

President's Report  
October 15, 2007

This report is a retrospective overview of AAHSL activities for 2006-2007 which focused on the implementation of the association's new and ongoing initiatives. These initiatives were based on the results of the Board's yearly planning retreat held in January 2007. The planning meeting highlighted areas of interest which included association management and budget, assessment and statistics, leadership development, partnerships, scholarly communication, LCME library standards, scenario planning, and the role of libraries in the academic health sciences center and beyond. In conjunction with the Board retreat, committee chairs met with AAHSL's IT Officer to brainstorm a list of AAHSL IT requirements. The Board and the committees set an ambitious agenda for the year. Detailed reports from committees, task forces, and appointed representatives present a full accounting of annual accomplishments. A brief summary follows.

***Association Management:*** At the January planning meeting, Shirley Bishop announced that she had sold her company to Marlis Korber and the association's management services would continue without interruption. Shirley assisted with the transition during the past year and will continue to do so for the coming year.

***Awards:*** For the second year in a row, AAHSL awarded the Cornerstone Award for highest achievement and significant contribution to the association and the profession. Wayne Peay, University of Utah, is the 2006-2007 Cornerstone Award winner. A new award, the Innovation Award, was introduced. This award recognizes an AAHSL library that demonstrated innovative programs, products, or services in support of an area of knowledge management as outlined in the Charting the Future document. I am pleased to announce the John A. Prior Health Sciences Library/Center for Knowledge Management at the Ohio State University is the 2006-2007 Innovation Award winner.

***Advocacy:*** AAHSL continued to advocate on behalf of its libraries and partner libraries. MLA and AAHSL partnered in sending a letter in support of the EPA libraries. The MLA/AAHSL Government Relations Task Force met as usual in the spring and members visited legislative offices on Capitol Hill to advocate on behalf of NLM and NIH funding and open access publishing. AAHSL sent letters in support of increased funding for NLM and NIH. AAHSL also sent a letter thanking legislators who supported open access.

***Assessment and Statistics:*** AAHSL contracted with the University of Buffalo Center for Computational Research to publish the 29<sup>th</sup> edition of the association's statistics. Significant progress has been made to enhancing the tools and planning for the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual statistics and the "Quinquennial" descriptive statistics is underway.

***Partnerships:*** The AAHSL President, President-Elect, and Past President met with association partners—AAMC, ARL, NLM and AAHC—this past year to share information about common issues and investigate areas of further collaboration. A new task force the GEA Task Force was formed as a result of discussions with AAMC

regarding two recent reports on educating physicians across a continuum. This work has also led to partnership with the LiME (Librarians in Medical Education) to create a poster for the AAMC IME Exhibit. AAHC and its affiliates are focused on workforce issues and AAHSL is participating in the dialogue by sharing information on its leadership development program. NLM continued its strong support of the NLM/AAHSL Fellows Program and funded the three year program evaluation project.

**Scholarly Communication:** AAHSL supported the Scholarly Communications Symposium held at MLA this past May in Philadelphia. In addition, the Scholarly Communications Committee organized a session for this year's AAHSL annual meeting- Transformations in Scholarly Communication-looking at changes from the perspective of a journal publisher, AAHSL member library and library organization.

**Leadership:** The Leadership Committee recruited another stellar cohort of 2006-2007 fellows with the generous support of the National Library of Medicine. An evaluation of the first three years of the program was conducted and completed by consultants from the University of Massachusetts Medical School. The Committee compiled a list of recommendations and began to implement some of those with the selection of the 2007-2008 class. The National Library of Medicine agreed to fund the leadership program for another three years. AAHSL appreciates NLM's ongoing support of this program.

**AAHSL IT Initiatives:** Members responded to an AAHSL IT survey in April and four focus groups were held in May in conjunction with the MLA meeting in order to assess the Association's IT needs. There were many comments about the AAHSL website and redesigning the website was a priority this past year. The new website was launched on September 14, 2007. IT Officer Jim Shedlock and the Board will continue to review and discuss the results of the IT survey and focus groups in planning for future AAHSL IT initiatives.

**LCME:** In February, based on the work of the LCME Task Force, AAHSL sent the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) a set of recommendations regarding the content of the LCME accreditation documents (self-study-guide, accreditation database, and annotations to accreditation standards). In some cases, AAHSL's suggested wording was modified slightly for greater clarity, but in general, the recommendations were adopted as presented. The one exception was the recommendation to LCME accreditation standard ER-12, where the current language for the annotation was retained. The LCME Task Force was disbanded.

**Scenario Planning:** The Scenario Planning Task Force finished its work and recommended that AAHSL host a day-long workshop on the topic of Scenario Planning. This year's Program Committee was charged with doing so, and on Saturday November 3, 2007 Joan Gisecke, Ph.D., Dean of Libraries University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will lead us in a workshop entitled "The Future of Academic Health Sciences Libraries: Using Scenarios as a Planning Tool."

**Program Planning:** The Matheson Lecture will be held on Monday, November 5, 2007 with featured speaker Peter Morville-President, Semantic Studios. His talk will be on Ambient Findability: Challenges for Health Sciences.

**Membership:** There are 138 AAHSL members; 3 new members since November 2006. Welcome to AAHSL's newest members: A.T. Still University of the Health Sciences, Arizona and Florida International University and University of Central Florida, both in Florida. AAHSL is growing because it continues to be a vibrant, active association.

The 2006-2007 association year was filled with important activities and achievements as outlined above, because of the work of the Board, association officers, committees, task forces and member participation in programs and services. With more than 60% of the AAHSL directors and fellows actively involved in the ongoing work of the association, it is no wonder we have accomplished so much this past year. I want to offer a special thanks to the members of the AAHSL leadership team including the Board of Directors, association officers, and AAHSL's association management company, Shirley Bishop, Inc. And finally, I want to thank all of you for giving me this opportunity to serve the association as its president. It has been a most rewarding experience for which I am truly grateful.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Elaine R. Martin, DA  
2006-2007 AAHSL President