

## ISS Section Committee Meeting

ALA Midwinter 2009

Denver, Colorado

In attendance: Laura Pearle, Hackley School; Susan Williamson, Albuquerque Academy (Data Committee); Liz Burke, Georgetown Visitation (Chair); Cheryl Steele, The Overlake School (Chair-Elect); Jen Cotton, Colorado Academy; Kerry Fender, St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School; Alice Bryant, Harpeth Hall School (Board Liaison); Alison Ernst, Northfield Mt. Hermon (Former Chair); Barbara Weathers, Duchesne Academy; Courtney Lewis, Wyoming Seminary Upper School (Secretary).

ISS session on autism for ALA Annual 2009 – in Chicago – Alison gave us an update about program about serving students on autism spectrum. Will be on Sunday from 10:30 to Noon. She has contact with a woman from a school for autistic children who assisted us by researching program resources with all her networks; they found a doctor who specializes in autism who might come. The Chief of the Autism Program in Illinois has signed on board - she is starting to work with the Chicago Public Library system to do evaluations and parent panels over the next few months about serving this population. We may even get parents for the program! This project will be able to share their results; giveaways of bibliographies etc. and a possible booth in the exhibit hall from a related non-profit organization. Liz asked if the speakers get paid; Alison said only if it is in proposal (it wasn't this time, if it was and the program was approved AASL would pay for speakers) so she solicited local people. She also said room we are booked for accommodates 80 people; we will probably need bigger room.

Talking about sessions for ALA 2010 – We need to start thinking now about what we want to do for ALA 2010 in DC. A graphic novel program that has a curricular focus, not a public library or recreational focus, would be great. Courtney will talk to YALSA chair of the Great Graphic Novels Committee (YALSA) about co-sponsoring program or sharing vendors. A discussion started about bringing in an author/publisher about trends of traditional fiction to the graphic format and also an author – Holly Black was suggested. Alison is going to contact Holly and see if there would be an honorarium involved.

ISS Social at ALA Annual – The name change is official; we have gone from “tea” to “social” in an effort to be clearer and more inclusive (coffee drinkers, men who think tea is too girly, etc.). Our social at Annual will be Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> 1:30 to 3 pm for a dessert social - Liz gave the great description of “dessert, coffee, and conversation” in the program. Should we offer the option of people coming in at the door and paying then as a possibility? Since we hate turning people away, we decided to ask AASL if this is possible – maybe 10 – 20% cushion in our submitted numbers for the

food. Liz said that she is holding spots for the wine/boat tour for Chicago (Saturday night at 6 – 7:30 pm).

We brought up the larger issues of people being concerned about the costs of the ISS receptions; AASL can only help us book hotel locations and the costs are prohibitive for a very small payoff of food and drink. Conclusion – we need sponsors!! Courtney said she would put together a survey of the top three vendors ISS librarians use (by \$\$\$ sent to them). Sponsors would help pay for a nice spread and possibly offer prizes.

Liz also asked how much of the ISS Socials should be shameless promotion of ISS and how much should be networking. A lively discussion ensued of the importance of promoting ourselves a little and showing how fun we are, but also encouraging plenty of introducing and networking to make new people feel productive and welcome. The importance of wearing ears was touched upon for officials as a way of making people smile. Smiley people are happy ISS people.

Alison brought up the idea that people have talked about needing an extra ISS opportunity to socialize that doesn't involve food or a fee and this would be the role a roundtable would fulfill for us. She did emphasize that we need to make sure it is not opposite a big program (like it was last annual when no one came) also sponsored by ISS since that obviously divides our potential audience. Water and soda should be free for it and new members would prefer it to be in the early evening so we could have an informal "who would like to go out to dinner?" for people needing to connect with others to avoid the quiet plate in front of the hotel room TV.

In DC in 2010, Liz is planning on a cocktail party at restaurant 1789 in Georgetown - \$30 will pay for cocktails and since the restaurant is excellent, she will consider reserving some tables for people who would like to stay to eat. Since the restaurant isn't near hotels or the convention center, we discussed seeing if we could get a sponsor to maybe pay for a van to ferry people from a main location to and from the reception.

