

ACRL / NY

Association of College and Research Libraries

The Greater New York
Metropolitan Area Chapter

Connections:
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In Memorium: Francie Davis

ACRL/NY mourns the tragic death of co-president Francie Davis on March 14, 2003. Francie and her husband Jim were thrilled to be escorting their oldest daughter Amanda on her book tour when their small private plane crashed in North Carolina. Amanda had just published her first novel, *I Wonder When You'll Miss Me*.

As co-presidents this year, I had the pleasure and privilege of working with Francie on several projects for ACRL/NY. During her time with ACRL/NY our working relationship flourished on the personal side. I will truly miss her generous friendship. She exuded a tremendous warmth and was always generous with her time. She had the innate ability to put everything in proper perspective while always maintaining a wonderful sense of humor. I came to rely on Francie's common sense and wisdom to keep our meetings on track. The strong commitment to service she brought to the profession could be seen in her incredible work ethic. All of

her efforts and contributions as a member and past co-chair of the Symposium Planning Committee were especially evidenced in last year's successful program, *What's in a Name? Defining our Profession*. She inspired all who came in contact with her.

Francie leaves a wonderful legacy of achievements as a reference librarian and assistant professor at Dowling College. The high standard of service she provided could also be seen in her library web design and access to all electronic resources. Her innovations at Dowling, and her numerous presentations and publications, received not only local but national attention.

The ACRL/NY 2003 Annual Symposium will be dedicated to her memory and the ACRL/NY Executive Board is discussing plans for the establishment of a possible scholarship fund. Her energy, vivacious personality and distinct style will never be replaced or forgotten.

Eloise Bellard, President

New Presidents Speak Out

Eloise Bellard and Francie Davis (The following was written prior to Francie Davis' fatal accident.)

As incoming co-presidents for our chapter in 2003, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Executive Board and the Symposium Planning Committee for their assistance in coordinating our 22nd annual symposium, *What's in a Name? Defining Our Profession*. Everyone's support, from the awesome website redesign to the stuffing of the folders, was evident and it was because of their relentless hard work and unselfish cooperation that this year's symposium was such a resounding success. The maximum capacity crowd indicated the

topic was timely and one of interest to all who attended. The evaluations indicated the event was enjoyed by everyone. Our sponsorship also increased this year. This helped offset the expense of the symposium, with one lucky attendee winning the door prize of *The Encyclopedia of the Biosphere* donated by one of our corporate sponsors, GALE. It was also heartening to see that there was a significant attendance and participation by current library school students. We know that many were there to fulfill course assignments, but we were delighted to be a part of that assignment!

This year, for the first time, the event was held at Baruch University's Newman Center which afforded us the ability to present a new format of breakout sessions after lunch. The morning session consisted of dynamic, award winning speakers: **Janet Swan Hill**, University of Colorado at Boulder; **Mary Reichel**, Appalachian State; **Ray Metz**, University of Michigan-Dearborn; **Jim Neal**, Columbia University. The speakers' presentations are available on the ACRL/NY website <http://www.acrlny.org>. According to the evaluations, the audience enjoyed all the presenters and found them extremely informative and well-versed on their topics.

A wonderful hot buffet lunch enabled attendees to relax for a while in the lovely natural-light atrium before resuming discussions with the speakers and facilitators for the afternoon session. We cannot thank our facilitators and note takers enough for their contribution to the success of the workshops.

Every year in memory of our past president, Rochelle Sager, the Chapter awards scholarships in the form of free registration and book to a library student from a school in the area. This year's winner was: Michael O'Connor.

The Chapter board and Symposium Committee continue to meet monthly at the FIT library thanks to its director N.J. Wolfe.

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Previous issues of *ACRL/NY Connections* may be found on the chapter's website:
<http://www.acrlny.org>

What's in a Name? Defining Our Profession

Symposium 2002

This year's ACRL/NY Symposium, *What's in a Name? Defining Our Profession*, was held on Nov. 15, 2002 at Baruch College's Newman Center. This Symposium took on a new format with speakers addressing the entire audience in the morning and breakout sessions for group discussion after lunch. Summaries of the speaker's presentations follow.

