member
Spotlight:
Caralinn
Cole

HALL 7
Minutes

HALL Spring 9
Seminar
Photo

From the President...

I really enjoyed the good weather and having time to relax during spring break, and hope you've had a chance to slow down for a while as well. Baseball season is in full swing (!), and with two players in my family, we're keeping a full schedule for the next couple of months.

I was so pleased that we hosted AALL President James Duggan in February. He shared his insights into the workings of AALL and encouraged all of us to be more active in the organization. Next year, maybe we should incorporate the AALL board member visit into a longer meeting or workshop in order to have more time to share and learn.



*HALL President
Elise McCutchen*

A couple of
guests and several of

our members presented at the spring seminar. Everyone I spoke with came away with some new piece of information on free research on the Internet. As always, we appreciate all of the time and effort our speakers put into their presentations. Thanks to Ann for handling the arrangements.

The Board met in recent weeks and we are moving ahead with plans to enhance the HALL website. Saskia Mehlhorn and Richard Guajardo have offered to work with me on this project and I'd love to hear from more members. We've been reviewing the DALL website and others to get ideas, and I met DALL president Kevin Miles at the spring seminar. Please send your suggestions!

Finally, you should all know by now that we've welcomed Natalie Lira to the Board as our new secretary following Gwendolyn's departure. I should also tell you that Pam Jenkins will be moving out of the placement chair position in May. Many thanks to Pam for her extended service to HALL!

I look forward to seeing you at the April and May meetings.

Continuing Education...

The Spring Seminar was amazing, the speakers were fantastic and everyone learned so much. I had our members come up to me after different sessions just to comment that they were learning new and exciting ideas. I want to thank our very own members, Chris Dykes, Lauren Schroeder, and Saskia Mehlhorn for participating. They each gave such informative presentations that I was asked if they would repeat their talks at other events. Lisa Salazar spoke on "virtual justice." She absolutely set the tone for the day as she introduced us to the electronic communities that control the collection and dissemination of today's information. She received such positive feedback that she is turning her presentation into a paper for publication. I look forward to reading it! We had two very special guests presenting at our workshop, Kevin Miles from DALL and Bob Grundy, founding member of HALL, but now the Reference and Research Instruction Librarian at Prairie View A&M. Kevin introduced us to WIKIs and Bob showed us how to use our public libraries for access to paid subscription sites. We, as members of the library community are so very fortunate to have experienced, and gifted educators among our members. Thanks to everyone, and especially to South Texas for hosting and to Barbara Szalkowski and Eddie Yarbrough for their advice and assistance.

Our April meeting will feature Spencer Simons from the University of Houston. He will share his expertise on library management and will speak on "Accounting for Librarians." Please make sure to mark your calendars and attend on April 8. See you there!

*HALL Vice-
President-President-
Elect Ann
Patterson*



HALL Grants—Apply Now!

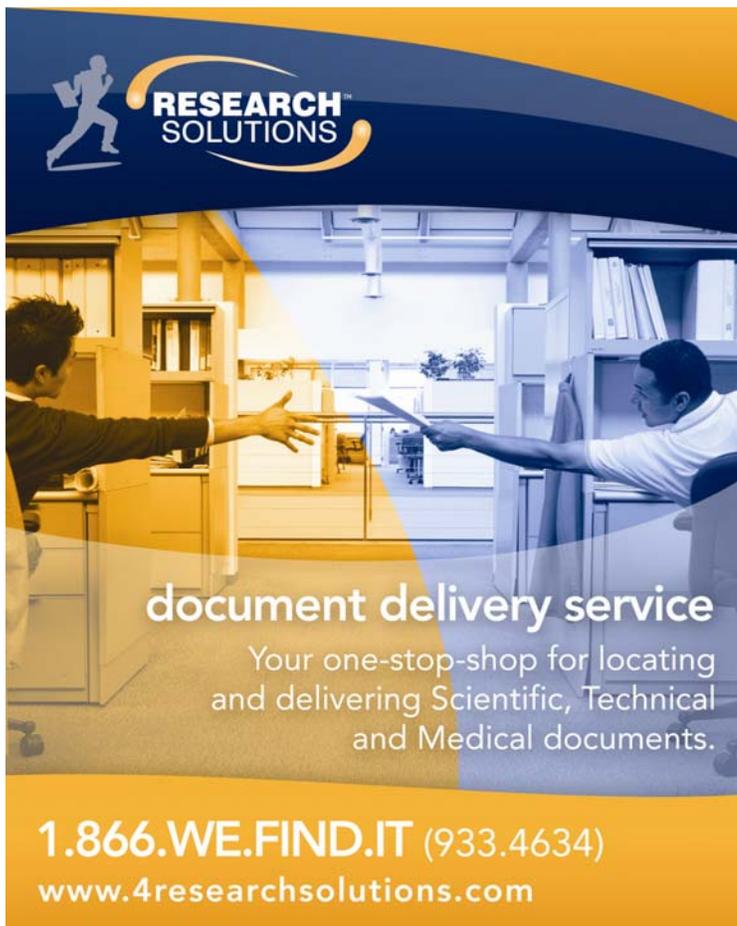
Need assistance to travel to AALL's Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.? The postmark deadline for travel grants to the Washington meeting and all scholarships to library school/law school is April 1st. Applications are available at the HALL website and should be addressed to:

