

ALL-SIS NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Issue 3

Summer 1995

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It was a mild winter in Boulder this year. We didn't have a lot of snow or wind or ice. There was just enough to remind us that it was winter and we were in the Rockies. Then, in April and May, we began to get Weather. Rain. Lots of its. Some hail. Thunder and lightning. And more rain. So much that the city of Boulder and much of eastern Colorado is now under a flood watch. There have been mud slides and flooded basements. We were all feeling a bit panicked for a while, but the worst of it seems to be over.

Just as Boulder's winter wather was mild, so too was the business of Your Academic SIS. Several projects were discussed and preliminary steps were taken. In early April the action began to heat up, however, with activities including the following:

We're developing a questionnaire, to supplement the ABA's that will give us a "snapshot" of academic law libraries. We hope to come up with a survey instrument that can be used every four or five years, and give us information on trends in academic law libraries. This project is headed by Bill Beintema and Pauline Aranas, who will be coordinating five task forces. There will be an opportunity for many

SIS members to participate in this. Stay tuned for calls for volunteers.

We're following the ABA's deliberations of its library standards; George Grossman is spearheading an initiative to get a sense of the SIS membership's opinions on the standards and respond at the ABA's hearings at AALL.

The fruits of the SIS Public Relations Committee's labors will be enjoyed in Pittsburgh. The Dynamic Duo of James Dugan and Ellen Platt have collaborated all year to keep SIS members informed of SIS activities through the AALL Newsletter and the SIS newsletter. They have planned an SIS table in the activities area, drawings for prizes at the SIS business meeting, and our first-ever SIS brochure.

Following AALL's announcement that it was proposing radical changes in the Law Library Journal, many academic librarians contacted me asking that the SIS express their concerns about this move. After consultation with the SIS excutive committee, I wrote a letter to AALL

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asking for more information on the reasoning behind the proposal an urging that LLJ be spared these potentially devastating changes. This letter was also posted on LAW-LIB, and is reprinted in this newsletter issue for those who missed it. We will try to take a quick poll of our membership, probably at the Directors' and Middle Managers' breakfasts, so that we can comment on this proposal on behalf of the SIS at the AALL General Business Meeting.

There were several times this spring that I was close to panicking about getting SIS matters

taken care of, what with having a day job and water in the basement and such. But, like Boulder's spring weather, the SIS business seems to be under control now. Our vice chair/chair-elect, Jacqueline Orlando, is ready to take the helm. Sara E. Robbins, our newly elected vice chair, is preparing for her term of office. And I'm anticipating an easy transition to the life of private citizen again. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve as Academic SIS chair this year. It's been a fabulous experience.

Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries
1994-1995 Executive Committee

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The ALL-SIS Education Committee would be happy to discuss annual meeting educational proposals and ideas with you.

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Chair Letter Concerning *Law Library Journal*

Barbara Bintliff, as Academic SIS Chair, sent the following letter to the AALL Officers and Executive Board Members concerning Law Library Journal. This letter originally appeared on LAW-LIB, and her message and letter are reprinted below.

message:

I sent the following letter to the AALL Officers and Executive Board today, and wanted to share it with the law-lib readership. Many members of the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section have expressed concern about AALL's decision to curtail the availability of the *Law Library Journal*, and have requested that the SIS convey these concerns. I welcome your comments pro or con--both personally or to the list--and encourage you also to contact the AALL leadership to let them know your opinions.

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letter:

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May 15, 1995

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section, I am writing to protest your proposals to either eliminate the *Law Library Journal* as an automatic benefit of AALL membership or to severely curtail its frequency. The *Law Library Journal* is too much a part of our Association to so summarily decide its fate.

The importance of *Law Library Journal* to all law librarians, and to the Association, is hard to overstate. It is the source to which most of us turn when faced with a challenge new to us but not unknown to the profession. It is our representative in the worlds of scholarship, both legal and librarianship. It is a

visible and positive membership benefit that does not need explanation to deans, managing partners, or judges. *LLJ* has become highly respected; publication in it has become sought after and valued. Law faculties, who frequently vote on academic law librarian retention and promotion, understand the significance of being published in *Law Library Journal*. AALL's own literature touts it as the "official" publication of the Association, one which complements the educational purposes for which AALL was founded.

The options with which we have been presented, either vote to remove *LLJ* as a benefit of membership or reduce its frequency, as explained as being based on the premise that the journal is subsidized too heavily by the Association and does not meet the needs of AALL's members. How were these conclusions reached? What changes in *LLJ*'s content were considered to enable it to better meet the needs of the Association's members? From what source of income is it being subsidized? What other options for financing or publishing *LLJ* were explored? What kind of advertising has been sought, and how has it been solicited?

