

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Member News & MAALL Executive Board 2-4

Meet MAALL Members & Job Announcement 5

Thanks, Grand Forks! 6-8

Call for papers & AALL newsletter title announced 9

## President's Message by Brian Striman

I want to begin my first official *MAALL Markings* column by telling everyone how grateful I am to all the MAALL members who step up and volunteer to help run our great organization. I want to thank the previous MAALL Executive Boards who have ably managed the coffers with fiscal responsibility, so we do not have to worry about our financial strength. MAALL is in good shape financially. One major component that often is overlooked in this regard is the continuing support of our corporate sponsors, vendors and institutions, agencies and firms. They generously support MAALL activities by underwriting many of our annual meeting costs and by providing meeting rooms and facilities at no cost or very little cost to MAALL. We recognize and thank them for their support.

Speaking for Janet McKinney and myself, we also want to thank all of the many colleagues who made our 2005 Grand Forks annual meeting such a wonderful and successful event. As past Education Committee chair, it was a joy to work with all the speakers and local arrangements volunteers. I can tell

you that Roger Jacobs shared, with a group of us at the sports bar table where several of us had a final dinner together the last night, that he really enjoyed being at the annual meeting and that he was impressed with how smoothly the meeting went. We all enjoyed his keynote address "Law Librarianship in the Grand Manner" as well! Thank you Roger, the University of North Dakota, and also to the UND Law School for all their support.

Just a few more thank-you-kudos: to Stefanie Pearlman, our *MAALL Markings* editor, to our MAALL web mistress Liz Glanker, to Rich Leiter who enthusiastically supports my volunteer activities, and finally to the staff at the Schmid Law Library who competently do their jobs, making it ever-so-much easier for me to do these professional activities.

Looking at what is happening and what needs to be done:

- Work has begun on developing a MAALL strategic plan.
- Work will soon begin on revising the MAALL Officer's Manual.

- Many MAALL Committee assignments are complete. Update information will be soon given to Liz to update the MAALL website.
- The 2006 Tulsa Annual Meeting Local Arrangements have done a lot of work already and are waiting for the President to move forward with a theme and a keynote speaker to be selected. We are investigating possibly having a joint meeting with OLL (OK Law Librarians <http://www.law.utulsa.edu/library/oklawlib/about>).
- Rich Leiter is busy working on contracts for the 2007 MAALL Annual Meeting in Lincoln Nebraska.
- John Christensen, Chair of the 2006 Education Committee will soon have his committee members in place so he can proceed with Tulsa program work.
- Nominations Committee will soon be finalized so it can begin its work.

Finally, I have a CD with photos taken at the Grand Forks Annual Meeting. If anyone is interested in copy, I will gladly make a copy and will mail it to you. Just let me know via email.

### Arkansas

Herb E. Cihak (Director, University of Arkansas, Young Law Library) reports that Senior Reference Librarian James Jackson has announced his retirement effective January 12, 2006. Jim's colleagues at the University of Arkansas express their appreciation to him for his excellent service during the past many years. Jim's warm smile and generosity of spirit will be missed by students, faculty, alums, and library team members.

### Illinois

Frank Lima will be joining the Northern Illinois University Law Library faculty on February 1 as Computer Services/Reference Librarian. Frank has a J.D. from Western New England College School of Law and an M.L.S. from Simmons College. He will be relocating from New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Southern Illinois University School of Law Library faculty members are authors of several recently published works. Diane Murley (Reference/Web Services Librarian and Assistant Professor) and Amber Hewette (Systems/Serials Librarian and Assistant Professor) are coauthors of *Law For The Layperson*, 3rd edition, published in 2005 by William S. Hein & Co. Murley is also the author of "Glossary of Water Related Terms" in *Waters and Water Rights*, vol. 6, 1219-1321, (Michie, 1991 ed., 2005 replacement volume). James E. Duggan (Director of Information Technology and Professor) is the coauthor (with Susan D. Herskowitz) of *Legal Research Made Easy*, 4th ed., published by Sphinx Publishing in 2005.

