

**AASHL Year-End Report  
Program & Education Committee (PEC)  
October 18, 2021  
Prepared by Colleen Cuddy, PEC Committee Chair**

**Committee Roster:**

- Colleen Cuddy, Stanford University (**Chair, 2020-2023**)
- Kris Alpi, Oregon Health and Sciences University, 2019-2022
- Charlotte Beyer, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, 2020-2023
- Melissa DeSantis, University of Colorado, (**Board Liaison**)
- Martha Earl, University of Tennessee, 2019-2022
- Emily Hurst, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2017–2021
- Shannon Jones, Medical University of South Carolina, (**Immediate Past Chair**)\*
- Joanne Muellenbach, California Health and Sciences University, 2017–2021
- Will Olmstadt, Louisiana State University, Shreveport, 2018–2021
- Hannah Rutledge, University of Pennsylvania, 2020-2023

**Planning Process and Ongoing Work**

The Program and Education Committee meets monthly. Keeping with tradition, the committee divided itself into three subgroups to plan the Matheson Lecture, the Education Program, and networking events in the form of a monthly e-Salon, with the subgroups holding periodic planning meetings.

The committee charge revision was put on hold as some critical questions needed to be addressed around the purpose and mission of the committee in relation to other AAHSL committees and the future direction of the AAHSL meeting. Likewise, the committee began reviewing web content related to the PEC but soon found that the PEC web presence is widely dispersed and integrated with other information across the AAHSL public and private sites. Therefore, while the committee will do some content updates, it has recommended that a holistic approach be taken to update the AAHSL website, perhaps in the form of a task force initiative.

**Education Program**

**Subgroup:** Will Olmstadt (lead), Kris Alpi, Shannon Jones

The education program will take place on October 28, 2021, from 3:00 – 5:00 PM ET. Tony Zanders will present an interactive discussion entitled: “Future-proofing The Health Science Library: A Post-Pandemic Strategic Planning Workshop for Health Science Leadership Teams.” A description of the educational program follows.

“Charting a course in a dynamic operating environment can present significant challenges for library leaders and their deputies. In lieu of predictable outcomes, leaders must develop a

framework for interpreting threats to the organization's budget, service offerings, and personnel. As cost centers and service providers within the institution, health science libraries must prepare for decisions to be made on their behalf in response to sudden shifts in the economy and society. In this interactive session, participants will analyze four areas of vulnerability for the health sciences library, and how their local environment measures up. These include the role of commercial vendors and third-party partnerships, internal collaboration versus competition within the institution, the growing digital divide among the workforce, and the role of the library talent landscape. By collaborating with peer leaders in structured breakout sessions, each participant will discover variants to each threat that are determined by a library's unique context, along with corresponding strategies for how to navigate. The primary goal of the workshop is for each library leader to develop personal, departmental, and organizational strategies for navigating change in a post-pandemic environment. Each participant will leave with a blueprint and resources for facilitating the workshop with local leadership at their home institutions."

Mr. Zanders is an award-winning software entrepreneur and library technology executive. He currently serves as the founder and CEO of Skilltype, a software platform for information professionals and their teams to analyze, develop, and share expertise.

### **Matheson Lecture**

**Subgroup:** Emily Hurst (lead), Colleen Cuddy, Martha Earl

The Matheson Lecture subgroup selected Dr. Kevin Johnson, MD, MS, FAAP, FAMIA, FACMI, FIAHSI to give the Matheson lecture on November 4, 2021, at 3:00 PM ET. Dr. Johnson most recently was the Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor & Chair, Department of Biomedical Informatics, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, and Informatician-in-Chief at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Johnson is currently transitioning to a new position as 27th Penn Integrates Knowledge University Professor (University of Pennsylvania). Fun fact: Dr. Johnson met Nina Matheson, and he has the photos to prove it.

Dr. Johnson's lecture entitled "Findings, Truth and Trust: What do Information Specialists Need to Do to Meaningfully Communicate Science?" A description follows: "Perhaps no event in modern history has demonstrated the challenges of scientific communication more than the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Then, as always, public health officials, policymakers, the scientific community, and the media in all its forms relied on clear, specific, verifiable, relevant, and actionable information emanating from scientists at the cutting edge of discovery. Arguably, as an information aggregation and dissemination community, the pandemic disclosed where we have succeeded and where we fell short. This talk will provide an overview of grand challenges in communicating what is learned from data (findings), conveying its likely relevance and actionability, and, most importantly, updating the public when additional data refutes previous findings and recommendations".

**Networking Subgroup:** Charlotte Byer (lead), Joanne Muellenbach, and Hannah Rutledge

The Networking subgroup continues the eSalon format held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month at 3 PM ET. These informal events were envisioned to help members connect and learn from each other in a relaxed setting and to provide networking opportunities throughout the year. Over the year, the eSalons have morphed into topical presentations followed by discussions with broad appeal to AAHSL members and staff. The subcommittee will recalibrate the eSalon format in the coming months to serve the original goal of facilitating networking and providing a safe space for AAHSL Directors to meet and learn from each other. The subgroup continues to identify topics, and the AAHSL calendar is up to date with upcoming eSalons. This popular format is expected to continue regardless of whether AAHSL returns to an in-person meeting.

### **Special Events**

The committee held one special event this year. NIH's UNITE: A Discussion with Dr. Patti Brennan was held on June 7, 2021. The event was open to staff members from AAHSL institutions, and we had 171 registrants with 121 people in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

**Colleen Cuddy, MA, MLS, MA**

(Pronouns: she/her/hers)

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\*Shannon Jones remained on the committee as immediate past chair for a transitional year.