We urge you to reconsider these proposals. We are concerned that, once the distribution of *LLJ* is so drastically reduced (either by cost or frequency), it is only a matter of time before the publication ceases to exist. We are well aware of the financial constraints facing all organizations today. We understand the necessity of change to accommodate the many, varying demands placed on the Association. We believe, however, that a change of this magnitude of the *Law Library Journal* is not in the best interests of the Association and is contrary to the educational purposes for which the Association was founded.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bintliff
Chair, Academic Law Libraries
Special Interest Section;
Law Library Director
and Associate Professor

SIS Elections Results!!

Sara E. Robbins has been elected as the incoming Academic Law Libraries SIS Vice Chair/Chair Elect.

Thanks to both of the candidates for their willingness to participate in this election. Their interest in this Special Interest Section is greatly appreciated.

Members' Column

Editor's note: I sent requests to University of Pittsburgh's and Duquesne University's Law Library. What should those of us going to Pittsburgh for the AALL Annual Meeting not miss? What spots to eat would they recommend? George Pike, University of Pittsburgh, and Doris Corsello, Duquesne University, have graciously written the following.

George Pike
University of Pittsburgh

Welcome to Pittsburgh!

The staff of the University of Pittsburgh's Barco Law Library is thrilled to welcome our friends and colleagues to Pittsburgh and to the Academic Law Library's Special Interest Section Reception at the Barco Law Library. We'll be seeing you at 6:00pm on Tuesday, July 18th!

I think you will find Pittsburgh is an interesting town. Dickens once called it, "Hell, with the lid off." When I told my friends and family that I was moving here (from Portland, Oregon), they'd respond, "Oh, Pittsburgh." (pause, blink, blink) "I hear its much nicer now." And yes, it is much nicer now. I though I'd share with you a few impressions from a newcomer and a few suggestions for things to do while you are here.

They say that Pittsburgh is the only city with a grand entrance. It's the first thing that hits you as you are arriving in from the airport. (Via the "Parkway West." Never, I-279, or route 22, or even the "road to the airport." One must quickly learn the appropriate local lingo in order to survive.) You're getting close when you pass through the Fort Pitt Tunnel. As you exit the tunnel you'll see the central city explode in all its splendor right in front of you. And it is a spectacular central city, rivaling cities three times its size. The tall building that looks like a glass castle (not a cliche, it really does), is the PPG Building home to Pittsburgh Plate Glass, one of several major corporations based here. Other locals include the Mellon Bank, H.J. Heinz, Westinghouse, Gulf Oil and of course, U.S. Steel. At the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers ("The Mon" in local lingo) - where they form the Ohio River - is Point State Park, cite of the founding of Pittsburgh and home to many a spring, summer and fall festival. Across the river is Three River's Stadium, where the Pirates allegedly play. (They're having a bad year.) Opposite downtown on the Mon side are the Monongahela and Duquesne (pronounced Doo-Kane) Inclines, cable railways that climb Mt. Washington and offer a spectacular view of the city - particularly at dusk.

What you won't see are the steel mills. The first brochure I read about Pittsburgh proudly pointed out that not one ton of steel is manufactured in Pittsburgh anymore. (More lingo: It's Pittsburgh, "Pgh" or "the 'Burgh." It's not called Pitt.) But the vestiges of the steel industry remain. Many of the classic old stone churches in Pittsburgh will seem sculpted out of deep ebony stone. It's not the stone's natural color, it's from the soot that used to blanket the city. The expanses of flat land along the riverfront (particularly the Monongahela,) signify the former mill locations. A few rusted skeletons and roads to nowhere are all that remain. If you have a car and are interested in views of Big Steel's remains, drive along Carson Street on the south side of the Mon and head east toward Homestead and the city of West Mifflin. Then backtrack and spend the rest of the day at Kennywood, a classic old-fashioned amusement park with four - count'em four- major roller coasters! Have some Potato Patch fries before coming home.

What also remains is the delightful ethnic and cultural diversity brought here by the immigrants who came to work in the mills. Pittsburgh features substantial Polish, Russian, Hungarian, Italian, Scottish, German and Jewish communities. I knew as a newcomer that I was in a unique location when I encountered the King David Kosher Chinese Restaurant! At the Opening Reception at the Carnegie Museum you'll sample such local ethnic specialties as kielbasa and pierogies - both of Eastern European origin. To get a better look, try the Strip District - a food and "stuff" market area several blocks long about a half-mile from the Convention Center.

What has grown up in place of the mills is an understated cultural treasure house, featuring among other things the unique Andy Warhol museum - the largest in the world dedicated to a single artist and the Carnegie Art and Natural Museum of History. In Oakland there is the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning with its Nationality Rooms. These 25 classrooms - still in use - are masterfully decorated in the decor of the different cultures that have influenced the city. Downtown features three major concert halls (the Heinz, the Benedum Center, and the Fulton Theater), a world renown symphony orchestra, light opera company, dance and ballet theatre.