### Iowa

Des Moines law librarians recently coordinated and presented a half-day workshop for non-law librarians entitled "Basic Legal Reference." Those participating were Susan Lerdal and Karen Wallace (Drake University Law Library), Cheryl Gritton (Des Moines Branch, U.S. 8th Circuit Court Library) and Mandy Easter (State Law Library of Iowa). The workshop was sponsored by the Central Iowa Library Service Area and held in Des Moines.

Drake University Law Library did its part to help students cope with final exams during fall semester. During the final exam period, the library provided:

- A display of helpful resources to help students achieve success on final exams.
- Free coffee every evening in the Law Library lobby.

Daily drawings for small "care packages" containing an apple, a candy bar, and a package of microwave popcorn.

A photograph of Drake Law Library reference librarians won 2nd place in the category "Librarians as Teachers" in a national contest sponsored by the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). The theme of the contest was "A Day in the Life of the Law Library Community." The photo, entitled "Research Reality Check," was taken by Serials Associate Michael Spoerl and featured David Hanson, Karen Wallace, and Sue Lerdal teaching a lunch time legal research refresher session to third year students. Over 180 photos were submitted in the contest. The winning photos were featured in the December 2005 of AALL Spectrum and will also be used for future AALL publications and brochures.

### Kansas

News from University of Kansas Wheat Law Library: We celebrated Carolyn Clark's graduation from SLIM (ESU) in December. Lauren Van Waardhuizen is our newest staff member. She is working in cataloging and circulation, plus some hours at the reference desk. Associate Director Joe Custer is on sabbatical this semester. We're all anticipating the ABA reaccreditation site visit the last week in March.

### Missouri

Eric W. Brust is the reference librarian at the Jackson County Law Library, a subscription library serving the 16th Judicial Circuit Court and library members. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas and received his JD from the University of Missouri at Kansas City in 2005. He enjoys writing short fiction, keeping his cat out of trouble, and exploring the world with his wife, Kate. Mr. Brust has experience in public, academic, and private libraries and is currently pursuing his MLS from Emporia State University. We welcome Eric to our staff.

KCALL (Kansas City Association of Law Librarians) has elected a new Vice-President / President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board Member. The new officers for 2006-2007 are: President: Deanna Long (Spencer Fane Britt and Browne); Vice-President / President Elect: Debbie Steele (Jackson County Law Library); Secretary: Ruth Gervais (Polsinelli Shalton Welte Suelthaus); Treasurer: Sandra Berman (UMKC Law Library); Board Member (2006-2007): John Pickett (Johnson County Law Library); Board Member (continuing, 2005-2006): Frances Schach (Armstrong Teasdale LLP); and, Immediate Past President: Deborah Showalter-Johnson (U.S. Courts 8th Circuit Library). Congratulations to the new board members.

### Nebraska

Marie Wiechman (Director, Nebraska State Law Library) reports that the State Law Library now provides wireless access. Internet users visiting the State Capitol are able to get online without the need for cable, thanks to an ambitious Supreme Court project in the State Law Library. The Law Library is the first public space within the Capitol to host a "hot spot" for wireless Internet access. "Providing wireless access is a service that we in the library are eager to offer," said Wiechman. "We are also excited about welcoming new users into our area of the Capitol— our location couldn't be more perfect for those visiting the Legislature during the upcoming session." Individuals without laptop computers or other portable devices are also able to use the Internet as the result of an earlier Supreme Court project. The Court installed a computer in the library which created the only publicly accessible connection to the Internet inside the State Capitol. The public computer station contains word processing (Microsoft Word), Nebraska Westlaw legal research with Keycite, a list of the librarian's favorite sites for research, and an open portal to the Internet. Patrons can print information at a minimal cost, use Web-based e-mail to send information to another location for printing, or copy information directly to a jump/flash drive.

