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SIS Leadership Weekend

by Ellen Platt

On Friday and Saturday, Oct. 15 & 16, I attended a retreat for SIS leaders (and representatives from the AALL Headquarters, Roger Parent and Martha Brown, and the Executive Board, Margie Axtmann and Heather Simmons) to represent our SIS since John had a conflict that weekend.

Although I initially thought the session would focus more on assessing the individual SISs and addressing their issues, the focus was really more on defining the role of the SISs in AALL and looking at leadership generally. Despite this misperception on my part, I thought the session was well done, useful for leaders and future leaders, and an excellent opportunity to spend quality networking time with the other SIS leaders and AALL leaders. Since the AALL Executive Board is about to begin the next strategic planning cycle, what we said and did will have an impact on that process.

The facilitator, Grace McGartland of Thunderbolt Leadership, has done this kind of session for lots of businesses nationwide and was good at what she does (she also had lots of fun toys to keep things interesting). The goals of the session were:

1. To develop a common focus and articulated vision for the role of the SISs in AALL leadership activities (since this had never been done, see the two statements below);
2. To develop a leadership profile for successful SIS chairs, based on our common perceptions;
3. To examine our individual leadership styles;
4. To come up with ideas for tracking our (the SIS leaders) effectiveness and accountability in SIS activities; and
5. To individually develop a "next step" plan for leading our respective SISs.

The draft statement of the Vision for SISs was two fold, a purpose statement and an impact statement. This is pretty much the final language, as near as I can tell from my

garbled notes):

SIS Purpose Statement (what we do in AALL):

A self-selecting group of members with a common interest that serves as a forum, contributes educational value, serves as a resource of expertise, advocates and provides leadership growth opportunities.

SIS Impact Statement (what happens in the SIS and AALL if we're successful):

Energized and committed members benefit from creating and participating in a strong, multifaceted and vibrant community that is the core of their professional lives.

Things that I learned at the session that weren't "on the agenda"

Most other SIS leaders worry about the same things we (at least John and I) do:

How to bring new people into the SIS

Are our constituencies so incompatible that we should split up (this is more of a concern in the "type" of library SISs than the "topical" job focus ones.)

How to motivate people to do SIS projects

How to get that forward momentum and keep it going all year long (rather than just focusing on the annual meeting and not doing anything the rest of the year)

Getting the program planning process more organized so we don't scramble around the two weeks after the annual meeting.

At least one other small SIS had seriously considered disbanding due to general member ennui and lack of participation.

The things I resolved to try to do for my year as chair:

1. Examine our past history for clues about our general malaise;
2. Synthesize this and get a discussion going with everybody on how to change this, if we want to;
3. Explore changes to the timing and internal SIS program selection process, so we don't scramble around so much at the last minute;
4. Start discussing some way for the leadership and planning to be active (rather than reactive) and more connected from one year to the next.

Well, I'm going to stop now and get busy, since my plate is full!

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From the Chair

It is my pleasure to start off this season as your new Chair. After a wonderful year with

Karen Westwood as your Chair, it will be a delight to continue the things she has accomplished and to begin new agendas for this year.

First of all, a big thanks go to Karen for doing such a wonderful job with the SIS in 1998-99. The "Access to the Public Schools" program was a wonderful new idea that has proved to be a huge success. We look forward to a rewarding year in Philadelphia working with the school system and the help of liaison, Merle Syloff. Hopefully, this project will also bring more members into the SIS that share this same interest. Overall, Karen lead the SIS successfully we a positive outlook for the future.

At the convention, the SIS had one program entitled "The Equal Justice Library" presented by Bruce Kleinschmidt. The program was one that I knew little about since I had never heard of or dealt with this library before. I left with an excitement about the preservation of these previously unknown archives of welfare/pro bono type cases. Congratulations to Bruce on his hard work and for bringing this library to the attention of AALL.

The Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues sponsored the most exciting reception in recent years at the Women's Democratic League hosted by Scott Burgh. The local committee consisting of Tina Ramoy and Laura Whitbeck did an excellent job of making this event work. Westlaw and CCH generously sponsored the event. Barney Frank was the guest speaker for the reception and was welcomed warmly by the Standing Committee members. It was truly a grand evening.

