Continuing Professional Education Special Committee 2006-2007

The work of the Continuing Professional Education Special Committee (CPE) began in earnest when it first met at the 2006 AALL Annual Meeting in St. Louis. CPE’s role is to develop and facilitate continuing education programs and learning opportunities in a variety of formats, all of which are to occur in between AALL’s annual meetings. In St. Louis, AALL’s recently appointed education manager, Celeste Smith, inspired the committee by delivering a report on continuing education trends in other library and law-related professional associations.

The major activity of CPE was to establish the AALL/BNA grants program. It devised a simple application process and awarded and monitored the grants for 2006-07. The grants program is flexible and takes a member-driven approach to providing programs. Celeste Smith is available to advise program proposers who have questions about the logistics of hosting their programs. The four rounds of grant proposal submissions resulted in the funding of sixteen continuing education programs during 2006-07. See http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/docs/cpe-recipients-2006-07.pdf for the range of continuing education programs that were awarded our grants.

In St. Louis, CPE arranged to videotape Amy Hale-Janeke’s program, “What Do YOU Want? The Hidden Problem of Compassion Fatigue,” featuring Dr. Charles R. Figley. This program was one of a variety of videos and podcasts that became available on the CPE Web site at http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/media.asp. This important part of our Web site was launched in April 2007. During our pilot year, CPE experimented with providing learning opportunities in different formats. The Compassion Fatigue topic included a video accompanied by a self-test, handouts, and a listserv discussion moderated by Amy Hale-Janeke. We were delighted to receive positive feedback from AALL members who took advantage of this program. In the coming year more programs of this type will be available via the CPE Web site as an exclusive benefit to AALL members.

Other major activities of the new committee included: conducting an online survey of AALL members to find out their desired continuing education topics and members’ preferred registration fees for programs, writing a members briefing that appeared in the April 2007 edition of AALL Spectrum, revising the AALL professional education policy to make it consistent with AALL’s Strategic Directions, and hosting a Telspan distance-learning program in conjunction with a live audience of CALL members in Chicago on the subject of negotiating licenses for electronic content.

CPE also compared Telspan with Webex to decide which system works best for a planned series of distance learning programs of interest to AALL members who prefer desktop learning opportunities. At the initiative of Michael Chiorazzi, AALL held a Management and Leadership Institute at University of Arizona. Celeste Smith and CPE contributed by advertising the program, helping to select participants, and designing an evaluation form for the participants. Celeste Smith also provided support for a successful
PLL-SIS program largely funded by BNA, “Law Firm Library Management Workshop: Solutions and Scenarios,” held on October 18th in Washington D.C.

Members of CPE for 2006-07 were Karen Brunner, Timothy Coggins, Amy Hale-Janeke, Pam Rino, Rosalie Sanders, Susan Siebers, Gretchen Van Dam, and Stephen Weiter. Each participated with enthusiasm and dedication. We were very ably assisted by Celeste Smith, who embraced our mission and worked diligently to make our pilot year such a success. I sincerely thank the committee members for their excellent work, and I am pleased to report that the CPE Special Committee will be an AALL standing committee for 2007-08.

Carole L. Hinchcliff, Chair
2006-07