President’s Message

BY JEAN HESSENAUER
Librarian
Tydings & Rosenberg LLP

First, I have to give you some facts. The cute lamb picture in the last newsletter was taken by one of our attorneys; he gave me a collection of sheep pictures. I don’t want to take credit for the photography skills of someone else. The sheep belong to Bill Carrier, the managing partner at Tydings & Rosenberg, so they aren’t just random sheep. They are sheep that I actually know.

At the recent Christmas Holiday Party, two items were voted on and passed. The terms of the Secretary and Treasurer were both changed to two years. Also, the Mentor Committee, which had been a special committee, is now a standing committee.

Thank you to all of the people who worked on the party — it was all very nice. Everyone seemed to have a good time. Besides the auction items, Joanie Bellistri brought some bottles of wine for table prizes. The State Law Library certainly outdid itself as far as auction items with the two baskets of chocolate goodies they put together. The bidding wars went on for them right until the auction closed. (If you did not attend, see what you missed?) My last comment on the party is to again thank Thomson West (Reuters) — and especially Wendy Maines — for their generous support of our party. Thank you.

In the last newsletter, I asked for any suggestions for LLAM to participate in a community activity. So far no response. Anyone up for the Polar Bear Plunge? Library could be pitted against library...

Also, if there is a particular topic you would like to know more about, chances are someone else would like to know it too. Feel free to send me your suggestions. Don’t worry, if you suggest a topic for a program, that doesn’t mean will be stuck with organizing the program. It would be good to see more people at the brown bag lunch programs.

Hopefully as 2009 progresses the economy will revive a little.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

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... AND MORE
Legal History and Rare Book SIS announces essay competition

The Legal History and Rare Books Special Interest Section of AALL, in cooperation with Gale Cengage Learning, announces the first annual Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition. The purpose of the competition is to encourage scholarship in the areas of legal history, rare law books, and legal archives, and to expose students to AALL and law librarianship through their attendance at the Annual Meeting.

Eligibility
Currently enrolled students attending accredited graduate programs in library science, law, history, or related subjects are eligible to enter the competition. Students may be enrolled either full- or part-time. Members of AALL are eligible if they meet other eligibility requirements.

Requirements
Papers may be on any topic related to legal history, rare law books, or legal archives. Papers must be submitted by April 15, 2009. The winner will be announced by May 15.

Prize
The winner will receive a $500 prize from Gale Cengage Learning. In addition, the winner will receive up to $1000 to be applied towards expenses associated with attendance at the Annual Meeting of AALL.

Attendance at the AALL Annual Meeting is strongly encouraged, but not required. Winners will receive recognition at the Association-wide Awards Luncheon and at the Business Meeting of the LHRB-SIS. Winners will also have the opportunity to present their paper at the LHRB-SIS Roundtable or at a program during the Meeting.

Detailed procedures and an application form are available at the LHRB website: www.aallnet.org/sis/lhrb/

Questions may be directed to Katherine Hedin, University of Minnesota Law Library: k-hedi@umn.edu
OR Jennie Meade, Jacob Burns Law Library, George Washington University: jmeade@law.gwu.edu
Brand New Internet: Working with Web 2.0

BY KURT MEYER
Research Librarian
University of Maryland Law Library

Harvey Morrell, Assistant Director of Information Technology at the University of Baltimore School of Law Library talked to LLAM members about Web 2.0 on October 29.

Web 2.0 is one of the most important developments we have seen on the internet in the last few years and it is one of the most difficult to define. Thus, Harvey started his presentation by giving us a sense of what exactly Web 2.0 is. According to Harvey, Web 2.0 is a step up from the typical web page we were seeing several years ago that was just an arrangement of images and text meant only to convey information to the user. Now, web pages have features that allow users to interact with both the page’s content and other users in a variety of ways. Typical features involve those that allow users to set up groups of people or friends, allow users to communicate with each other, alert users when a friend or colleague is online, and allow people to share information with others who have similar interests.