ISS School Tours – Our ISS School Tours will take place on Friday from 8 am to noon – we have been told that the schools are close together. Liz says it is so true that you can't start too early to book the local libraries for tours!!! People sometimes take a while to make a decision or you need time to investigate referrals.

Chicago-area schools on the tour:

#### *The Latin School*

Founded in 1888, The Latin School is Chicago's oldest independent school. Latin provides its students with a rigorous and innovative educational program in a community that embraces diversity of people, cultures, and ideas, and, it inspires its students to pursue their passions and lead lives of purpose and excellence.

The Middle/Upper School Regenstein Library supports the school's mission by collaborating with faculty to design units incorporating 21st century information literacy skills and with its extensive collections of literature, reference, non-print, and subscription database materials. Additionally the library enthusiastically promotes the love of reading with a program that includes a regular book talking segment at assemblies, events celebrating our readers and the books they love, and participation in a summer reading blog. The Regenstein library space includes areas for silent and group study, conference rooms, 15 iMac computers, and a wireless network.

#### *Cristo Rey Jesuit High School*

We last saw this library in 2005, but since then, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School received a generous grant that purchased new furniture, books, A/V, and technology. Founded in 1996, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School is one of Chicago's newest independent schools. Located in the Mexican-American neighborhood of Pilsen, it has the unique mission of providing a college prep private school education to families that otherwise could not afford it. A bilingual school, Cristo Rey provides an innovative corporate work-study program so that students can work five days a month at entry-level jobs in a variety of Chicago firms. The library media center, a state of the art facility, combines the best of the new with traditional resources.

#### *Catherine Cook School*

Originally founded by a passionate group of teachers and parents as a cooperative nursery school in 1975, the later named Catherine Cook School has grown to serve Preschool through Middle School age students. Catherine Cook strives to prepare young people for active participation in the discoveries and challenges of the future with the foundations of wisdom and personal discipline. The school is interested in a personal learning approach that incorporates individual attention, hands-on experiential learning, and a challenging and well-rounded curriculum. The growing school, although increasingly space challenged, provides its students, their families, and faculty with a library of carefully chosen materials to pique the interest of preschoolers, stretch the skills of emerging readers, promote independent reading, and support curriculum in the upper grades. The Catherine Cook School Library holds more than 18,000 items that are easily assessable via our OPAC, including a collection of parent and child development resources.

For our tours in 2010, St. Alban's Lower/Middle School is a yes and we are looking into National Cathedral School for Upper School tour. Stay tuned!

[AASL Charlotte 2009](#) – Alison spoke about how we will be doing an Information Commons program (a fusion of library/technology programs based on a higher ed model) that will be related to the upcoming Independent School book by Dorcas Hand. David Loerstcher will be coming as keynote speaker, Alison will talk about the model at Northfield Mt. Hermon, and Patt Moser will also represent issues of collaboration/fusion between IT and her library at Sidwell Friends. Cheryl said info

on AASL website and school visits will be whole day on Wednesday. ISS Social is 8 pm to 10 pm Dessert Reception on Thursday.

ISS Leadership Wiki. Alison mentioned the story of how we had an elusive and mythical ISS Leadership Binder, which appeared to go the way of the Holy Grail. In order that, like the Knights Templar, all our wisdom is not lost, she has begun a wiki in which all of the elected officials (and others) can deposit their knowledge about their position to be added to by future leaders. Liz said that she had actually asked AASL for a committee handbook and it yielded very little (the word “bupkus” was used) that would help us with the regular details and deadlines of running the committee.

Nominations. Laura spoke about how she is an inveterate lurker of ISS since she has responsibilities in other areas, and one of her specialties is drumming up people for the nominations committee. ISS is under obligation to provide two warm bodies per elected position to run for office, but for bigger AASL positions the nominating committee finds these individuals. We should put in the wiki that deadlines are for querying people around Thanksgiving to see if they’d be interested and then solidifying names at Midwinter. We may want to just make this a part of Annual where we ask people to run for office the following year.

