AALL Grants Committee 2010-2011 Annual Report

The primary responsibility of the committee is to administer the AALL Annual Meeting/Workshop grants program. The grants cover the cost of registration for either the Annual Meeting or one of the workshops offered at the Meeting. Funds for grants were made available due to the generous support of LexisNexis and the many donations of individual members of AALL. This year, all 26 applicants applied for registration for the Annual Meeting, and there were no applications for a workshop registration grant.

The committee worked on several other projects throughout the year. For the first project, the committee reviewed and updated the grant application forms. In the planning meeting in Denver, the committee agreed that the current form did not provide adequate instructions for the applicants and decided to revise the form. A subcommittee reviewed the form, and the full committee discussed the changes via conference call and email. The committee submitted the revised application form to the AALL Executive Board in the fall, and the Executive Board approved the changes. Subsequently, this year’s grant applicants used the revised form.

In the fall, the committee also submitted two short articles for publication in the *AALL Spectrum*. The first article discussed strategies for writing effective personal statements, and the second article contained suggestions for writing better letters of recommendation. Both articles were published in the February issue of *Spectrum*, and next year the links to the articles will be added to the Grant Committee webpage and to the Grant application itself for easier access.

In April the committee commenced the biggest project of the year, which was to grade the applications. This year, the committee had $9,000 to award, thanks to donations from the AALL membership and the generous support of LexisNexis. Applicants fall into one of three categories: student members, newer members who have been in AALL five or years or less, and experienced librarians with more than five years membership in AALL. Out of the original 26 applicants, there were four awardees in the experienced member category, seven in the newer librarian category, and seven in the student category. Two applicants withdrew their applications and are eligible to apply again next year.

There was a significant drop in the number of applications compared to last year, which had 56 applications. The committee was not able to determine what caused the sudden drop.

The final set of activities for this committee occurred at the AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Georgia Chadwick created a table display for the Activities Area in the Exhibit Hall, Heidi Heller represented the committee at the CONELL Marketplace, and Pauline Afuso and Michele Finerty spoke at the Chapter/SIS Leadership Training to promote the grant program. I would like to thank this year’s committee for the extra time and effort put forth this year. This committee consisted of seven members including Pauline Afuso, chair; Michele Finerty, vice chair; Whitney Alexander; Jennifer Berman; Georgia Chadwick; Heidi Heller; and Eric Parker.

Special thanks go to our very helpful staff liaison, Paula Davidson. Donna Williams provided excellent support as our Board liaison. It was an honor and pleasure to work with you all.
Pauline Afuso
Chair, 2010-2011