Harvey then went on to explain how a handful of specific Web 2.0 sites and tools work. First up were the two most popular social networking sites on the web: MySpace and Facebook. He initially decided to use these sites because he realized that law students weren’t reading their email and thus were not getting needed information. Instead, the students were spending all of their time communicating with each other via MySpace. This inspired Harvey to set up a MySpace page for the UB Law Library that allowed him to easily send out bulletins to the students. Due to its increasing popularity, Harvey later made a Facebook page for the library. Like MySpace, Facebook is a social networking site where users set up groups of friends and communicate with each other; however, Facebook is geared more toward college and graduate students.

Harvey also explained the utility of RSS feeds to the program attendees. RSS feeds are discreet messages containing updates from just about every type of website imaginable. The user views these messages by using a reader such as Google Reader. The value in RSS feeds is that instead of going out and checking a myriad of websites for new items or updates, you can just have them all sent to your feed reader, saving you a lot of time. RSS feeds are available for a wide variety of sites including blogs, news and sports sites, and even government sites.

Another interesting example of Web 2.0 that Harvey discussed was that of the bookmark manager. Many of you probably have at least heard of one of these sites called Delicious. This site allows you to save different page URLs and organize them with subject tags of your choosing. What’s
more is that your searchable collection of bookmarks is available from anywhere in the world and can be shared with friends.

I was surprised to find out that there is yet another bookmark manager called Zotero that I had no clue existed before Harvey pointed it out. This tool is an in-browser extension which will only work with Firefox. Zotero is best described as an even more powerful, easy to use version of Delicious that is geared toward students and academics. After trying it out for a few minutes Zotero truly is impressive – it even has a feature which allows you take screenshots of the pages you’re viewing.

Harvey also talked about developments in the realm of instant messaging or chat. As many of you know, a lot of libraries use instant messaging at the reference desk and this is popular with patrons. However, there is one problem: there are numerous and sundry instant messaging (IM) programs available and this can make client reference difficult to manage. Luckily there is a solution. Harvey explained that there is an in-browser instant messaging program called Meebo which seamlessly lets you use different IM services at the same time. Without having to download a thing, Meebo allows you to organize all of your IM identities and set up different chat rooms for different purposes.

Another interesting web page Harvey discussed was a microblogging site Twitter. The strength of Twitter is its simplicity: unlike other blog sites, Twitter limits you to 140 characters in each blog posting or “tweet.” These small postings can be sent to people who follow your Twitter page via RSS feeds, emails, or text messages sent directly to your phone. This makes Twitter very useful for situations where you might want to do what is known as “live blogging” – posting blog entries about something which is happening in real time.

To conclude, Harvey also mentioned other sites such as Ning (a new social networking site) and SlideShare (which allows people to share slide presentations with each other).

Harvey Morrell’s program was very interesting and informative for both the Web 2.0 novice and the expert.

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**Links**

University of Baltimore Law Library’s Facebook and Myspace pages

- [www.myspace.com/ublawlibrary](http://www.myspace.com/ublawlibrary)

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December 2008
Change in By-laws approved

LLAM voted to approve by-law amendments increasing the term of service for the secretary and treasurer at the recent holiday party on December 8.

Article VI of the By-Laws now reads:

Officers. The officers shall consist of a President, a Vice-President/President-Elect, Treasurer and a Secretary. The Vice-President/President-Elect shall be elected annually by the Corporation and shall duly succeed to the office of the President. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected in alternating two year terms, with the exception that in the election immediately following the adoption of this Bylaw Amendment, the Treasurer shall be elected for two years and the Secretary for a one year term.

Additionally, LLAM members approved the change of the Mentor Committee to standing committee. The Committee was previously a special committee. Standing committee status gives the Mentor Committee a more permanent place in LLAM.

To read the LLAM By-Laws, visit the By-Laws page of the LLAM website at www.aallnet.org/chapter/llam/bylaws.htm.

LLAM supports the Maryland Food Bank

The silent auction at the LLAM holiday party on December 8 raised $400 for the Maryland Food Bank and the LLAM Scholarship Fund.

2008-2009 LLAM Directory available online

The latest directory of LLAM members is now available on the LLAM website, www.aallnet.org/chapter/llam/. Access to the PDF-format directory is password-protected and only available to current members.