At the outset of this year, we already have good news to report. For the Convention in Philadelphia, we have two programs selected by the Program Selection Committee. The first program is about Law Librarian Salaries, and the second one is about Hate Crimes. We have also developed a listserv for the members of the SIS to voice their opinions and ideas as well as to inform each other of events or future projects or dates during the year. I will be sending you e-mails from time to time in the next several months on projects during the 1999-2000 year.

The weekend of October 16th-17th, the council of SIS Chairs will have a conference to voice opinions and develop ideas to unify the SIS's and strengthen our purpose with AALL. Ellen Platt will be attending to represent the SR-SIS. Ellen is the chair elect for next year. Hopefully, we will be able to iron out a lot of problems between AALL and the SIS in this weekend. She and I will be going over details of many things to discuss prior to this event. If you have any concerns of the future of this group, please do not hesitate to put it on the listserv or contact her or myself personally.

Many things come to mind as I think about the future of this SIS. I would like each of you to think about these things as we try to broaden the perspective of this group and its future. They are:

1. How do we plan to bring members into this SIS? Do we want this SIS to grow or to remain the same?
2. What committees or special interests do we want to promote within this group? At present, we are mainly comprised of two standing committees: Lesbian and Gay Issues, and Prison Issues. Is this as broad as we want to go or should we be

including other groups?

3. Do we want this SIS? Or should we split and join other groups (i.e. merge with the Diversity Committee)? Should the Standing Committee become its own SIS? Is it the right time for this kind of change?
4. Should we consider renaming the group to better describe what we do?
5. Should we reexamine our mission statement?

Both Ellen and myself have talked at length about these things and are concerned for the future and existence of this SIS. We both feel that it is imperative to make the right decisions in the next few years in order to keep this SIS alive. Growth and change are more than likely the only way. I feel firmly that we must increase the membership and have more to offer to the membership of AALL. The possibilities are limitless, we just have to do it. Let's not wait until another convention to talk all of this over. Let's do it during the year. Let's make this an SIS everyone will want to work for and get ideas rolling. I look forward with enthusiasm to the possibilities and the opportunity to guiding us in the right paths.

Sincerely,

John Davey
Chair 1999-2000

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Summary of SR-SIS Programs Accepted for the 2000 Annual Meeting

by Ellen Platt

Vice Chair and programming wrangler

Well, we may be small, but dang we're good; of the four programs proposed by SR-SIS members, three were selected for the upcoming annual meeting. To whet your appetites, here are the program descriptions and coordinators' names ...

Hate Crimes: Examining the Issues

Coordinator: Todd Bennett, Moderator: John Davey

Hate crimes are criminal acts against a person or group motivated by bias and prejudice against the victim or the group. Although the United States has had civil rights statutes designating hate crimes on the books for over 30 years, the law remains narrow in its scope. The current federal law does not include bias against someone because of gender, actual orientation, or disability as a basis for a hate crime. The panel of speakers will educate participants about the status of current and pending hate crime legislation in the U.S., issues in today's society affecting the spread of hate crimes in the U.S. (i.e. Has the Internet influenced the spread of hate crimes?) and major hate crime cases in the U.S.

Law Librarians: Do Our Salaries Reflect Our Leadership?

Coordinator: John Davey

This program will examine the current rates of Professional Law Librarian salaries. As

part of the program, we intend to look at the issues surrounding the rates of compensation and how they compare with other professions. A section of this program will be devoted to looking at the roots of how librarianship, the previous concepts of librarianship as a woman's profession, and the statistics of how salaries have changed since the earlier days of gender discrimination in the U.S. The speakers will provide historical background, current statistics, and information regarding how we may address and affect future progress for salary levels in the New Millennium.

Taking the Lead in Pro Bono Work

Coordinators: Camille Broussard and Karen Westwood (co-sponsored with LISP-SIS)

The tremendous need for free or low cost legal services in the U.S. challenges law librarians to fully participate in pro bono work. It is not just legal research on the "big" cases that count, but the myriad efforts from sharing pocket parts and pathfinders to opening a firm library's collection to a nonprofit partner. Librarians will share with each other, and with representatives from local nonprofit organizations, the many practical ways librarians have been providing pro bono services for years and will gain an understanding of both the need for such services and the many opportunities to help fill the need.