### Nebraska, cont'd

The Kutak Rock Library has temporarily moved to the 13th floor of the Conagra Towers North in downtown Omaha while the Omaha Building is being renovated. The library will move back to the Omaha Building in mid-2007. The entire library was moved, minus the 10,000 reporters that were thrown away for lack of space. Kutak Rock also has a new staff member, Sarah Wiegard. She is a new cataloger all the way from New Hampshire. Contact information has not changed for Lynn Kathie Fennell & Lynn Koperski.

Baird Holm LLP is the new name of the Baird, Holm, McEachen, Pedersen, Hammann & Strasheim Law Firm in Omaha. The firm's logo and Web site have also changed. Visit the website at: <http://bairdholm.com>. You will find biographies for the Library Managers, Anne Baumgartner and Mary Stultz, on the "Other Professionals" page of the new Web site.

### Oklahoma

News from University of Tulsa Law Library:

- With Director Rick Ducey as Chair of Local Arrangements, librarians at University of Tulsa Mabee Legal Information Center are busy making plans for the MAALL meeting to be held Oct. 19-21, 2006, in a lovely Tulsa suburb of Jenks which boasts a new and thriving Riverwalk. Lodging will be at a brand new Best Western right next door to the Oklahoma Aquarium where a grand opening event will be held. Save the dates!
- Three of the third place "AALL Day in the Life of a Law Librarian" winning photographs were of TU Law Librarian Courtney Selby, snapped in action by Lou Lindsey!
- Faye Hadley was praised in the acknowledgments to the 2005 edition of Cohen's *Handbook of Federal Indian Law* for going "above and beyond in tracking down obscure sources ..."

## MAALL EXECUTIVE BOARD

<b>President:</b>	Brian Striman 402-472-8286	<b>Secretary:</b>	Lorraine Lorne 479-575-5834
<b>Vice President/ President Elect:</b>	John Christensen 785-670-1658	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Robert Mead 785-964-9280
<b>Past President:</b>	Janet McKinney 816-474-6550		

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Editor: Stefanie Pearlman, [spearlman2@unl.edu](mailto:spearlman2@unl.edu)  
Those wishing to submit items should contact the editor for policy and format information.  
Thanks to Paul Morrison for his help with this issue.

## Meet MAALL Members

### Meet...Melissa Serfass

By Stefanie Pearlman

I first met Melissa at the AALL conference in Boston, where we discovered that we are both vegetarians and fans of Jane Austen. Naturally, I was excited that she was willing to be interviewed for MAALL Markings.

Melissa is currently an Electronic Resources and Reference Librarian at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She has held the position for almost fourteen years and states that her job duties, "have evolved and changed so much since 1992, sometimes it doesn't seem like the same job." Melissa became a law librarian to combine her interest in going to both law school and library school. She worked in the law library at UALR for the three years she spent in law school and then received her Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of South Florida.

Melissa has served on RIPS-SIS committees and has been webmaster, newsletter editor, secretary/treasurer and chair of RIPS. She has been on the grants and bylaws committees of Computing Services-SIS. She currently edits the SIS News column in AALL Spectrum. In addition, she has served on MAALL committees and is a former editor of MAALL Markings. Melissa also is a member of the Arkansas Library Association and has served as the chair of the Special Libraries Division.

Some of Melissa's hobbies include reading, working in her garden (which includes flowers and an organic vegetable patch), crossword puzzles, and Sudoku number puzzles. Although her favorite music is entrenched in the 70's and 80's, her husband still tries to encourage her toward this century's popular bands.

## Job Announcement

Jackson County Law Library seeks a part-time service oriented file clerk with attention for detail. Duties include loose leaf filing, pocket part updates, stack maintenance, mail processing and limited patron assistance. Previous experience preferred; 8-10 hours per week; \$12 per hour; flexible hours; pleasant working environment; paid valet parking. Please call Jan Medved at 816.221.2221 or <mailto:jmedved@jcll.org>.