Independent School Magazine or NAIS Issues 2.0. Liz Gray from Dana Hall will be responding to Independent School magazine, the journal of NAIS, regarding their recent issue about “Teaching in a 2.0 World” in which libraries were strangely missing from an entire issue about technology integration into independent schools. Liz is going to email Patt to see if Patt’s Head of School would consider writing a letter and we all agreed to approach our key officials at our school to do the same. If we can drum up a response, NAIS might feel that more attention needs to be paid to libraries.

Data Committee – Susan said her article has been published in School Library Media Research Journal in conjunction with Ellysa Stern Cahoy from Penn State. [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslpubsandjournals/slmrb/slmrcontents/volume11/cahoj\\_williamson.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslpubsandjournals/slmrb/slmrcontents/volume11/cahoj_williamson.cfm). Susan would appreciate comments on how people are using this data in their libraries and how it is useful. The Research and Statistics committee (Susan is our liaison) are getting out this year’s longitudinal survey (we should all be getting the AASL email soon) and our questions are incorporated into it. Yay! ELL statistics are also now incorporated as questions for additional good data. We are all encouraged to participate in the survey and promote it among other libraries. While responses were doubled after the first year, only 50% of them were repeats and they want to track changes in the same library, obviously, for a longitudinal study. Announcement for new survey is on Tuesday. An NCES Representative was at Susan’s committee meeting and there might be national reports including this data in the next 6 – 12 months and will be online on NCES website. Susan’s chapter in Dorcas’ book will have this info but also include data on California schools and lots of correlations. FYI, Susan is retiring (sniff) after Annual

2009 so we need to think of someone who can fill her shoes regarding a liaison to the statistics committee.

Speaking of ISS related data, Liz passed around a list of ISS members, which took quite some time to acquire. Sadly, some key information was missing (from what school or sorted by state the person came). Liz said she would attempt to get an electronic copy of the list in order to sort by various fields for more outreach.

Principles of Good Practice Becomes “Guidelines for Professional Practice for Librarians”. Patt has been working hard for the last year with others on developing the library version of a PGP (Principles for Good Practice) for Librarians for the NAIS website (there are lots of technology ones). For reasons unbeknownst to us (Patt will fill us in on the evolution of this at Annual), this morphed into “Guidelines for Professional Practice for Librarians” which can be found at <http://www.nais.org/about/seriesdoc.cfm?ItemNumber=151374>.

AASL Board Report. Alice Bryant gave us the lowdown on what’s happening on the board. She says the board doesn’t have a manual either for people to read prior to participation and it’s been frustrating at times for you to understand what’s going on (ISS is working on our “leadership wiki” to put all our precious thoughts in one place for future elected people). Currently there are 66,000 members in ALA, which is a number slight down from previous numbers, probably due to the economy. The back of Education Week magazine has a HUGE AASL ad. The AASL website has been worked on and will launch on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. AASL is also releasing “Toolkit for a Tough Economy” to help school librarians advocate for their budgets and positions. A group was working on some supporting information for the LMS Role in Reading, but the board felt some of the content needed a little rewording so they sent it back for revision. A Planned Giving group has been started to explore this possibility of income. Julie is taking a four-month sabbatical to work with the Laura Bush Foundation for the Gulf Coast. Alice said that she just finished a 2-day strategic planning session that was AMAZING and should provide the catalyst to lots of exciting changes in the organization.

ISS Web Presence. Alison asked if Teresa Copeland, our new ISS Web person who is replacing Ernie, has gone through the training necessary to update the website? After Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, the new software rollout will take place and she will be able to undergo training and begin adding new content.

Meeting adjourns and most of us are headed to the ISS (informal) dinner at

Osteria Marco

1453 Larimer Street

Denver, CO

YUM!!!!

*Respectfully submitted by Courtney Lewis, ISS Secretary.*