



**PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT,  
GROWTH, & ADVANCEMENT  
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION**



## **PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT, GROWTH, AND ADVANCEMENT SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021**

#### **OFFICERS**

*Candle Wester*, Chair;  
*Cas Laskowski*, Vice-Chair;  
*Kelly Leong*, Secretary/Treasurer; and  
*Savannah Nolan*, Member-at-Large.  
*Patrick Parsons*, Immediate Past Chair

#### **REPORT**

##### **Chair's Report**

2020-2021 was a year of being more accustomed to virtual platforms and a virtual AALL Annual Meeting for the Professional Engagement, Growth, and Advancement Special Interest Section. Much of PEGA's previous work centered around the AALL Annual Meeting. In line with serving the membership of PEGA and the profession of law librarianship, the So You Wanna...? Video Interview Series by the Education and Publication Committee continued and as did the Beer and Edits Scholarly matching program. Both of these efforts will be discussed about in more detail below.

The SIS also had to adjust to the complexities of the COVID-19 virus. With the 2021 annual conference virtual, the board decided to emphasize providing effective substitute events for the slate of PEGA conference activities as it did in 2020. The committees and board stepped up and provided the excellent programming described below. Specifically, PEGA held a successful virtual trivia event, virtual Beer and Edits events in June 2021, and attended the virtual CONELL Marketplace. As chair, I would like to extend a special thanks to everyone who made this possible.

We would like to extend a special thanks to former Member at Large Savannah Nolan for heading the new operations handbook initiative. The project started in early 2020 and was completed in the spring of 2021. The handbook provides standard procedures for the administration of the SIS and ease the transition between officers, committee chairs, and committee members.



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## **Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

### *Financials*

As of the most recent quarterly statement, which ended on March 31, 2021, PEGA-SIS had \$8,232.50 in its account. This is \$1,562.00 more than we had at the same time in 2020. This also probably does not reflect income from the membership renewals. Because almost all of our SIS expenses are tied to the AALL Annual Meeting, we anticipate that our financial resources will continue to grow in the coming year.

### *Membership*

Since August of 2020, PEGA has gained 8 members. There are currently 188 PEGA-SIS members.

## **Education and Publication Committee – Co-Chairs Patrick Parsons and Cas Laskowski**

The Educating and Publication committee is tasked with reviewing member proposals for the AALL annual meeting as well as exploring the possibilities of new educational offerings.

### *Program Review*

The PEGA-SIS Education and Publication Committee received permission by the Board to review and sponsor a program for the 2021 AALL Annual Meeting. The committee received two submissions by PEGA members and submitted both for consideration. Note that for an SIS to sponsor an AALL Program, they must submit at least two program proposals. These programs included:

1. BEYOND SCHOLARSHIP: INNOVATIVE INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY COLLECTIONS, submitted by Anna Lawless-Collins
2. MOUNTAINS TO MOLEHILLS: HOW GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES CAN ACTUALLY BRING US TOGETHER, submitted by Ajaye Bloomstone

Both programs were selected and will be available as On-Demand Sessions with a scheduled live Q&A.

### *Educational Offerings – "So You Wanna...Series"*

This year, the committee continued to organize the So You Wanna...? Series. Interviews were held monthly from October until May. Ultimately, the series consisted of seven interviews, which drew 495 total viewers



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averaging 70 viewers per session. These numbers were an improvement from the inaugural year, where we received 349 Total views with an average of 63 viewers per session. The committee also chose to extend the series time this year, increasing the scheduled time from 30 to 45 minutes.

Name	Presenters	Attendance
SYW Propose an AALL Program	Patrick Parsons, Carol Watson, June Liebert, Janeen Williams	46
Put on a Virtual Conference	Holly Riccio, Mari Cheney, Christine Sellers, Matthew Braun	51
Engage Someone	Kelly Johnson, Nicole Dyszlewski, Jessica Almeida	97
Write Effective Rec	Savanna Nolan, Catherine Lehman	70
Practice Cultural Comp	Savanna Nolan, Michelle Villagran, Clanitra Nejd	81
Manage Up	Patrick Parsons, Kelly Leong, Allison Reeve Davis, Alex Burnett	96
Build your Brand	Holly Riccio, Donna Payne	54
	Overall	495
	Average	70.71428571

*Future Planning*

I think the committee should continue to perform all of its assigned functions. The change to sponsoring programs went smoothly. The committee would suggest making sure to tie program reviews to the AALL Rubric, especially after attending the "Submit and AALL Program" SYW interview.

