In September 2013, law librarians from all over the world gathered in Barcelona for the 32nd Annual Course of the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL). The course kicked off with a pre-conference on public international law competencies. A group of IALL colleagues is developing performance indicators to help guide and inform instruction pertaining to public international law research. This is an ongoing project wherein the committee continues to solicit comments and refine its Standards for Information Literacy in Public International Law. The group hopes to finalize its Standards at this year’s annual course.

The Annual Course, appropriately entitled “Catalan Law and Legal Information in a Global Context,” focused on how Cataluña, an autonomous community in Spain, fits into both the national and European Union context, while operating independently in many respects.

The fantastic first session in the mesmerizingly beautiful lecture hall at the University of Barcelona set the tone for the rest of the conference. Professor Oriol Oleart recounted in fascinating detail the historical sources of Catalunyan law from the 15th century to the 20th century. He described three waves of efforts to compile all the Catalan laws passed by Parliament in the early 15th century, the mid-16th century, and the early 18th century. Cataluña was an independent State until immediately after the War of Succession in the early 18th century, when Cataluña became part of the Kingdom of Castilla y Leon. At that time, Cataluña was permitted to maintain some of its unique civil laws, especially those pertaining to property and succession law.

Centralization began during the 19th century but the history is complicated by such factors as...
From the Chair

*Don Ford*

As winter wanes, many of us have been in the thick of planning for this summer’s Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. In addition, new FCIL-SIS electronic features are increasing our web presence. More on these recent developments:

**FCIL Schaaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians**

We thank our Grant Search and Fundraising Committees for their hard work this year. The 2014 grantee of the FCIL Schaaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians is Irene Maria Kraft, Associate Librarian of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Ms. Kraft’s Grant presentation will take place on Monday, July 14, at 11:45 a.m. We’re looking forward to hearing about this new and highly unique international tribunal.

**FCIL-Oriented Programs in San Antonio**

The FCIL-SIS’s sponsored program on Mexican legal research, featuring Jonathan Pratter, Julienne Grant, and Mexican attorney David Hurtado Badiola, will be presented on Tuesday, July 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

The FCIL-SIS had no member on the 2014 Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC). This may account for the apparent scarcity of FCIL programming, but it is only apparent. In reality, the FCIL-SIS Executive Board is busy organizing supplemental FCIL-SIS programming. Stay tuned for announcements on the FCIL-SIS listserv regarding programming that will take place during our meeting times, as well as any FCIL-oriented Hot Topics, Coffee Sessions, and Poster Sessions that become part of the regular programming.

**NEW ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

A big thanks to Alison Shea and the FCIL-SIS Website Committee for their work in adding, updating, and reorganizing syllabus content on the FCIL-SIS website. In addition, Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Heidi Kuehl, and the Website Committee are busy updating some of our FCIL-SIS web-based historical materials.

Likewise, a big thank you and best wishes to Loren Turner, Neel Agrawal, and Susan Gualtier at the launch of the FCIL-SIS’s DipLawMatic Dialogues blog. Stay tuned to the blog for San Antonio updates, as well as FCIL-related book and movie reviews.

**A SPECIAL THANKS**

We give a special thanks to all of our program proposers from last fall. The proposals were consistently interesting and well-prepared. As FCIL-SIS librarians, our stock-in-trade is taking an inventive, can-do approach to problem-solving. So, if these proposals didn’t make it onto the official roster for this year’s Annual Meeting, we’re hoping to find ways to make at least some of them available in our “supplemental programming” or as web-based presentations. We’ll use our FCIL-SIS inventiveness to ensure our KSAs stay well-honed so that we can continue our fine tradition of serving the wider AALL community.

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*SIS Election 2014*

**Nominee**

Vice-Chair/Chair Elect - Lucie Olejnikova, Pace Law Library, Pace University School of Law.

Additional nomination petitions may be submitted according to Article VI of FCIL-SIS Bylaws.

**Voting**

Roy Sturgeon (*rsturgeo@tulane.edu*), FCIL-SIS Secretary/Treasurer, will prepare an official ballot, including nominations by petition. Voting will take place from April 15th to April 30th.

More information will be sent out shortly.

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**Proposed Bylaws Amendments**

*Don Ford*

The FCIL-SIS bylaws currently contain a conundrum in Article VI, Nomination and Election of Officers. Section 2 allows for nominations by petition, which must be made no later than April 12 of any given year. However, Section 3 allows for the holding of elections using paper ballots, which must all be returned to the FCIL-SIS Secretary/Treasurer “before March 31.”

