Leadership Development Committee (LDC) 2009-2010 Annual Report

The committee member roster for the LDC from the 2009-2010 term is as follows: Valerie A. Railey, chair; Gail Warren vice chair; Jean M. Wenger, Board liaison; Celeste Smith, AALL staff liaison; Cheryl Kelly Fischer; Dwight King; Theresa (Tracy) Leming; Ryan Saltz; and Courtney Selby. The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) had a very productive, exciting, and substantive year. The LDC engaged in quite a few major activities. The year concluded with a recruitment and outreach video featuring photos of the founders of the LDC and members of the 2008 and 2009 Leadership Academy classes. The video film was viewed at the CONELL Marketplace and at the LDC Appreciation Reception.

Major Activities: 2009-2010
Outreach was initiated across diverse SIS sections, listservs and various portals of AALL chapters to get applications and nominations for the 2nd AALL Leadership Academy. A subcommittee of the LDC read applications of 49 prospective candidate participants and reviewed the nominated applicants for selection as attendees for the 2nd AALL Leadership Development Academy. Thirdty-four participants were selected to attend the 2nd AALL Leadership Development Academy. Outreach across diverse SIS sections, listservs and AALL chapters was initiated to get applications and nominations for the 2nd AALL Leadership Academy.

Mentors were recruited and assigned for each 2009 Leadership Academy fellow who requested a mentor. With the administrative support of Celeste Smith, the LDC launched a pbworks wiki titled, the AALL Leadership Academy Collaborative Mentoring Space Wiki. The wiki is a collaborative learning environment where AALL mentors and 2009 Academy fellows exchanged ideas about leadership. The AALL Leadership Development Academy Mentoring Space Wiki was launched as a web 2.0 vehicle to generate discussion of monthly assignments to allow collaborative learning for all mentor protégé matches. Monthly assignments were distributed as discussion topics and “ice breakers” for 2009 Leadership Academy fellows to reinforce and continue their leadership development. The wiki assignments ranged from reading articles to viewing video clips or working with word clouds. Each assignment required posting some answer to question(s) presented or to produce a product to be displayed on the wiki for the rest of the group of participants to view and post comments about.

Under the teamwork and consultation of the LDC, committee member Ryan Saltz submitted a program proposal on behalf of the LDC titled “Developing B1 Leaders: Inside, Outside and Together.” The program was selected for the 2010 Annual Meeting. The attendance at the AALL program in Denver was standing room only. It was a huge success. Panelist Ann Fessenden, Mark Estes, and Ryan Saltz were informative and engaging speakers. Their format was a fireside chat kind of town hall meeting conversation that generated an informative conversation between attendees, particularly the discussion of the “emotional intelligence” and other key concepts foundational to leadership learning. Announcements and invitations to attend the program were marketed via Twitter as well as in the “collaborative leadership wordle” graphic copied from the final wiki assignment, reproduced, and distributed as a handout card at the CONELL Marketplace.
The LDC did publish one article in the June 2010 issue of *AALL Spectrum* about the history of the leadership program and the use of Web 2.0 technology wiki as a tool. The LDC considered seeking grant funding to sponsor a webinar on a leadership topic during 2010–2011 LDC session since a 2010-2011 Leadership Development Academy will not be held.

The LDC hosted a festive reception soiree for the 2009 fellows and their mentors at the 2010 Annual Meeting. In the final 2009 - 2010 LDC meeting, we discussed strategic joint venturing with the AALL Mentoring Committee and set into motion plans to move forward with merging the similar parts of the AALL Mentoring and AALL Leadership Committee charges with approval and buy-in from the incoming 2010-2011 AALL Mentoring Committee chair.

One proposed activity we discussed was having the 2010-2011 LDC continue using the AALL Leadership Academy Collaborative Mentoring Space Wiki for the reinforcement and continued leadership development of all Leadership Academy fellows. The targeted audience would be AALL members who are outside of the mentoring fellows alumni base. We also discussed the possibility of using Google Wave as a portal to collaborate on leadership learning. The idea of pursuing an AALL/BNA Continuing Education Grant to develop and conduct an AALL webinar on a leadership during the 2010-2011 year was on the agenda as well.

We also discussed preparing and submitting a program proposal for the 2011 AALL Annual Meeting. At least one newer AALL member from CONELL indicated an interest in learning how to draft program proposals for the first time. The LDC did note the newer member’s interest in learning to draft a program proposal and considered that kind of cross-training to be a solid fit under the umbrella of leadership learning or mentoring committee charges.

The LDC planned and marketed the first AALL Emerging Leadership Award. A subcommittee of the LDC reviewed 20 candidate applications for the Emerging Leader Award. One $500 cash award was distributed to the very first AALL Emerging Leader, Sarah K.C. Mauldin. The Emerging Leader Award recognizes newer members who have already made significant contributions to the Association and/or to the profession and have demonstrated the potential for leadership and continuing service.

One significant lasting legacy of 2009-2010 is that the LDC sought and was granted approval from the AALL Executive Board to an amended Leadership Development Committee charge. The current charge provided that AALL would award an AALL Emerging Leader Award annually to at least one qualified selected emerging leader recipient. The amended charge authorizes that the award be given to up to three deserving emerging leader candidates each year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie A. Railey
Chair 2009-2010