I'm new enough here in the 'Burgh that I haven't developed a long list of restaurants to recommend. The Strip District features a wide range of eateries from quick and cheap sandwiches at Primanti Brothers, to upscale dining at Paski's. The Market Square area in downtown - about a six-block walk from the Convention Center - features the 1902 Landmark Tavern, Jakes Above the Square, the Original Oyster House and others. The Oakland area - home of the Barco Law Library - features Cafe Azure for upscale, Hemingway's and The Attic for good, solid fare, the Original Hot Dog Shop and the Decade for unique. The major centers for nightlife include Oakland and the Strip District, along with the Southside - a 1- block stretch of Carson Street with eateries, nightclubs and shops

abounding. Everything from country, blues, rock, alternative and excellent jazz can be sampled.

Now for the SIS Reception: We'll be at the Barco Law Library on the fourth floor of the Law Building at 3900 Forbes Avenue. An extensive bus connection between downtown and the University make traveling easy. Downtown access is from First Avenue - about 6 blocks from the Convention Center. The 61 A,B,C, and 71 A, B, C, D (just remember **any** 61 or 71 bus) will take you directly to the campus. Bus fare is \$1.25 each way - a dollar bill and a quarter will work. If you want to take a cab, the fare averages about \$9.00. The Law School is at the corner of Forbes and Bouquet Streets. As a good landmark we are directly across from the three 20-story round Tower Dormitories. The Reception runs from 6 until 8pm and will feature light snacks and beverages as well as a look around our 3-floor library and (if all the pieces get finished) our new state-of-the-art Local Area Network. After the Reception there are a number of restaurants in the Oakland neighborhood for dining. I'll have a number of Oakland area brochures available to provide you with additional options.

We are all looking forward to showing off our little corner of the world. See you soon!

Doris Corsello
Duquesne University

Welcome to Duquesne

Situated on the highest point of Pittsburgh's downtown, Duquesne University sprawls along "The Bluff" overlooking much of center city. "Old Main," the original campus building, was built in 1878 by a small group of German immigrant Holy Ghost priest and brothers whose commitment was to provide education based in moral, ethical and spiritual growth. "Old Main" still stands, the commitment has flourished. The 40 acre campus has recently undergone an extensive renovation, and today the handsomely renovated buildings stand amid landscaped lawns, gardens and walkways lined with Victorian lampposts and benches. The Law School, established in 1911, is housed since

1982 in Hanley Hall, with the Law Library targeted to become a state of the art electronic legal information center. On July 1, 1995, the first stage of the Law Library's transformation will be completed when the Innovative Interface's automated library system comes up.

Yes! We are doing three things at once - bringing up the OPAC, hosting the AALL Pittsburgh 1995 Annual Meeting, and all the other regular stuff. These enterprises have not been pain free, but, when you come to visit us in Hanley Hall on the beautiful Duquesne campus, you will meet the very energetic and skilled library staff who make all things happen.

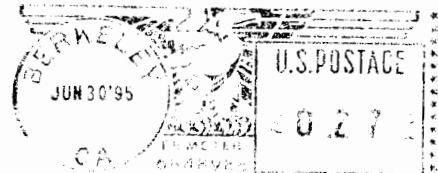
When not toiling at the Law Library, the local spots favored by the staff reflect the diversity of the staff. Directory Frank Liu favors the Top of the Triangle (downtown) and his second coice is Hunan Gourmet on the Southside; Agnes Robinson's favorite is dinner at The Carlton (downtown) or LeMont (Mt. Washington). Doris Corsello's choice is Sunday jazz brunch at The Balcony in Shadyside or secondly, dinner at Cafe Alegro or Mallorca (both is Southside); Mr. Rao's really loves the view of the city in the evening from Mount Washington - it is spectacular from the bar at LeMont. Try Rosebud (the Strip) - Lori Ribarchak recommends it; The

Boardwalk (the Strip) is *Smokin'* according to Dave Hanna, and the jazz is fine at the Paprazzi (Southside). Mark Falk, major authority on rock, hangs out, and we mean seriously, at the Decade (Oakland), Not quite so hardcore? Try Metropol (the Strip); Allegheny Brewery (music, suds, food in the Northside); The Attic (nice bar, food, pools tables); downstairs at Upstage - hardcore thrash (Oakland). There is the Blue Note Cafe (jazz in the Southside), Electric Banana - hardcore thrash (Oakland), Nick's Fat City, (rock bands, Southside); Grafitti (live bands in Oakland) and Lucciano's, hardcore thrash in Downtown.

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