Judith Jackson, Harris County Law Library
1019 Congress, 17th Floor
Houston, TX 77002

Before applying, please review the qualifications at the website and note that applicants must be a member of HALL for at least two years at the time the application is made.

AALL Goes to Congress!!

To learn the skills you need to become an effective advocate, the Government Relations Office and Government Relations Committee invite you join us for AALL's *Day on the Hill: Legislative Advocacy Leadership Training 2009*. This special event will take place right before the Annual Meeting on Friday, July 24, 2009 from 8:30am to 5:00pm. There is no registration fee for AALL members.



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AALL Leadership Academy

Law librarians in the early stages of their careers can get ahead in the profession by attending the 2009 **AALL Leadership Academy, October 16-17**, at the Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook, Illinois.

Train for leadership roles by acquiring both the self-awareness and strategies you need to emerge as a leader within your organization and the profession. Academy participants will use self assessment tools, group exercises, case studies, and skill practice to develop key signatures of leadership. Selected fellows will participate in pre-engagement exercises, be matched with a mentor, and receive ongoing leadership development opportunities.

Applications will be accepted May 1-June 30. For more information, visit www.aallnet.org/prodev/event_leadershipacademy.asp.

The Executive Librarian
(Legal and Tax Library Filing and Maintenance Service)



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Get Well, DeCarlous!

TSU's DeCarlous Spearman suffered a stroke on February 21, 2009. She is recuperating at a local rehab hospital and is in good spirits. To send her a cheerful get well note, please address it to:

DeCarlous Spearman
c/o
Reliant Rehabilitation Hospital North
Houston
117 Vision Park Blvd.
Shenandoah,
Texas 77384
Ph: 936.444.1700



HALL President Elise McCutchen, VP Ann Patterson, and AALL President James Duggan at the February meeting.



News on the AALL Annual Meeting

\$50 AALL Member Appreciation Discount for 2009 Annual Meeting & Conference

AALL wants to help during these tough economic times. Members who **register by March 31** will receive an additional **\$50 Member Appreciation Discount** off the already reduced early registration rate (deadline: June 1). Registration opens February 26. Register by March 31 and save up to \$150!

(Registration link: www.aallnet.org/events/09_registration.asp)

Super Size Your AALL Annual Meeting & Conference Registration

This year when you register for the AALL Conference, you can pre-order the complete set of all 66 educational program recordings and the keynote speaker address in downloadable MP3 format for just \$99 (members) or \$149 (non-members). MP3 CDs will also be available for \$199 (members) or \$299 (non-members). This collection of educational content is valued at nearly \$800! ***The special discounted price will not be available after the Annual Meeting***, so be sure to pre-order with your registration.

KEEP IT CURRENT

Library Update Service



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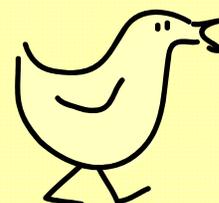
If we knew what we were doing,
it wouldn't be called research!

--Albert Einstein

Ready, Set...TWEET!

AALL is now on Twitter. Get up-to-the-minute AALL news by joining the AALLNET Twitter Feed. A separate 2009 Annual Meeting Twitter Feed is dedicated to updates on this summer's Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Sign up and stay connected!

Links: AALLNET Twitter Feed: <http://twitter.com/aallnet>; 2009 Annual Meeting Twitter Feed: <http://twitter.com/aall2009>



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HALL Member Spotlight: Caralinn Cole

When I e-mailed Caralinn Cole and asked if she'd be the next subject of the HALL Member Spotlight, she wrote back: "I am rolling with laughter in my office. I'd better get interesting pretty quickly....." Well, after a lovely lunch with Caralinn, I can say – she is very interesting!

Caralinn was born and raised in Mississippi, just south of Jackson. She graduated from Mississippi College, where she met Jim, her college sweetheart and husband of 38 years.