# Welcome to Grand Forks!



*Thank you to Louise Lindsey, University of Tulsa Mabee Legal Information Center, who provided all of the photographs of the MAALL Annual Meeting!!!*



*Richard Leiter, UNL, presents, "Where's My Jetpack?" on Saturday morning.*



*Garry Gott, UND, introducing Roger Jacobs at the Opening Banquet.*

## MAALL Annual Meeting 2005



*Past, present, and future MAALL Presidents...Before the annual meeting began, Past President Kay Andrus, Current President Janet McKinney, and President-Elect Brian Striman pause from their work for a picture.*



*Kaaren Pupino, UND, makes sure everything is in order for the meeting.*



*Janet McKinney officially passes the Presidency to Brian Striman.*

## Field Trips in Grand Forks



*How accommodating and wonderful were our hosts in Grand Forks? Well, when someone (ok, it was me) wanted to go to the famous Widman's Candy Store for chocolate covered goodies, they immediately sponsored a trip there.*

*(left to right) Lou Lindsey, Needra Jackson, Linda Striman, Darla Jackson, Brian Striman, Stefanie Pearlman, and Kaaren Pupino.*



*Another sponsored event was attendance at a UND women's hockey game. (left to right) Stefanie Pearlman, Brian & Linda Striman, Susan Goldner, Lou Lindsey, Janet McKinney and Robert Hegadorn*

## AALL/Lexis Call for Papers

### The call for papers has begun!

Have you been thinking of writing an article of interest to law librarians? Maybe you just need a push to get started? Whether for fame or fortune, this is your chance to enter the AALL/LexisNexis™ Call for Papers Competition.

The AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee is soliciting articles in three categories:

**Open Division** for AALL members and law librarians with five or more years of professional experience

**New Members Division** for recent graduates and AALL members who have been in the profession for less than five years.

**Student Division** for students in library, information management or law school. (Students need not be members of AALL)

The winner in each division receives \$750 generously donated by LexisNexis, plus the opportunity to present his or her paper at a special program during the AALL Annual Meeting in St. Louis. Winning papers will also be considered for publication in the Association's prestigious Law Library Journal.

For more information, a list of previous winners and an application, visit the AALL website at [http://www.aallnet.org/about/award\\_call\\_for\\_papers.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_call_for_papers.asp). Submissions must be postmarked by March 1, 2006.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee, Chair, Patty Wellinger, [pwellin@law.du.edu](mailto:pwellin@law.du.edu); Renee Rastorfer, [rrastorf@law.usc.edu](mailto:rrastorf@law.usc.edu) or Ed Greenlee, [egreenle@law.upenn.edu](mailto:egreenle@law.upenn.edu).

## Stop the Presses, It's *Gateway Gazette*

We are pleased to announce that the 2006 AALL Local Advisory Committee & Daily Newspaper Subcommittee have selected "Gateway Gazette" as the name of the daily newspaper for the annual meeting in St. Louis.

Congratulations to Linda M. Defendeifer for being the first to submit the winning title! (She beat out 12 other people who submitted the same name). Linda will receive a \$50 gift certificate to a merchant of her choice, courtesy of MAALL.

Thank you to all who submitted contest entries. We had over 150 submissions, and it was difficult choosing from among some very clever names!

If you are interested in volunteering to help out with the newspaper (or any other annual meeting activity), please contact Caitlin Robinson at [caitlin-robinson@uiowa.edu](mailto:caitlin-robinson@uiowa.edu). Also, feel free to contact us if you have any suggestions for the publication ([duggan@siu.edu](mailto:duggan@siu.edu) or [dmurley@siu.edu](mailto:dmurley@siu.edu)).

James E. Duggan and Diane Murley  
2005-2006 Local Advisory Committee, Daily Newspaper Subcommittee, *Gateway Gazette*