For information on how to access the directory or other questions, contact the Membership Chair Pat Behles at pbehles@ubalt.edu.
Professional Updates

Miriam Schneider is a new Assistant Law Librarian at the Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library. Miriam has worked at Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library part-time for over 12 years. She is a new LLAM member, a trained paralegal who worked at the Justice Department and in firms, and she currently writes humorous columns for the Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library newsletter. Welcome, Miriam!

John Cannan, formerly the Assistant Law Librarian at Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library, is now a Legal Reference Librarian at the Law Library of Congress in DC — or as some of us call it “the Mother-of-All Law Libraries.” Best to you, John.

Additionally, John Cannan’s great Law Library Journal article “Are Public Librarians Immune from Suit?” [PDF] was selected for the Law Library Journal’s AALL SIS Recommended Reading List [PDF].

There are two new catalogers at the Maryland Department of Legislative Services Library:

Marcia Stock, cataloger and indexer, joined the DLS Library in June. She’s a California transplant, with an MLS from San Jose State University, and public library experience in Los Angeles and Prince George’s County, Maryland.

David Engel, cataloger, joins the DLS Library in mid-December. He’s a recent grad of Simmons College’s MLS program with work experience at the Social Law Library in Boston.

Both Marcia and David are looking forward to their first Legislative Session and the rest of the DLS Library staff is happy to have them.

Jacqueline Curro, Senior Legislative Librarian, Maryland Department of Legislative Services, became the Chair of the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section (LRL) of the National Conference of State Legislatures at the 2008 Legislative Summit in New Orleans in July. LRL (www.ncsl.org/programs/lis/LRL/index.htm) is a professional association of librarians and information specialists in legislative agencies, and one of ten staff sections of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

As Chair, Jackie presided over the LRL Professional Development Seminar in Sacramento, California, in October, where speakers included Susan Hildreth, California State Librarian; Dean Misczynski, Director of the California Reference Bureau; and Donna Scheeder, Director of Law Library Services at the Library of Congress; among others. Jackie’s term of office will end at the 2009 Legislative Summit which will be held in Philadelphia in July.

Personal Tidbits

Congratulations to John Cannan, Legal Reference Librarian at the Law Library of Congress, for recently finishing the Richmond Marathon, “America’s Friendliest Marathon.” John mentioned that the “scotch some helpful soul was handing out on Mile 20 tasted great.” Naturally. Sounds like just what you need after a 20 mile run with more to go.

Do you have news you’d like to share with your LLAM colleagues? Please send any professional or personal news you’d like to share to Sara Witman at switman@gfrlaw.com
Holiday Party 2008

On December 8, almost 50 LLAM members, friends and family, including Chief Judge Bell, started the season with a holiday party at Sabatino’s. This restaurant is located in Baltimore’s Little Italy section, and it lived up to its location by providing classic Italian dishes for our dinner. Thank you to West for their generous donation in support of our party. Wendy Brown-Maines, West’s local Librarian Relations Manager and her supervisor also joined us.

The party was enhanced by our annual auction which raised $400 for the Maryland Food Bank and the LLAM Scholarship Fund. Auction items that sparked the usual lively bidding included chocolate baskets, spa baskets, a lamb tie, stuffed lambs, LLAM items, books (of course), wine, hand painted dishes and glasses, and many other items. The bidding was fun and some of us got carried away — I brought wine to the auction and my husband bought it!

Business was also done amid the festivities. The by-law amendment increasing the term of service for the secretary and treasurer passed and the mentor committee was approved as a standing committee.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday to all.

— Janet Camillo, Past President

(Pictures by Susan Herrick)
Holiday Party 2008

(Pictures by Susan Herrick)
For business law professionals who build agreements outside of bankruptcy, now there's a new place to get what you need. Westlaw Business Restructuring Center has targeted content and functionality to help you spot issues, perform business due diligence, find precedent agreements, and draft the documents you need to build a solid restructuring deal. Westlaw Business. Now you know.

Go to westlawbusiness.com or call 1-800-669-1154.
At the Baltimore Bar Library:

Bennett Boskey provides insider view of the Learned Hand and Harlan Stone courts

BY SARA WITMAN
Research Librarian
Gordon, Feinblatt, Rothman, Hoffberger & Hollander

Judicial clerks may just be the latest pop-stars, with recent exposé novels such as Saira Rao’s Chambermaid giving readers a peak into Federal judges’ chambers.