A simple solution to this issue is to amend the bylaws so that all elections of officers will be conducted exclusively by electronic ballot.

A second solution is to change the two dates so that nominations by petition must be completed before the due date for paper ballots.

In the coming weeks we will be contacting all FCIL-SIS members via the listserv on these proposed bylaw changes. Our plan had been to vote on these proposals at the FCIL-SIS business meeting in San Antonio. However, the Executive Board may revisit this plan, and instead have FCIL-SIS members vote on the bylaw changes electronically. Please stay tuned for developments.
A Visit to the Library of Birmingham

Edward T. Hart

The city of Birmingham, England opened a new public library last September. It’s no ordinary building, but an amazing facility that has kickstarted the library’s services and connections to the local community. The city sought “a building to capture the imagination and provide an exciting showcase for the library’s impressive collections and rich cultural programmes [sic] brought alive with the help of the new digital technologies.” The building, designed by the Dutch architects Mecanoo, cost £188.8 million, surprisingly more than £4 million under budget. The library opened with a ceremony at which Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani schoolgirl who advocates for education for girls and who survived a Taliban assassination attempt, said “Let us not forget that even one book, one pen, one teacher can change the world.” Later in the autumn, Prince William visited the library, when he spent much of his visit in the children’s area. He revealed he was already reading to his son.

The building itself, and its impact on Birmingham, is comparable to that of the Central Library built by the Seattle Public Library, which many of us visited during last year’s AALL meeting. In many ways the two libraries are very much alike.

On the outside, the Library of Birmingham is a series of stacked boxes getting smaller as they are stacked higher. They are wrapped in a façade of overlapping circles. The very top layer of the building is a circular feature. The colors of the layers alternate between brown and gold. These layers rest upon the ground floor which presents a wall of glass windows to the square in front of the library. When viewed as a whole, the building resembles a cake upon a glass plate, like a golden anniversary cake. The interior of the library has the familiar reading rooms and ranges of stacks. At the center of the lower levels is a “book rotunda” that evokes the feeling of traditional reading rooms with huge sets of reference books; but across the rotunda are escalators and slanted, moving side-walks outlined in blue light, reminding visitors that they are in a modern, busy public library.

The library provides outdoor space - the sun does come out sometime in England - with garden terraces on two levels. Open to library users, the lower, wider terrace provides sitting features for group activities and events. The higher terrace affords views of the Birmingham skyline. Gardens of local vegetables were planted to provide a green roof; they can also be used as teaching gardens.

At the highest level of the building is a remarkable room that connects the library to an earlier city library known as the old Central Library. The Shakespeare Memorial Room was built in 1882; it was in an Elizabethan style of extensive carved woodwork that held and displayed a growing collection about Shakespeare, including a 1623 copy of the first folio of his works. Today the collection includes more than 44,000 items. The room, which was relocated to a music school when the old library was demolished, was moved once again and restored to the city library as the crowning centerpiece of the new building.

If you have an hour or two to spare, a visit to the Library of Birmingham is well worthwhile. Maybe it will kick start your imagination when considering your own library.

Schaffer Grant Stories

Do you have a story about how you or your library have directly benefited from working with a Schaffer Grant winner? Please send your notes to either Lucie Olejnikova or Teresa Miguel-Stearns for the next issue.
the end of an absolute monarchy, the war against Napoleon, and his defeat, which led to the 1812 Court of Cadiz and a national constitution. This constitution contains the first mention of a unified Spanish nation, the concept of which is reflected in the constitutional texts. The national constitution only lasted a few years, and governments created unique constitutions for their territories.

The 19th century codification process was highly politicized yet produced three codes: the penal code (1822), the commercial code (1829), and the civil code (1889). Prof. Oleart noted that the Spanish Civil Code was the only national European code that was not applicable across the entire country, a practice that continues today. At the time of the Second Spanish Republic (1931), Cataluña became an independent territory along with País Vasco (Basque Country) and Galicia per the 1932 Statute of Autonomy; General Franco’s government (1939-75) repealed this law. Still, during Franco’s regime, several texts were passed including the Catalan Recopilación (1960) that functioned as a civil code with a focus on family and succession matters that were complementary to the Spanish Code. The Recopilación included Roman law and canon law that had been incorporated in the 15th century code. Interestingly, until 1960, canon law and Roman law ruled where Catalan law was silent. The 1978 Constitution, passed after Franco’s death, gave autonomy to Cataluña again. Immediately following, the 1960 Recopilación was revised to align with the 1978 Constitution.