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Social Responsibilities SIS Business Meeting Minutes, July 18, 1999

1. The meeting was called to order by Karen Westwood.
2. Reading of the minutes of last years' meeting was dispensed with; minutes approved.
3. Treasurer's Report. Leslie Campbell, Treasurer, reported that for the Fiscal Year 10/1/97-9/30/97 the ending balance was \$15,028.88*. Income and expenses were nearly equal (\$1056 in dues income and \$1584.60 in expenses). Thus far in 1998-9 the total income has been \$1000 and expenses 1136.30. Treasurer's report accepted. * *(Note: the figure should actually have been \$15,614.88; the attached report reflects the correction.)*

4. Committee Reports:

A. Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues: Scott Burgh reported that the Standing Committee obtained contributions from vendors to support its reception:
\$1000 from Lexis
\$300 from Westlaw
\$300 from CCH Incorporated.

The reception to be at the Women's National Democratic Club; Barry Frank and others invited. Laura Whiteck continuing as editor of Co'Tunittee Better.

B. Standing Committee on Service to Institutional Residents: Rebecca Trammel reported on ongoing issues with AALL Headquarters regarding the Standing Committee publications. She has agreed with Headquarters to keep the *Directory of Law Libraries Providing Services to Institutional Residents* on file and send out pages

as requested. But Headquarters is holding letters and not sending them to Rebecca Trammel. The Directory needs revision and should go on the web; Carl Romalis volunteered to get AALL cooperation to put it on the web. For \$75 the Standing Committee can have a presence at the meeting of American Correctional Association without having to send someone.

C. Education Committee: John Davey reported that the National Equal Justice Legal Defense for the Poor program (the only SIS program) was excellent but attended by 15 people. For programs next year: The SIS has 3 guaranteed program slots. 2 programs have already submitted including one on hate crimes (Todd Bennett and John Davey). Other programs discussed: Immigration - proposal from incoming vice chair, Privacy; Diversity (Greta & other members of diversity committee). Proposals should be sent to Ellen Platt or John Davey.

5. Business:

A. *A Capital Contribution: Law Librarians Serving the District*. Karen Westwood reported that this idea started with John Davey acting on a suggestion from Jim Heller, premised on Peace Corp model. Motion: Karen Westwood moved to make a cash donation of \$1,000 to the Media Services department of the DC School District. The motion was passed unanimously.

General discussion about direction to take in future: Concerns were raised that we weren't using our legal training by going to an elementary school. (John Davey). Carol Billings suggesting phoning something different each year, relevant to location of annual meeting. Camille Broussard suggested juvenile justice or pro bono or other topic not being addressed by association (but not prisons each year). Jerry Dupont suggested legal aid for persons in institutions and make it a pattern in each city where the annual meeting is held to turn it into a tradition reflecting on the SIS. Scott Bennett suggested school volunteers and placing high school students in law firms (based on a program in San Francisco.) Discussion of need to get recognition for this, including Spectrum articles and statement at business meeting. Also discussed asking for donation from membership; possibly doing a check-off on the membership renewal (Carol Billings). Carol Billings also mentioned that this project has generated goodwill and the Executive Board did want the SR SIS to take the risk on it this year rather than go to vendors and ask for more support. Generally agreed (on suggestions by Karen W. Camille B. Carol Alpert) that the SIS should continue doing this rather than await Executive Board action. John Davey & Karen Westwood to look into planning for next year and possibly form a task force.

Motion: (Camille Broussard) The SIS will proceed to look into doing this each year & thank Jim Heller at the Business meeting. Also announce that it will contribute \$1,000 this year and encourage other members to contribute time or effort in Philadelphia and beyond. Motion Passed.