Okay, “pop-star” may be a stretch, but there’s no denying that clerks have great stories to tell. And in that respect, Bennett Boskey did not disappoint when he spoke to around 20 attendees at the Baltimore Bar Library program, “The Learned Hand and Harlan Stone Courts” on the evening of December 2.

Boskey certainly possess two qualities of a great storyteller – energy and experience. Treasurer of the American Law Institute since 1975, Boskey still practices law in Washington, D.C. and has written extensively on legal topics, including Volume 1 and 1A, Supreme Court, in West’s Federal Forms. Additionally, he served as a clerk to Judge Learned Hand of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1939-1940 and to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stanley and Chief Justice Harlan Stone in the early 1940s. Boskey, a self-described “certified antique,” primarily spoke about these clerkships at the Bar Library’s program. The program was truly a first-person historical narrative.

After a brief introduction from George Liebmann, President of the Library Company of the Baltimore Bar, Boskey began his lecture with his experiences at the Second Circuit, a place he described as “clubby” and “private” in the late 1930s. Judge Hand was remembered as one who wrote with ease, had a friendly and sometimes “salty” character, and walked home from the court each night.

At the Supreme Court, Justice Reed was remembered as a person with “good judgment” who could put aside his personal feelings on an issue. For instance, Reed, a southerner with a history in segregation, nonetheless joined the unanimous decision in Brown v. Board of Education. Boskey also spoke with warmth when remembering his discussions with Chief Justice Stone on particular cases. He said that Justice Stone was most proud of the fact that more of his dissenting opinions became the majority opinion of the Court, at a later time, than any other justice’s.

Boskey noted that law clerks in the Roosevelt era felt more free to discuss cases and issues with each other than they seem to do now.

That night, Boskey highlighted two Supreme Court cases from his time at the Court. First, he brought up West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette as one of the quickest over-rulings of a previous Supreme Court decision on the same issue. There, the Court ruled that the First Amendment protected students (namely, Jehovah’s Witnesses in this case) from being forced to salute the flag. The other case he discussed was the Nazi saboteur case of 1942, Ex parte Quirin. Although the case has been cited as precedent for secret trials on military bases such as Guantanamo Bay under President Bush’s Execu-

Continued on page 11
Maryland State Law Library launches new digital collections

BY MARY JO LAZUN & STEVE ANDERSON
Maryland State Law Library

The Maryland State Law Library is committed to improving public access to its comprehensive collections of legal and government information. Consequently, the Library has embarked on a program to digitize those printed Maryland materials that are both fairly unique to the Library and frequently used by legal researchers. In order to provide Library users with a state-of-the-art online document repository, the Library launched its Digital Collections database in November 2008, using the PTFS Archivalware platform.

Two collections comprise the initial phase of the digitization program. First, the Library selected Maryland Rules Committee Meeting Minutes & Agendas for scanning because they are an essential source of background information on the development of the state’s court rules. Researchers now can search the full-text of more than 60 years of meeting materials to find mention of the adoption of specific rules. Second, the Library added previously scanned copies of the Proceedings of the Maryland Judicial Conference. These reports, dating from 1947 to 1997, provide historical information on the work of the Judiciary.

The Library’s future plans include the scanning of selected Maryland Task Force Reports. These reports are often helpful sources of information used to determine legislative intent. The Library will be examining this collection to identify which reports should be scanned first in order to make available the most relevant and useful ones.

The Library welcomes comments on the usability and usefulness of these collections. Please send your comments to lawlibrary@mdcourts.gov.

Bennett Boskey lecture

Continued from page 10

Positive Order, Boskey stressed that the connection may not be adequate since the saboteurs were able to seek review and were “ably represented by counsel.”

The program was followed by a wine reception in the Baltimore Bar Library.

The Green Bag publisher has recently released a book of Bennett Boskey’s writings, titled Some Joys of Lawyering: Selected Writings.
What LLAM is Reading

BY MARY RICE
Associate Librarian
Charles County Circuit Court Law Library

Here are some quick takes on books that I’ve recently read.