I also think the committee should continue the SYW series with a few changes. First, I see no real reason to

continue to include the AALL Continuing Professional Education Committee (CPE) in the effort. At best, we get 1. Usage of the AALL GOTOWEBINAR platform and 2. Hosting of the recordings from this relationship. Unlike every other AALL Webinar, we get no promotional assistance. These privileges require us to submit a yearly proposal and coordinate all programming with Celeste Smith and the AALL Programming and Ed Committee. I would suggest exploring using someone's institutional zoom account to host the interviews, as that would provide more flexibility and the ability to include closed captioning more easily. Moreover, I would advocate using the PEGA-SIS Google account to create a YouTube page for the video recordings. If the committee decided to continue with the relationship with CPE, I would push to have the series promoted the same way AALL promotes other webinars.

I would, however, keep some of the requirements from working with AALL because they added structure to the program. These would include:

1. Establishing series topics during the summer. While it's not necessary to submit the proposal, it is helpful to think through series topics and plan them in accordance with yearly events like AALL conference and awards deadlines.
2. Prescheduling of programs at least 30 days in advance to allow for staggered email reminders
3. A "tech test" to make sure everyone is on the same page. Even if the committee decides to use zoom, it was extremely beneficial to get everyone in the same "room" before conducting the actual interview.
4. Consulting the AALL Calendar. If the committee decided not to include CPE, there is a change AALL could schedule webinars at the same time. I would encourage the committee to reach out and attempt to get the SYW series included on the AALL events calendar. This is another argument for planning the series as far out as possible.

### **Beer and Edits Committee – Chair, Sabrina Davis**

The Committee continues its efforts to match writers and reviewers. The year's efforts included the following:

- Two (2) virtual matchings of readers/writers
  - June 2020: matched 6 writers to readers
  - October 2020: matched 4 writers to readers
- Two (2) virtual writing workshops in June 2021
  - June 8, Outline Discussion Workshop: 12 participants broken into 3 groups to review 3 outlines; at least one B&E member was in each group to facilitate



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- June 17, Idea Development Workshop: 5 participants, with 2 presenting specific ideas for feedback

**Outreach and publication Committee – Chair Eve Ross**

We have been focused on people and transitions.

- Two members are leaving because they have been elected into PEGA-SIS Board positions:
  - Sabrina Davis
  - Rebecca Chapman
- We are grateful for our continuing members:
  - Kristee Copley (incoming Vice Chair of Outreach & Publications)
  - Cassandra Patterson (newsletter contributor)
  - Eve Ross (newsletter contributor)
- We recruited and trained new members:
  - Charlie Amiot (incoming Chair of Outreach & Publications)
  - Chelsey McKimmy (social media coordinator)
  - Leah Lebeau (social media coordinator)

Successes this year:

- The quarterly newsletter published 4 issues.
- Thanks to Sabrina and Kristee for their work transitioning the newsletter away from the expensive Smore subscription and getting Board approval for a paid Wordpress subscription.
- The new liaison system for social media worked well.
- Even though our statistics are clear that by far most people get their PEGA-SIS news from My Communities emails, social media is still
  - a good training ground for skills that help some of us professionally, and
  - a window on all that PEGA-SIS does, which is particularly helpful for new members of PEGA-SIS still looking for their niche.

**Social Committee Report – Chair Eliza Fink**

Due to the Annual Meeting being virtual again for 2021, the Committee planned a virtual Happy Hour on July 16 at 7:00 pm est which attracted six total teams. A live trivia game was announced over YouTube live, and members were encouraged to join in small groups, playing along via a Google Form for the submission of answers. Prizes of \$100 Amazon gift card for first place, \$50 for second and \$25 for third, divided among the members of each team. While the Committee has no way of knowing actual participation because



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answers were collected on behalf of entire teams, they can estimate that the maximum team size of 6 x 6 total teams means that the event attracted upwards of 36 total participants.

**Nominations Committee – Chairs Michelle Hook Dewey**

The PEGA Nominations committee of CJ Popen, Rena Seidler, and Chair, Michelle Hook Dewey, launched a successful nominations period and election. There were two positions on the ballot this year, Vice Chair/ Chair Elect and Member-at-Large. After a good nominations period two excellent candidates were put forth in each role. The election was open for two weeks and had a 25% member turnout. Rebecca Chapman was elected to the Member-at-Large position, while Sabrina Davis will serve as the new Vice Chair/ Chair-elect.

**Passing of the Gavel to the new chair – Cas Laskowski**

The 2020 -2021 board as installed:

- *Cas Laskowski*, Chair;
- *Candle Wester*, Immediate Past Chair;
- *Sabrina Davis*, Vice Chair;
- *Kelly Leong*, Secretary/Treasurer;
- *Rebecca Chapman*, Member at Large.

In her closing remarks of the Annual PEGA-SIS business meeting Cas acknowledged that although many are trying to get back to the “old normal” and jump back to production levels prior to COVID-19, that PEGA-SIS will continue to recognize that we have not returned to that normal and try not to push too hard and too fast.