B. Newsletter/Discussion List/Web: Prano Amjadi suggested that the discussion list should be used more for dialog which would help us to discuss the issues. Instructions on subscribing to the list are available on SIS's homepage. Prano will stay on next year as editor; she thanked Bruce Kleinschmidt, Mark Mackler, and others who contributed. The Fall issue is due in October/November. Rebecca Alexander at Washburn has updated the web page. We do want the Newsletter on the web; Camille B. to get

Rebecca Alexander older issues (subjective articles only) to put on the page.

C. Election: Ellen Platt was elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect.

D. Strategic Planning/Programming Planning: Issue of concern to be discussed: apathy and lack of volunteers/candidates. Additional planning meeting to brainstorm educational programs to be held Monday 7/19.

E. New Business:

Scholarship issues: (Camille Broussard/Carol Alpert) to raise issue surrounding West's alleged retraction of scholarship monies at business meeting and with the Scholarship Committee; concern is that the membership is not aware of the issue.

Cuba Legal Resources Program: (Carol Alpert) recommended program.

Meeting adjourned by J. Davey.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Campbell

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Revised Statement for Fiscal Year 1997-8

(October 1 1997 - September 30, 1998)

Beginning Balance	16,143.48
Income	
Dues - SIS Sept 98	1,056.00
[Interest Income Holock Fund	[471.00]
[Interest Income Holock Fund (prior years)	[917.00]
Total Income	1056.00
Balance	17,199.48

Expenses

Honoraria	250.00
Meetings / Receptions	293.52
	232.35
Postage	
Office Supplies	
Printing	
Publication - Newsletter	393.50
	110.42
	304.81
Total Expenses	1584.60

Ending Balance 15,614.88

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Year to Date Statement for Fiscal Year 1998-9

(October 1 1998 - September 30, 1999)

Beginning Balance 10/1/97 15,028.88

Income

Dues - SIS

[Interest Income Holock Fund [471.00]

[Interest Income Holock Fund (prior years) [917.00]

Contribution (to underwrite SR SIS Standing Committee reception) 1600.00

Total Income 1600.00

Balance **16,628.88**

Expenses

Honoraria

Meetings / Receptions 300.00

836.30

776.60

776.60

Postage

Office Supplies

Printing

Publication - Newsletter

Total Expenses 2689.50

Comments to: [Rebecca Alexander](#)

Last updated 15 February 2000

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filename="no2.html" Content-Type: text/html



American Association of Law Libraries Social Responsibilities
Special Interest Section

SR-SIS Newsletter, vol. 10, no. 2 (April 2000)

[Note: This online version of the SR-SIS Newsletter doesn't include the 2000-2001 Social Responsibilities SIS Election Ballot form which was in the original]

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Listening to Uganda

by Bruce Kleinschmidt

On most Saturdays I get an email message from my friend Theo-Jan Mul. Theo manages a dairy farm 18 km. to the north of Kampala, the capital of Uganda. He has over 100 head of cattle plus 400 hectares of land on which to grow their grain. Theo doesn't have a telephone on the farm but when he goes to town for supplies, and a little social life (18 km. is farther than you'd think on a dirt road) he stops by a cyber café and sends his messages to me. And then I usually share them with my sons.

Theo's message this week was that his cows had maggots (from being infested by cattle owned by squatters) which meant that the milk had to be discarded. He got rabies, another man got malaria and he's building two more houses for the extra armed guards his boss told him to hire. Two fellows with AK 47's patrol the place now. It takes over two years to have a squatter legally removed, once they've built a hut, so the owner doesn't want any new guests or any fewer cows. And you think your job is crazy?

For social life, Theo goes to town and gets to watch children with AIDS trying to sell themselves outside of various bars. He figures 25% of the children in Uganda have AIDS. And there are a large number of AIDS orphans. The bars seem to have an almost "wild west" flavor to them, what with pool tables and card tables being the biggest draw, along with some air conditioning. Theo normally buys a few beers and plays some pool before going back up the dusty Houma Road to the village and farm that are his turf. Needless to say, his weekly outing isn't much fun.