Janet Swan Hill, University of Colorado, in her presentation, "What Our Title Means to Stakeholders" described the University of Colorado's system of tenure for librarians and the three facets of evaluation: librarianship, scholarship, and service. She focused on the importance of making the system work by creating documentation, communicating through reasonable and accurate evaluations prepared throughout a person's career, and providing support mechanisms with research release-time, a pre-tenure semester off, or a two year extension for those with a new MLS.

Ms. Hill identified the following as the important factors for tenure for librarians: academic freedom concerning collection development and access; self-governance; and influence on campus. Faculty status for librarians is important in creating a better understanding of the teaching faculty, the equalization of librarians with teaching faculty, and salary equity.

She also discussed the negative cycle she has observed in technical services: having fewer professional positions and at the same time providing reduced library school credits in this area. One third of current librarians will retire in the next ten years and this will increase to fifty percent within the next twelve years. Library school enrollments cannot fully cover the upcoming vacancies. Ms. Hill warns that librarians must prepare for this coming change. They must consider the importance of status and professionalism above the temptation to hire non-MLS staff. Librarians should realize that decisions to fill lines with non-MLS staff have consequences.

Paolina Taglienti

Mary Reichel, University Librarian and Professor at Appalachian State University, discussed "Peer Review Evaluation and Promotion: The Linchpin of Faculty Governance." Her talk covered key issues and questions in relation to peer review such as preparation for peer review; peer review in teaching assessments; the impact of technology on peer review; and the credibility of the peer review process.

Dr. Reichel emphasized the importance of faculty and administrators taking peer review seriously, as well as following procedural requirements such as deadlines and review schedules. In addition, she presented what was appropriate for consideration in peer reviews and aspects that are illegal and unethical.

Ray Metz, Chief of Staff, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor for Organization & Planning at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, spoke on the topic of "Impact of Technology on Workload." He discussed six aspects of this impact: the promise; the reality; the implication; the mission; the future; and the vision. We are moving away from a literate society and into a graphic one. The library is now defined by the book, television, and the Web.

He sees the future encompassing librarians as designers, stewards and teachers/learners. The library will provide new learning spaces, and create a sense of place that contributes to the learning environment. Computers will not be a utility. Networks are and will be. He also sees the future characterized by disposable concepts. An example of this would be the expectation of today's young people that technology always changes and that the games they play today will be gone in a few years. The new vision of the library will be up to each librarian to create.

Jim Neal, Vice President for Information Services
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President's Message, Cont'd

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The officers for this year's Executive Board are:

Eloise Bellard, Co-President,
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Laurie Lopatin, Recording Secretary,
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Presently the board is in the process of revising and approving the mission and by-laws of the chapter through the endeavors of Harriet Hagenbruch and Laurie Lopatin of Hofstra University. In January

Francie Davis represented our Chapter at the ACRL Chapters Council meeting at ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia.

The Information Literacy Discussion Group chaired by Dona McDermott, dona.mcdermott@liu.edu, and the Education Curriculum Materials Center Librarians Discussion Group, chaired by Harriet Hagenbruch, libcmhah@hofstra.edu, will be running upcoming workshops and meetings. If you wish to join either of these groups, please contact the respective chairs.

A number of people have expressed an interest in the Access Services Discussion Group, the Collection Development Discussion Group, the Cultural Diversity Discussion Group, and the Electronic Resources Discussion Group. The Board is currently trying to find a chair for each of these groups. If anyone is interested and willing to chair one of these discussion groups, please contact Eloise Bellard at bellard@adelphi.edu.

We want to thank our retiring members for all their hard work and efforts in the past year: outgoing president, Harriet Hagenbruch, for her successful term last year and for her help and advice to us in planning the symposium; Bellinda Wise, for all her painstaking work as treasurer; section chairs, Deborah Dolan, Gloria Meisel, and Amy Beth, for their work in planning regional workshops; Susan Rubin for keeping us informed about legislative concerns; and to those who helped with the various discussion groups.

We look forward to a productive year and hope you will choose to continue to be involved with ACRL/ NY. Feel free to contact any of the chairs or officers to volunteer your services or to offer suggestions.

