Connecting with Incoming AALL President Holly M. Riccio

With the conclusion of this year’s Annual Meeting, AALL President Steven P. Anderson passes the presidential title to Holly M. Riccio, director of library innovation and San Francisco library manager for O’Melveny & Myers LLP. We caught up with Riccio to talk about a few of her ideas and impressions for the year ahead.

Q. What do you feel is the single most important benefit that AALL offers to its members?

For me, it all comes down to connecting. The relationships that we build with one another through AALL participation—whether that be attending the Annual Meeting, volunteering for a committee, or some other interaction—become a rich, ongoing source of inspiration and ideas. I came across a quote recently: “No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.” I think this captures the essence of AALL. We all have unique experiences, great ideas, and valuable insights that, alone, are not as powerful as they become when we share them.

Q. What do you think AALL can offer its members and the profession that it doesn’t already? What can it improve upon?

Although the Association offers many professional development opportunities to our members, we don’t yet offer anything that focuses on business skills. Developing these skills will help our members advance in their careers and pursue leadership opportunities within their organizations and beyond. I plan to appoint a task force to develop the curriculum for an education program that would address this need.

Q. Do you have any special initiatives that you wish to pursue in the coming year? Is there one that you are most looking forward to?

In the year ahead, I look forward to including more members in the development of our Annual Meeting program, to promote a more strategic, forward-thinking approach to designing conference educational content. We have implemented a number of structural and substantive changes to the Annual Meeting in the past two years, and I want to build on those successes. This year, in addition to the Annual Meeting Program Committee, we have created six member teams that will work with the committee to develop “must have” programs in six different content areas.

Q. The theme of the 2015 Annual Meeting has been announced: “The Power of Connection.” What does this theme mean to you?

When I ran for office, I identified myself as “an unapologetic Connector”—a Malcolm Gladwell term—so I have a deep appreciation for and understanding of the importance of connection. Law librarians are working to assert their roles in the rapidly changing and ever-expanding world of legal information management. If we can all harness “The Power of Connection,” we can build relationships and trust with others, fostering truly authentic interpersonal connections. Our Association should be cultivating leaders who have the ability to connect to individuals, internal groups, and outside organizations—and whose connections lead to ideas, innovation, and action.

Three Webcast Educational Programs Free on AALL2go

AALL was proud to offer free live webcasts of three great educational programs from this year’s conference. These programs will also be available for free to all AALL members through AALL2go, your online center for professional development.

• Opening General Session/Keynote Speaker - Sunday, July 13, 9-10:30 a.m. CDT/10-11:30 a.m. EDT
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Captivated Audience Learns Communication Skills

By Philippe Cloutier, Lane Powell PC

Other than Keen’s Opening keynote, @stevehughes’ program may have been the most tweeted about. Hughes’ program, Own the Room: Presentations That Captivate and Win Over Any Audience, left audience members empowered and excited. Any speaker, presenter, instructor, public speaker, etc., would benefit from the quick and easy tips Hughes exemplified and shared. Here are the first three:

#1: Begin with a takeaway: Tell your audience members to individually write down the “one big thing” they learned and will want to enact immediately. Hughes pointed to research that showed that writing out a goal and speaking about the goal makes it 50 percent more likely to happen and succeed.

#2: Open big: At the start of your presentation you have the audience’s attention—keep it! Open big and give them something unexpected, something of value, and something that employs their imagination. This will keep them engaged. Hughes’ example began with an image of a time machine and asked us to imagine that we went back to high school…

#3: PowerPoint best practices: Hughes humored honestly that we can blame Bill Gates for PowerPoint and our stresses with it. However, we can take advantage of the format by following the 4x4 rule: no more than four bullets per slide and no more than four words per bullet. While that sounds difficult, we should spread out our slides as needed. Slides should be simple and effective: we are quenching the thirst for knowledge with glasses of water, not a firehouse.

After attending the seat-filled program, it is easy to see why Steve Hughes is a repeat presenter. He gave us tools to improve ourselves right away and other considerations for continual professional growth. Communication skills transcend any one career and deserve consistent evaluation. I look forward to re-watching the program online at AALLNET.org, sharing it with my colleagues, and frequently recommending it for some time.

Building Your Personal Brand

As part of the Monday Morning Recharge, a set of sessions designed to enhance the value of law librarians in their workplaces, Alycia Sutor urged attendees to think of themselves as a “brand” they should be creating.

Sutor, a professional career coach and legal marketer, walked the engaged audience through the elements of branding and ways that personal brands can be created and refined.

Law librarians should “intentionally cultivate their brand,” Sutor noted. “They should make a plan to build their reputation.” In displaying a number of corporate logos, Sutor noted that branding has an important emotional component. Strong brands deliver a “strong emotional experience,” she said. Good branding includes making emotional connections.

