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From the President: A Heart-Felt Thank You

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A Final Heart-Felt Thank You

As I sit here in front of my computer, I can hardly believe it. This is my last “From the President” column. After whining for the last eight months about how hard this is, subjecting all of you to my ramblings and musings, and trying the patience of everyone around me as I try to come up with a theme, it’s over. This is my last column.

I don’t have to search hard for a theme for this column. The theme is gratitude. I know what you’re thinking: “Yeah, she’s grateful she doesn’t have to write these columns anymore.” But no, my gratitude is very real and it’s directed at you, the members of AALL. And it’s more than just my gratitude that you haven’t inundated me with emails telling me that this column has sometimes bordered on the ridiculous. No, I am deeply grateful that you have given me the opportunity to serve as your president.

My year as president has been full of experiences and opportunities that I might not have had otherwise. I have had adventures—like the time Kathleen Richman, director of the Law Library Microform Consortium, and I wandered, lost, around Den Hague for more than two hours. I have had amazing educational opportunities—like the time I visited the Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York (ALLUNY) and experienced a well-crafted and informative program put on by a chapter that is rather small both geographically and numerically. I have had the opportunity to visit places I might never have had the chance to see otherwise—like my trip to Chile, where I was honored to share with our colleagues something of the history and mission of AALL.

The absolute best part of being president of AALL, though, was the opportunity to meet so many of you. I am amazed at the generosity of our members. When I was a chapter visitor, so many of you would take time from your busy days to give me tours and answer my questions about your libraries. When I needed volunteers for an AALL activity, so many of you would cheerfully offer to take on a new task. When experts were needed to speak out on topics of vital importance to our Association and our membership, so many of you were willing to donate your expertise.

I am also impressed by how passionate our members are—passionate about your work, about information policy, and about the Association. I dare say there are very few law librarians who consider what they do to be “just a job.” It was obvious to me as I traveled around the country talking to you that we are committed to providing the best service we can to our patrons, whoever they may be. We care about standards for information literacy, about bibliographic integrity, and about the authenticity of information. We care about collections, both electronic and paper, and about getting the right information to the right person at the right time. And while we may not always agree on the decisions, the directions, or the path of the Association, our disagreements are rooted in deeply held convictions, not in personalities.

Finally, I am eternally grateful to three very specific groups of people. I don’t want to single out any one person in these groups, because in reality

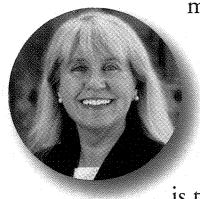
I would have to name each and every individual, so a group thank you seems best. The first is the staff at AALL Headquarters. These people have made my presidential year much easier than it could have been. They have answered my many questions. They have offered me advice and guidance. They have dug up obscure pieces of Association information and history for me. And they have done this with grace and good humor.

The second group of people is those who served on the board with me this year. They were fantastic board members, and you should be proud that you elected them. They offered wise counsel on the issues before us. And they exhibited great patience with me and the changes I sought to implement this year in board procedure.

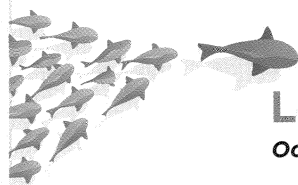
Last, but by no means least, are my colleagues at the University of Richmond Law Library. They willingly covered reference shifts and took on some of my regular duties so that I might have the time needed to fulfill my duties as president. They served as my sounding board and test audience, allowing me the luxury of trying out ideas on a friendly crowd before having to go live in prime time, so to speak.

So in closing, thank you. Thank you all for allowing me to have this wonderful opportunity. I have enjoyed my year serving as your president and look forward to seeing as many of you as I can in Philadelphia. ■

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