To say Caralinn has had several jobs is an understatement. After graduation, she started out at the State Law Library in Jackson. It was the main Library for the State Legislature and Mississippi Supreme Court, and also housed the staff of the Legislative Reference Library. Caralinn enjoyed her time there – and really liked the research. Jim and Caralinn then moved to Oklahoma, Jim's home state. Hard working Caralinn was by day a law clerk at a firm in Tulsa, and by night a law student at the University of Tulsa. Armed with her law degree, Caralinn ended up...back in a Library! She got a job at the Federal Courts Library in Tulsa. Then Caralinn decided to start practicing law, and worked with the husband of the Chief Justice of the 10th Circuit! (wow!)

Caralinn had to change gears again in 1988 when Jim got a promotion and transfer to Houston. She got a job as a claims attorney at a surety company. This job brought out Caralinn's inner detective, as she investigated crooks who stole money from their employers! As interesting as it was, it was not a very high-paying position, so Caralinn next found herself at Hirsch, Glover, Robinson and Sheiness. That firm dissolved in 1996, so she then went to Griggs Harrison – which then merged with Strasburger and Price! Strasburger offered Caralinn a paralegal job, which she declined, and then moved on to the Upstream Research Library at ExxonMobil. There she was trained by former HALL member Maggie Crowley Brown. Caralinn stayed there for a year, then happily went back to law firm life at Clements O'Neill. Two years later, Clements merged with Howrey – where Caralinn still resides. She is the Regional Information Manager for the Midwest region. Caralinn's territory includes Chicago, Salt Lake City and Houston.

Jim and Caralinn are great travelers, and have been to France, the Bahamas, and the Pacific Northwest. They are going to spend Christmas 2009 in Santa Fe!

Caralinn has a soft spot for animals. She has owned many kitties over the years, including her first cat, a Siamese named DOC who lived to the ripe old age of 22. Her latest addition is Aretha, a declawed cat who wandered up to the Cole house looking for dinner (and breakfast and lunch). Caralinn also has two dogs, Cricket and Loretta, a Jack Russell and a toy fox terrier who, unfortunately, do not like Aretha one bit.

Music is an important part of Caralinn's life and she plays the piano and guitar. She is also workout queen and goes to the Houstonian Lite several times a week at lunch and takes a class or uses the elliptical machine. Her latest books read? *The Monster of Florence*, a murder mystery by Douglas Preston, and *The Associate*, by John Grisham.



Aretha



Caralinn and friend outside the Hunan Downtown

HALL Minutes

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

HALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2009

Thompson & Knight L.L.P.

Elise McCutchen called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm. Those in attendance were: Elise McCutchen, Ann Patterson (by phone), Mariann Sears, Natalie Lira, Patti Curtis, Lauren Schroeder (by phone), and Mary Ann Wacker.

The Board welcomed Natalie Lira to her first meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Mariann let us know that we currently have \$17,348.68 in our account. The amount donated to the Food Bank and Dress for Success and last month's lunch are not reflected in this balance. The money taken in at the last meeting also is not reflected in this balance.

Meeting Report:

Ann indicated that the February meeting information was sent to Barbara. Our guest for the February meeting is James Duggan and he will be discussing the topic of how the librarian position can survive the current economic times. Altonis will be provided at this meeting. Ann indicated that we will be taking Mr. Duggan to Backstreet Cafe on Tuesday, February 10th. The University of Houston will be hosting him Wednesday morning

Ann provided information on the upcoming March workshop. The topic to be discussed at the workshop will be legit internet research tools. She currently has 5 speakers lined up and is waiting on a lead speaker. Topics will include foreign law, legislative history, blogging and authenticating material. The Board discussed the type of food that should be served at the workshop. The Board also discussed the price to be charged for admission to the workshop. The idea of providing thumb drives with links to the websites presented at the workshop was also discussed

A motion was made to have the HALL Board pay for lunches for attendees of the February and May meetings. The motion was approved.

Ann indicated that one idea for the April meeting will be to get government librarians to speak. She is also speaking to another person about another possible topic but wants to make sure it is relevant. She also indicated that elections will be held at the meeting in May so there will be no speakers.

Continued on page 8...

The HALL Newsletter, published 6 times a year by the HALL Publications Committee, is the official publication of the Houston Area Law Librarians. The purpose is to communicate information to its members. Send contributions, comments, news items, or advertising queries to Mary Ann Wacker, Editor, maryann.wacker@bgllp.com.

All contributions submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. HALL does not assume responsibility for the statements of contributors. Views or opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of Houston Area Law Librarians. The HALL Newsletter is not copyrighted, however, permission should be sought from the authors and credit given when quoting or photocopying material from this publication.

Membership dues for HALL are \$25/year. For membership information, please contact Laurie Gaas at lgaas@stcl.edu or 713-646-1714.