Brands are built on two foundations: competence and character. “There are lots of folks in the workforce who can do what we do, who share our competence,” Sutor said. In order to distinguish yourself in the workplace, the branding focus should be on “character”; how you work with others.

For a law librarian to succeed, he or she must raise their visibility. One way to do that is to improve interactions with the people who are most important to your reputation. Sutor urged attendees to “learn the platinum rule: do unto others as they would have done unto themselves.” By helping others get what they want, those building their personal brand can get what they want as well.

Also important to success is utilizing “organizational citizenship behaviors (OCB).” These are actions taken within a group “that are discretionary, not directly recognized by the formal reward system, and that in aggregate promote the effective functioning of the organization.”

Sutor highlighted six important OCBs: altruism, courtesy, peace-making, cheerleading, helping and cooperating with others, and interpersonal facilitation.

San Antonio Snap Shots

Room/Event Changes

The following are changes to the Conference Program print edition. They have been updated in the online Conference Planner.

E4: Back to the Future: AALL and Law Libraries in the Digital Age, scheduled for today, July 15, from 8:30-9:45 a.m., has been cancelled.

G4: Coping Strategies for Library Service Providers, to be held today, July 15, from 2:30-3:15 p.m., has been relocated from Room 007CD to Room 006CD.
A World of Dockets at Your Fingertips

Bloomberg Law® powers the practice of law with unrestricted access to a docket database of global proportions. In addition to Bloomberg Law’s all-encompassing legal and business intelligence tools, this integrated and fully searchable platform provides access to more than 900 U.S. federal and state court sources, and a unique selection of international courts. Bloomberg Law’s Breaking Complaints keeps practitioners ahead of the market, monitoring courts by placing researchers in key jurisdictions so they can collect complaints and post them in real time. This dynamic feature allows users to pinpoint the legal challenges clients and industry peers are facing, so they can know the litigation history of all the players involved — from the United States all the way through the United Kingdom and Hong Kong — and be the first to act.

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Listening to the Voice of our Customers

Heidi Bloedow, vice president, Customer Experience Operations

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Meet the Candidates for the 2015 Executive Board

The candidates of the upcoming Executive Board election gather for a photo. From left to right: Emily R. Florio, Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP; Mary E. Matuszak, New York County District Attorney’s Office; Carol Watson, University of Georgia; Ronald E. Wheeler, Jr., Suffolk University Law Library; Scott D. Bailey, Squire Patton Boggs LLP; and Francis X. Norton, Jr., Law Library of Louisiana.

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Little steps add up to big time savings. That’s what you’ll discover when you see the new Lexis Advance® at LexisNexis® Booth #403: many new yet inconspicuous features that eliminate research steps and/or save you browsing time.

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- **Deliver—print, download, email—without scrolling**
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- **Easy-to-locate options**
  Change your settings/preferences, update your sign-in profile or sign out. It’s all consolidated under the More pull-down menu. You’ll also find the retail pricing guide and additional access points to your Folders, Alerts and Notifications under More.

You’re Invited to the Australian National Conference

Australian Law Librarians’ Association (ALLA) members in San Antonio invite you to attend their Australian National Conference September 10-12 in Adelaide, South Australia (Lonely Planet Top 10 Travel Destination for 2014). ALLA National President Kirsty McPhee and ALLA 2014 Conference Committee Member Joelie Cook are both absolutely delighted to be attending the AALL meeting in San Antonio. What a truly staggering education and social event!

Please do not hesitate to approach either Kirsty or Joelie should you wish to discuss attending the National Conference as either a delegate or as a vendor (there are a very limited number of exhibition booths still available).

The theme of this year’s conference is Make the C.A.S.E.: Collaborate - Advocate - Strategise - Educate. Check out all program and other details at www.alla2014.com.au.

Before You Go…

It’s the final day of the AALL Annual Meeting & Conference! Here are a few things to put on your agenda before you depart San Antonio.

**Say cheese!** Need a new headshot? Stop by the Member Services Booth today from 10-11 a.m. to have your photo taken by AALL’s professional photographer. We will email you the photo after the meeting.

**Chat with AALL Editors at the Member Services Booth!** Spectrum Editorial Director Catherine Lemmer will be available at the booth from 10-11 a.m., and Law Library Journal Editor James Duggan will be available at the booth from 11:30-2:15 p.m.

**Visit the AALL Mentor Booth!** The booth is located in the Member Services area of the Exhibit Hall. Stop by from 10 a.m.-noon to meet AALL’s mentors and to learn more about the Association’s online Mentor Match Program.

**Share your ideas for next year’s meeting!** Stop by the AMPC’s Activities Area table in the Exhibit Hall to share your program suggestions. We will be in Philadelphia before you know it!

Listening

continued from page 4...
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