Obviously, this is one man's life in Africa. But my kids are fascinated by Theo's reports because they know very little about life in the underdeveloped world. My 14 year old got into a dispute with a teacher of his who had no concept of squatters. Anyway, I sent Chris a message or two from Theo to give to the teacher. It was a curious episode because it showed me that my son had been listening and digesting these stories. I was equally glad that he was able to constructively show his teacher that her frame of reference was limited. So from Theo, to me, to my son, to his teacher, and by extension to her other students, well life in Uganda became more real.

It isn't a profound story. Meryl Streep doesn't have a part. But as a tale of suffering and struggling for existence it is timeless. But what makes the story really powerful is the value of listening, whether in Uganda or where ever you are.

*Bruce Kleinschmidt
1-19-2000*

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From the Chair

Greetings to all of the wonderful members of Social Responsibilities. We have quite a summer ahead of us with 3 programs coming up at the convention. The topics are: Hate Crimes, Law Librarian Salaries, and Pro Bono. I hope that you will all be able to come and support these programs with your attendance. Let's make our presence known in Philadelphia!

The summer service program to the local schools is in the works. If you have any ideas or thoughts that you would like to share with me, please let me know. I am planning on arranging a two-day program covering 2-3 hours per day of volunteer time. In this way, people that are booked with functions on one particular day will have options. Hopefully more people will have a chance to volunteer. In lieu of those that can't volunteer time, convention attendees can also donate children's books, new or used (in good condition). Book drops will be placed in different areas of the Convention Center for everyone's convenience. We can distribute them to the schools.

The business meetings for both the SIS and the Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues and Prison Librarians are scheduled for Sunday late afternoon. In recent years, we have had them towards the end of the convention and I am hoping that more people will attend early on before convention "burn out" sets in. I am aware of the conflicts this may involve. However, there are always conflicts!

We are also looking for volunteers to be mentors. We want to encourage people to join our SIS. I will be making an appearance at CONELL to talk about what our SIS has to offer. Just getting our name out there is crucial to our existence.

I know in my last letter to the SIS, I made a strong statement about adding more members to our SIS. Some people commented that numbers aren't as important as the quality of work we do. I am quite aware of that. I was also taught to believe that strength lies in numbers. I was once told that I should show up at the Gay & Lesbian March in New York City just to show the world how many of us there are. I believe that there is some truth in that. It is also recently been pointed out to me that we are running low on members to run as officers in this SIS. In a few years, we will have all served. I believe there are more people in AALL that would be willing to be part of our SIS. Proper marketing of the things we do might bring more interest than we are aware of. I don't totally believe that we are here to antagonize AALL about the things

we think they should be doing, but to teach them. That's what makes our SIS so unique. I hope that this clarifies the issues at hand in our organization somewhat. If you don't agree, or have comments on this, please post it on the SIS listserv and let's discuss it among the members. The listserv is: SR-SIS@aall.wuacc.edu. Please feel free to use it any time!

*Best regards,
John Davey, Chair*

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Publish with AALL!

? Do you have an idea for a new electronic or print publication of interest to law librarians?

? Would you like to grow professionally and personally by creating a new publication that would be of use to your colleagues?

Then the AALL Publications Committee would like to hear from you! The AALL Publications Committee encourages people to publish with AALL, and reviews proposals for new AALL publications.

*From the AALL Publications Committee website at:
<http://www.aallnet.org/committee/publications/>, you can contact members of the Publications Committee, or download a proposal form.*

AALL publishes or sponsors a wide variety of materials of interest to law librarians, in print, electronic, and micro-formats. They include:

- Periodicals, such as AALL Spectrum and Law Library Journal;*
- Indexes, such as Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals;*
- Professional Development Materials;*
- Bibliographies and Research Guides;*
- Management and Public Relations Resources;*
- Occasional Papers on Various Topics;*
- Educational Program Materials;*
- Results of Research;*
- Instructional and Training Resources.*

AALL is eager to publish new materials. If you have an idea for a new publication, we look forward to hearing from you!

*Rob Richards
Chair
AALL Publications Committee
rrichard@stripe.colorado.edu*

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Gay and Lesbian Standing Committee Update

Hello folks,

I just wanted to update you on a couple of items regarding our annual meeting in July.