Membership form is available here: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/dues.pdf>

Board Meeting Minutes, Continued:

Newsletter Report:

Mary Ann showed us the newsletter she has been working on and reported that the newsletter was finished and was sent to Barbara. Monica wrote a recap of IALL in Puerto Rico. Mary Ann also noted that there was a new ad in the newsletter.

Old Business:

The bank signature cards were discussed and suggested that everyone that needs to be on the signature card be at the next Board meeting. It was noted that the signature cards need to get done before May.

Vendor Forum Guidelines have not been received yet. It was proposed that the Guidelines be prepared before the vendor forum in February.

Elise handed out information about a possible new website and the related costs. She indicated that through the independent website, we will have separate email accounts. She explained that there are three different plans available. The Board considered the three plans and thought that the Professional plan would most closely suit our needs. The Board discussed whether a web master would be needed to maintain the website. Elise indicated that we would need to change the URL to something other than "HALL.org" because this name is already taken.

New Business:

The Board discussed the grant that HALL received from AALL to provide one free full registration for a new member of AALL to attend the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference. The Board construed "new member" to mean a member of AALL for less than 5 years. The Board discussed other criteria that would need to be met by candidates for the award. Elise indicated that she would prepare a list of candidates for the award. Another item of new business was to be thinking about nominations and grants.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.

Submitted by Natalie Lira

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2009
South Texas College of Law Library**

Elise McCutchen called the meeting to order at 12:19 P.M. No new members were present.

The January minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mariann Sears passed out the treasury report and reported that there is money in our bank account. The treasurer's report was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Elise indicated that the Board is discussing pulling the HALL website from AALL and is considering registering our own site that will provide email address for the Board.

General meeting minutes, continued

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives: No report.

Bylaws: No report.

Community Service: No report

Continuing Education: Ann Patterson reminded everyone that the workshop was coming up in March.

Government Relations: No Report

Library School Liaison: Blythe reported that UNT merged the library college with the engineering college and moved to a new building.

Membership: No report

Nominations: Caralinn indicated that the committee is currently working on nominations.

Placement: No report.

Publications: Mary Ann Wacker announced that the next newsletter would be out by mid-March and asked that anyone who wished to be in the next Spotlight contact her.

Scholarships and Grants: No report.

Vendor Relations: Colleen indicated that there would be a presentation by FastCase on the 27th and would send out an email with details. The presentation will be hosted by Thompson & Knight.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:25 P.M.

Submitted by Natalie Lira

HALL Spring Seminar

HALL held its annual Spring Seminar on March 11. The topic was "The Internet as a Legitimate Research Tool."

Sessions included:

- 1) *Virtual Justice: Flickr, Facebook and the Law of the Global Community*
- 2) *Emerging Technologies in Law Libraries*
- 3) *Researching Federal Income Tax Online*
- 4) *Using Academic and Public Libraries for Free Research through the Internet*
- 5) *Researching Federal and Texas Legislative History using the Internet*



HALL Spring Seminar speakers: (front row) Saskia Mehlhorn (Fulbright & Jaworski), Lisa Salazar (Fulbright & Jaworski), Lauren Schroeder (University of Houston), Chris Dykes (University of Houston)
(back row) Kevin Miles (Fulbright & Jaworski), Bob Grundy (Prairie View A&M University)

Houston Area Law Librarians

P.O. Box 61648
Houston TX 77208

- Ideas
- Sharing
- Education
- Cooperation
- Resources
- Networking

Houston Area Law Librarians is a chapter of the American Association of Law Librarians.

Our monthly meetings are held at the South Texas College of Law. We present a half-day seminar in the Fall and a full-day seminar in the Spring on legal topics.

There are close to 200 members of HALL. We are librarians in firms, law schools, and courts as well as vendors.



HALL Officers and Committees

President: Elise McCutchen
elise.mccutchen@tklaw.com

Vice-President/President-Elect:

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Secretary: Natalie Lira
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Treasurer: Mariann Sears
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Patti Curtis
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Past President: Mary Ann Wacker
maryann.wacker@bgllp.com

Committees:

By-Laws:

Charles Gibson

Continuing Education:

Ann Patterson

Membership:

Laurie Gaas

Nominations:

Caralinn Cole

Placement:

Pam Jenkins

Publications:

Barbara Szalkowski

Scholarships/ Grants:

Judith Jackson

Archives:

Heather Kushnerick

Government Relations:

Tracy Timmons

Library School Liaison:

Blythe McCoy

Community Service:

Heather Waltman

Vendor Relations:

Colleen Pincumbe

Newsletter Editor:

Mary Ann Wacker