Testimony by Anita Shreve
The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls
My Stroke of Insight by Jill Bolte Taylor

If any of you are Anita Shreve fans, you won’t be able to put down her latest novel, Testimony. The novel is set in a small Vermont boarding school community about an hour south of Middlebury. The novel follows the lives of various members of the Avery Academy community as they deal with a shocking scandal at the school. The chapters are short, first-person accounts by parents, students, and faculty of the school, as well as assorted locals and members of the press. Some of the “testimony” is about events in the past, and most of those involved know only a small part of the story, but believe it to be the whole. The novel uses the Rashomon effect to test the reader’s perceptions as well, asking which characters are good or innocent, and which have really been wronged.

Shreve fluidly shifts the story line among the characters with convincing changes of voice and emotion as the novel moves by turns and twists to its shocking end. The minor accident that brings the main characters together appears at first to be beneficial to everyone involved. But in the end, one bad decision may be the cause of ruined lives, broken marriages, and the death of a child. This is a fast and fun read, but thought-provoking as well.

The Glass Castle, by Jeannette Walls, is a memoir of a peripatetic and at times abusive childhood that you must read to believe. Walls’ parents were dreamers and wanderers who traveled from place to place, often one step ahead of landlords and bill collectors. They taught their four children about nature and astronomy by living in the desert and camping in the mountains, about people by letting them fend for themselves, and about books by encouraging them to read widely and continually. But there was a darker side. The father, Rex, was also an alcoholic and wife-beater who refused to maintain steady employment and squandered what little money they had on grandiose plans and schemes, or at the nearest tavern. Mary, the mother, was his enabler and had her own addictive personality as well. She often told the children that she was addicted to excitement, usually when the family had to get out of another town as fast as they could because of another of Rex’s misadventures.

The children rarely had new clothes or enough to eat, but they managed to make friends, have fun, and eke out an education wherever they were, sometimes at whatever local school they landed near, but more often on the road. They frequently had to find food on their own, by sneaking into a farm and eating lettuce until they were sick, or by collecting free bananas at school. The author presents these privations and others as facts, without judgment, from the viewpoint of the child she was then. And for much of the book, she appears to be enjoying and even thriving on the constant challenges and upheavals of her young life. The matter-of-fact tone
becomes chilling as she and her siblings have to defend themselves and each other against insensitive teachers, bullies, and even child molesters, without much help or even sympathy from their parents. But there were also moments of happiness, love, and even joy. This brief summary does not do justice to the book, or to the author and her family. It’s a hard read, but you won’t ever think about homelessness, or the human spirit, in quite the same way again.

My Stroke of Insight, by Jill Bolte Taylor, is another, more recent, memoir. It will blow open your notions of how the brain works, both in illness and in health, and how it can heal itself after great damage. The author is a neuroanatomist who had a stroke at age thirty-seven. She describes the stroke as it began, and progressed, from feeling slightly under the weather, to realizing that she was having a stroke that might kill her if she was not able to get help in time. Her intimate knowledge of the structure of the brain, along with her indomitable will, allowed her to save herself (just in time), and also to observe and later recall the stroke. As the stroke injured the left or logical side of her brain, she gradually lost the ability to order her thoughts, to think in sequences such as names and phone numbers. Her diminishing consciousness swung back and forth between attempts to call for help and feelings of euphoria and peace that contradicted her knowledge of the urgency of her deteriorating medical condition.

Once in the hospital, and stabilized, she faced exhaustion and communication problems that threatened her health in unexpected ways. After an operation to repair her damaged brain, she faced an eight-year struggle to regain the simplest words and concepts, her health, and ultimately, her life. Bolte’s mother came from Indiana, moved in, and worked tirelessly with her for many months. At first it was not clear how much she would be able to recover, but she pressed on, in tiny steps, incrementally learning language and movement all over again.

My Stroke of Insight is a fascinating and absorbing account of Bolte’s life before, during, and after the stroke, and the insights she gained by losing much of what she valued most about herself. At times the descriptions of her right brain insights of wholeness and bliss become a bit repetitive and New-Agey, but that is a small quibble in an otherwise excellent book. If you read it, you won’t regret it.