Reminder

Renew your membership for 2003.
Future newsletters will not be sent to those who have not renewed.
The membership form can be found on the ACRL/NY web page at:
<http://www.acrlny.org>

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and University Librarian at Columbia University, provided an "Administrator's Perspective." He sees the library in the Academy as changing its vision. Whether we view the library as legacy, infrastructure, portal, enterprise, repository, we recognize that the range of professional attributes for librarians is shifting dramatically. This has in turn changed the role of the librarian. This new role encompasses scholarly publishing, electronic pedagogy, scholars' gateway, knowledge management, lifelong learning, research and development, and entrepreneurial activities in the way we organize and deliver resources.

In this new environment, the focus will be on customization, openness, self-service, mutability, productivity, usability, assessment, marketing, strategic action, competition, and resource development. Faculty relations move from that of servant, through stranger, parallel, friend to partner, customer and part of a team that is the ultimate goal. The library will take on a leadership role in intellectual property, Internet development, telecommunications, privacy, free speech, information research, and the information technology workforce.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

The afternoon breakout sessions centered on professional status and on technology. Session One consisted of eight sections; four on status and four on technology. Session Two consisted of the same eight sections with participants switching sections and topics. Thus all participants were able to attend a session on professional status and a session on technology. The four morning speakers along with four members of ACRL/NY acted as facilitators for each section. ACRL/NY members also acted as note takers in each session and reported on their discussion in the round up at the end of the afternoon. What follows is a summary of the discussions that took place.

Professional Status Discussion Groups

These groups focused on some of the following questions: Does faculty status influence service? To what degree do academic librarians need to emulate or define themselves in terms of the teaching faculty?

What form of assessment beyond teaching can validate us as faculty?

Discussions centered on the purpose of tenure for librarians and its effect on status on campus. Having faculty status gives librarians access to areas where they can make contact with teaching faculty. Although library faculty and teaching faculty play different roles, common points between them include: teaching, curriculum design, committee service, research and publishing, materials selection, service to professional organizations, and mentoring.

Publishing is one form of assessment beyond teaching. It needs to be recognized that there is a difference between the kind of research done by Ph.D.s and academics with multiple masters. Librarians' research can be valuable for the profession and for the institution. Librarians can collaborate with faculty through collection development and team teaching. Middle States now has requirements for faculty to foster information literacy among their students. Librarians can educate teaching faculty about this new role.

Technology Discussion Groups

Questions posed for these groups included: Does technology offer new opportunities for librarians or does it not? What role can we play in the development of technology? How can we better bridge the gaps between library and information technology people? How has technology changed our image?

Discussions centered on the need for librarians to keep current on the changes in technology. Technology has made our jobs more important than they were 10 years ago and brings more challenges to the job. Technology provides many opportunities to offer information more conveniently, to offer information remotely, to design new services such as distance learning using tutorials, to collaborate with teaching faculty for building technology-related courses, to build web guides for students, and to instruct teaching faculty how to use electronic resources. Librarians have the chance to become technology experts. Some of the challenges to technology were also discussed: librarians viewed as search engines - the "Google Search" mentality, high user expectations, and the need of students for instant gratification.

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Membership News

As membership secretary, I am pleased to welcome our new and returning members to ACRL/NY and to report that we have twenty new members as of this writing. Each year, through your support and interest we sponsor our annual Symposium on topics of professional concern to all. Recent conferences, which have included subjects such as information literacy, outcomes assessment, and professional identity, have featured nationally known speakers from the field of academic librarianship.

In addition to our symposium, ACRL/NY hosts three geographic sections, New York City, Long Island, and Westchester as well as several special interest discussion groups. Last year the Information Literacy group was formed and has become very active. We are always looking for people to lead our groups and provide forums for discussion and professional growth. In addition, membership on the Symposium Planning Committee provides opportunities for all who wish to participate.

I hope you will encourage all of your colleagues who are not yet members, or who may have let their membership lapse, to join the organization. Our dues are quite affordable and allow us to continue to provide programs and networking opportunities. With our newly designed ACRL/NY homepage at www.acrlny.org, the membership form is just a click away. Thank you for your continued participation in ACRL/NY.

Marsha Spiegelman
Nassau Community College