First, I hope you will all be able to attend the program we scheduled on HATE CRIMES, set for Wednesday, July 19th 3:15. Attorneys from LAMBDA and from the ACLU will be presenting the program.

Secondly, please mark your calendars for our annual reception. We will be having our reception on Tuesday evening, July 18th at the William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center. The William Way Center is located a short walk from the convention center in Philly.

Thanks and more information to follow..

*Todd Bennett
G/L Standing Committee Chair
(415) 369-7063
tbennett@thelenreid.com*

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Editor's Corner

My apologies for getting this issue to you so late in the year. As always, work just continues to expand. With the mailing of the next issue, which should arrive in June, I will have completed my time as newsletter editor for SRSIS. In many ways the past three years have flown by. I had grand aspirations for the newsletter which never quite developed. It is my hope that the next editor is able to take the newsletter to new heights.

Unlike Bruce, who is a writer, I have had to depend on the kindness of others to fill these pages. And my thanks to all of you who have taken the time to write columns or articles over these past three years.

Over the years we have been concerned about the size of our SIS, whether there is a need to continue, whether we should divide within the SIS. When I first learned we were having an uncontested election, I was a bit concerned about the vigor of our SIS. But when I learned who the candidates were, I understood why the election was uncontested. No one could ask for a better slate than Carol and Mark. Aside from being wonderful and caring people who exemplify what this SIS is about, they are true leaders.

I am very excited for this new year. Ellen Platt, who takes over the helm in July, is a colleague of mine at Santa Clara. I have much respect for her vision and energy. So an executive board with Ellen, Carol, Mark, and our current fearless leader, John Davey, should prove to be a very effective body to move the SIS forward into the new century.

I also want to thank Rebecca Alexander for serving as webmaster for the SIS. Web presence is important, and I appreciate the hard work she does to keep the pages updated.

Speaking of computers, you can sign up for our SIS listserv on our web page... and it is best to subscribe in that fashion. I was posting to an old listserv (no wonder people weren't sending me articles!!). Recently I received this message...

pamjadi@scu.edu: You are not subscribed to srsis@law.wuacc.edu. Your message is returned to you unprocessed. If you want to subscribe, send mail to listproc@law.wuacc.edu with the following request:

subscribe SR-SIS Your Name

**PLEASE NOTE - THE ABOVE
INFORMATION IS INCORRECT**

For mailing to the list, the correct listserv address is:

sr-sis@aall.wuacc.edu

In other arenas, keep your eyes posted for the LawLibrary Journal article by Leslie Campbell, our current SIS secretary/treasurer that will recap a program that the SIS sponsored in Baltimore about the history of Social Responsibilities in our SIS, ALA and the ABA. Frank Houdek was listening to the tape from that Baltimore program and thought the message should be given a wider audience, since it was such a great program!

prano

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Meet the Candidates

FOR VICE-CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT	FOR SECRETARY/TREASURER
CAROL BILLINGS	MARK MACKLER
DIRECTOR OF THE LAW LIBRARY LAW LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA SINCE 1981	LIBRARIAN SONNENSCHNEN NATH & ROSENTHAL SAN FRANCISCO

B.A. Gettysburg College MA in Library Science, Northern Illinois University	B.A. Boston University M.Ed. Westfield State College (Mass.) MLIS University of California, Berkeley
Member of AALL in late 1970's Served as President, 94/95 Executive Board 89/92 Member of CSP/SR-SIS since its start Served as SR-SIS/Executive Bd. liaison Chair of State, Court, and County SIS President of SEALL President of NOALL	Member of AALL since 1986 Member of NOCALL since 1986 Served on Executive Board Member of CSP/SR-SIS since 1986 1989 PLL SIS Co-Chair of Education Committee

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Help Wanted

Social Responsibilities SIS wants you!!!

We are looking for a new newsletter editor to start with the next volume in the Fall. The newsletter is published 3 times a year. The time commitment is usually less than 5 hours for each issue.

Contact Ellen Platt, if you are interested, eplatt@scu.edu or (408) 554-5139.

Comments to: [Rebecca Alexander](#)
 Last updated 22 May 2000