F. Y. I.
One more to add to your shopping list...

The latest from local author, LLAM favorite, and former librarian Marcia Talley has just hit bookshelves. Dead Man Dancing, book seven of the Hannah Ives mystery series, involves ballroom dance instructors, murder, and lots of real-life Annapolis settings. If you’re not a Talley aficionado yet, read more about her on her website: www.marciatalley.com.

Happy Holidays!
Online buzz: A look at the best from the chapter newsletters, blogs, and elsewhere on the internet

BY SARA WITMAN  
Research Librarian  
Gordon, Feinblatt, Rothman, Hoffberger & Hollander

Our fellow librarians are often the best resource for research help, professional guidance, and news about the field. I pulled together some of the recent online highlights.

Research Resources
If you haven’t gotten research questions about the impending financial crisis and bailouts here in the United States, just wait; you probably will. Luckily, the Law Librarian Blog points out that there are two great hubs for both primary and secondary resources on the topic. Both Fordham Law’s 2008 Financial Crisis Resources Center and FindLaw’s Financial Crisis From Wall Street to Main Street site are updated regularly so there’s no need to start your search from scratch. Fordham’s site provides links to primary material, such as legislative history of the Emergency Economic Stability Act and Committee testimony on the HOPE for Homeowners Act. Findlaw’s page, on the other hand, focuses on news and analysis. Hit up both to look like a star researcher.

In the latest issue of SANDALL News, Heather Phillips at the U.S. Courts Library lists “10 (Free!) Useful Tech Tools” [PDF]. You’ve probably seen some of these resources before, but information such as how to download YouTube videos and how to create RSS feeds from any web site could be very handy.

Memorable Chapter Newsletter Articles
Michelle Mitchell offers some specific suggestions for law firm librarians on how to stay inspired at work in “Combating Librarian Burnout” published in the Winter 2009 PLL Perspectives. Some hints: Network outside of the firm, tack positive sayings in your office, and focus on a goal that interests you.

Don’t miss John Cannan’s latest piece in LLSDC’s Law Library Lights, “No Local Rules in Maryland …. Sort of” [PDF]. John, who is now a Legal Reference Librarian at the Library of Congress, can turn any subject into a fun read, and his discussion of the history of local rules, or lack thereof, in Maryland is enlightening even to long-time researchers of Maryland law.

OCLC OH NO
The brouhaha over OCLC Worldcat records hit a fever pitch last month, when OCLC announced a policy change that required Worldcat records to include a claim that the records are governed by worldcat.org terms of service. OCLC has since backed off a bit (the notice provision is now a recommendation, not a requirement), but the controversy over OCLC’s “power grab” remains. The Code4Lib Wiki hosts a great collection of resources on the topic, and a recent Inside Higher Ed story, “Maelstrom Over Metadata,” describes the story in November. The Copyright Advisory Network blog posted their take on the OCLC Licensing Saga on December 12.

Patrons
In No.634, a blog from a first year law student at the University of Minnesota Law School, Dennis Jansen explained “Why I Avoid the Law Library” in a December 7 response to an email from the head librarian there. Turns out there are some really stressed-out law students at the library around finals times. Who would have guessed? It’s nice to hear it’s not the librarians who are keeping him away...

December 2008
Requesting Submissions for LLAM News

The LLAM Newsletter Committee welcomes submissions from LLAM members on a variety of engaging topics, including but not limited to legal research tips, member news, and local events. Submit your contribution by February 15 for inclusion in the March 2009 issue!

LLAM News is a quarterly publication of the Law Library Association of Maryland, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. LLAM members are the most important part of this newsletter. The articles appearing herein are by us and for us.

We encourage all members to submit articles to LLAM News. Please share your experiences and your insights into our profession. The editor will be glad to assist with the process of bringing your ideas to print.

Send articles, letters to the editor, news updates, advertising inquiries, photographs, comments, and suggestions to the Newsletter Committee, preferably via e-mail. Photographs and print-only materials are also welcome by post mail.

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Electronic archives of LLAM News are available on the LLAM web site at www.aallnet.org/chapter/llam/publications.htm.

For membership inquiries, please visit the LLAM Membership page at www.aallnet.org/chapter/llam/membership.htm or contact Membership Committee Chair Pat Behles by e-mail at pbehles@ubalt.edu.