The remaining lectures and panels were just as interesting and informative as the inaugural lecture. The second panel, “Catalan Law in the Spanish Context: Autonomous Communities,” focused on the 18 co-existing legal systems in Spain today: one federal and 17 autonomous community systems. The federal government exercises exclusive jurisdiction over areas such as nationality, immigration, and asylum; commerce; crime, punishment, and imprisonment; procedure; labor; and copyright and intellectual property. The Spanish state and the autonomous communities share competencies in areas of banking, credit, and insurance; health and social security; public administration and administrative procedure; environmental protection; and education. Any disputes are resolved by the Constitutional Court. The competencies of the autonomous communities vary due to the historical precedents of each community.

We learned how Cataluña interacts with the European Union (Spain has been a member since 1985), and that the Spanish Constitutional Court has ruled the autonomous communities must implement EU law in areas where they have competencies. We went in-depth into intestacy law in Cataluña and how it reconciles with differences in the Spanish civil code. Same-sex marriage and cohabitation laws in Spain are very interesting as well. For example, marriage laws are the exclusive competency of the Spanish government, which legalized same-sex marriage in 2005. Cohabitation law, on the other hand, is left to the autonomous communities. Ten autonomous communities have passed comprehensive cohabitation laws that includes equal treatment for same-sex couples; Cataluña has not. Cataluña has a disjointed collection of laws offering cohabitating same-sex couples recognition in some areas, but not in others.

Equally interesting were the lectures on urban planning, gender law, and intellectual property. We learned how Cataluña is trying to break down class divides, fight homelessness, and integrate immigrants into the community through its urban planning initiatives. We received a comprehensive overview of EU, Spanish, and Catalan legislation pertaining to women, particularly regarding protection in the work place and in cases of domestic violence.

The final presentation was given by our IALL colleagues, Montse Morante and Patricia Sanpera. They provided us with an excellent tutorial on accessing legislation and case law from both the central government and the Catalan judiciary. They explained the court system to us and how the local, provincial courts fit into the overall judicial scheme.

Continued on page 5
In addition to the excellent programming, conference registrants and their guests were treated to a series of outings, including to the palatial Catalan Bar Association. While there, we were given a tour of their exquisite rare book collection which includes invaluable manuscripts and an impressive array of early court-issued laws and decrees. We visited the University of Barcelona Rare Book and Manuscript Library, as well as the Catalan Parliament, where we were addressed by one of the leaders of the Catalan government. The Parliament building is spectacular. It was built in 1716 after the War of Succession by the first Bourbon (French) king, Philip V of Spain, as part of the military fort. After falling into decay for some time, the mayor of Barcelona in 1889 decided this building would be refurbished and converted into the new royal palace. The building was transformed into its current state. The Spanish Queen did not accept the palace so it eventually became the home of the Catalan Parliament in 1932. We also learned about the Catalan flag, four red bars on a golden field. The Catalan flag goes back to the coat-of-arms of the Counts of Barcelona in the 12th and 13th century. It was also used as a maritime flag by Charles III at the end of the 18th century. Further, legend has it that the red bars symbolize the blood-stained fingers of St. James (the patron of Spain) after he slayed the dragon.

In sum, the IALL 32nd Annual Course in Barcelona provided registrants cultural, intellectual, and recreational opportunities. The greatest benefit to attending an international program such as the IALL Annual Course is the opportunity to meet new colleagues from around the world with whom to share ideas, collaborate, and create life-long networks. These relationships are invaluable to law librarians working in an increasingly global legal environment.

The IALL’s 33rd Annual Course will be held in Buenos Aires in September 2014. Gloria Orrego-Hoyos, our FCIL-SIS colleague and 2011 recipient of the FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians, is chair of the planning committee. Start working on your tango now!

FCIL-SIS Blog

The FCIL-SIS blog has been redesigned! Check it out at http://fcilsis.wordpress.com/.

If you have comments or suggestions on the content, or if you’re interested in being a contributor to the blog, contact the Publicity Committee at aall.fcil.blog@gmail.com.

FCIL Newsletter

The FCIL Newsletter is a publication of the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. It is published in February, May, and October of each year.

Current and past issues of FCIL Newsletter are available on our website, at http://www.aallnet.org/sections/fcil/newsletters.

We welcome submissions. Contact us for more information.

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McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP
The Acropolis in Greece, the epitome of exploration of ancient culture and Greece, is the perfect destination for FCIL-related pursuits and highly recommended for any FCIL librarian.

Contributor: Heidi Frosetrad Kuehl, Northwestern University School of Law

A recent gov docs project may represent in some ways the end of an era. We don’t collect or even keep materials the way we did – for better and for worse. We necessarily know that content is getting lost as we make room for new initiatives (in this case a Research Commons at the undergraduate library), which are certainly valuable in their own right. In the meantime, (law) librarians/libraries are collectively doing our best, given our resources, to minimize the loss of access/content as much as possible. In this case, the law library is absorbing relevant gov docs into our collection, but selectively.

Contributor: Kristina Alayan, Duke University School of Law
FCIL Scenes: Views of the Profession From Our Members

FCIL librarians are my favorite librarians!
Contributor: Heidi Frostestad Kuehl, Northwestern University School of Law

An art piece seen in the University of Barcelona Historic Building during IALL in Barcelona speaks to the webs/networks in the global context of our work.
Contributor: Kristina Alayan, Duke University School of Law

Chicago FCIL Librarians
New Member Profile: Bianca Anderson

Mary Rumsey

This issue’s new member is a warm person from a warm climate. Bianca Anderson was born and raised in South Florida, and went to college at the University of Miami, where she is now the Foreign and International Law Librarian. In between college and law librarianship, she went to law school at the University of Florida, practiced immigration law for ten years, and got an MLIS from the University of South Florida. During library school, Bianca also taught high school and worked as a children’s librarian.

After that winding path, she is happy to be in her current job: “I consider myself very fortunate - it’s a triple whammy, really - I love the University of Miami, I live in a community I have deep roots in, and I am surrounded by family and friends.”

The University of Miami has a vast collection of foreign and international materials, with a focus on Central and South America and the Caribbean. Fortunately, Bianca is “… the latest in a long line of dedicated librarians, including Amber Lee Smith, Ellen Schaffer and Edgardo Rotman, who have nurtured and looked after the University of Miami’s fantastic FCIL collection.” As Bianca noted, those are “some very big shoes to fill.”

With a mix of patrons (primarily students and faculty, but also some local attorneys and pro se people), Bianca has jumped in, learning FCIL librarianship on the job. She comments, “I had some experience with both foreign and international materials in connection with immigration practice, related mostly to researching country condition information, international human rights issues, and foreign laws related to marriage and parentage. But what I am finding most valuable is the insight and guidance of fellow FCIL librarians. It is a truly welcoming community, and whenever I have been completely stuck I have always found someone eager to help.”

Bianca has strong language skills. Her parents and extended relatives emigrated from Cuba in the 1960s, so she has been immersed in Spanish all her life. “My Spanish improved greatly when I began my law practice, as most of my clients and support staffs were native Spanish speakers. I quickly had to learn to converse in Spanish in a professional setting, very different from the Spanish one uses at family get-togethers and holidays.” She also reads French well, and as “a total Francophile” is intent on improving her spoken French.

Asked what aspect of FCIL research she finds most challenging, Bianca replies: “[t]here are two: language barriers and unfamiliar legal landscapes. I feel I’ve been lucky in that my Spanish and French have helped me resolve most of the research requests I have received. But I struggle working with documents in an Asian, Arabic, or Slavic language. I also find that orienting myself with an unfamiliar legal system, or the available resources for a nation I’ve never worked with before, can be difficult although rewarding.”

It is clear that Bianca thrives on challenges: “I love the variety of what I do. I love learning about places and cultures I have never dealt with before. Every day is something different. I feel like Sherlock Holmes. I love the hunt, the digging for something obscure, and the joy and sense of accomplishment I feel once I have finally found something.”

While Bianca seems born to be an FCIL librarian, she has several interests outside of her work. At only seven years old, her son Ben already participates in swimming, baseball, and football; as parents know, these activities require a diligent chauffeur. Bianca also loves to bake. She has a reputation for killer flan and Bailey’s cupcakes, and her cakepop monster won the title “Most Spook-tacular Dessert” at last year’s law school Halloween bake-off.

When life permits, Bianca enjoys traveling: “I am always plotting and scheming for my next getaway. I love to travel, and I am very fortunate to have been able to travel as much as I have. Besides having traveled all over the U.S. - most notably Hawaii, which in my estimation is the most beautiful place on earth - I have visited the UK, France, Spain, Portugal, Monaco, Honduras, Mexico, the Canary Islands, and been on two transatlantic cruises. I am still on a blissful high from my most recent trip to South Africa to visit my husband’s family and friends.”

Let’s hope Bianca will travel to many law librarian meetings in future years. Welcome!