Message from the President, Victor D. Baeza

Library Graduate and Research Services, Oklahoma State University

The first six months of my term have been very interesting, and much of that time has been spent getting ready for the final six. We have the unCOILed 2013 Workshop in a couple of days at Langston University and some very exciting plans in the works for the fall conference. Hope to see as many of you as possible at both.

A big event this year was the ACRL national conference in Indianapolis. As the conference is only held every other year, it is always filled with fresh ideas and interesting programs being held across the country. One popular theme involved scholarly communication, with programs covering Open Access, Copyright, Fair Use, and Intellectual Property. We decided this would be a good topic for our fall conference, so be on the lookout for more information as planning gets into full gear.

OK-ACRL has also been deepening its commitment to helping the new generation of librarians by hosting events for library school students, including a resume and career prep workshop and a discussion panel on introducing students to the various local, regional, and national library organizations. Also, several students have volunteered to help with the fall conference planning. We hope to continue developing more programs to connect the “more seasoned” librarians in Oklahoma with graduate students in Library and Information Science programs. If you would like to be involved, contact me or any of our Executive Board members.

You may be thinking, “All these things sound good Vic, but how do I get in contact with OK-ACRL officers or where do I look for more information?” As always, you can visit the OK-ACRL webpage at http://www.okacrl.org. The list of current officers is under the ‘About OK-ACRL’ tab. You can also click the ‘Contact Us’ tab and send a message to the OK-ACRL e-mail account. The webpage is a good place to find out what OK-ACRL has been up to, how you can get more involved, and what events are in the works.

I hope everyone is having a productive and refreshing summer! OK-ACRL and its programs are dependent on those involved so I encourage all of you to become more active members.
Community of Oklahoma Instruction Librarians

The Community of Oklahoma Instruction Librarians continues to prepare for the annual workshop to be held at Langston University in Langston Oklahoma on July 12th. This year the theme is “Close Encounters of the Student Kind.” Sessions featuring student engagement and outreach in instruction will continue throughout the day. In addition to the conference planning, robust discussion continues over teaching tools, technologies and strategies. COIL continues to be an active and lively group for anyone with an interest in instruction and information literacy.

To join, email abrennan@tulsacc.edu with a request to join the COIL email listserv.
Digital Services Interest Group

The Digital Services Interest Group has been working on some interesting things over the past few months. We have been meeting over **Google Hangouts** and have a Google+ Page (https://plus.google.com/u/0/103318609149247649134/posts). Google Hangouts have been a great method for holding online meetings. Despite some initial hiccups, we have been able to meet using voice and video. If any other group is interested in trying Google Hangouts as a platform for online meeting, feel free to contact someone from DSIG or me, Nicole, at ansumpcre@gmail.com. Anyone interested in DSIG activities can add OK-ACRL Digital Services Interest Group to their circles. We also have a website at dsig.okacrl.org for more information, and you can join or email listserv.

We are planning a webinar for early in the fall semester. The webinar will be streamed over Google Hangouts on YouTube. We think this venue will be a lot of fun to try and the content will be worth watching. Be on the lookout for more information on the main OK-ACRL email listserv.

Nicole Sump-Crethar
DSIG, Chair 2013
Who doesn’t remember the angst that accompanied graduation from library school? Career prep can sometimes be overlooked within the formal education system and students may not always feel confident when they approach the job hunt. With this in mind, OK-ACRL held a career preparation workshop for members of the Oklahoma Library and Information Studies Student Association. In late spring, Beth Jones (OUHSC), Katie King (SNU), April Schweikhard (OU-Tulsa), and Nicole Sump-Crethar (OSU) attended an OLISSA meeting in both Norman and Tulsa to present the ins-and-outs of cover letters, CVs, resumes, and the interview process. This presentation was posted to the OK-ACRL website and can be viewed at http://www.okacrl.org/2013/05/10/librarycareerprep/.
Tom Rink recently returned from the Special Libraries Association 2013 Annual Conference where he served on two separate panels: 1) "The Experts Are In!: One-Off Career Advice," and 2) "SLA Rising Stars and Fellows Roundtable." While at the conference, Tom also attended meetings of the SLA Finance Committee, in which he is an appointed member, and the Annual Business Meeting of the Leadership and Management Division. Tom is Membership Chair of this division and also serves on the Program Planning Team for 2014 Annual Conference in Vancouver.

Tom Rink
Instruction Librarian
Northeastern State University
Broken Arrow Campus

Tom was a member of two different panels at this year’s SLA Annual Conference in San Diego.
congratulations to Frederic Murray and Jason Dupree!

In 2005, Southwestern Oklahoma State University Administration formally granted librarians the rank of assistant professor because the Masters in Library and Information Science degree is recognized as a terminal degree. I was hired in 2006, and assigned faculty rank in the position as the Information Services /Reference Librarian, a nontenure track appointment. In 2008 my new appointment as the Instructional Services Librarian carried with it a tenure track contract. That same year my colleague, Jason Dupree, was also granted a tenure track contract with his appointment as the Head of Public Services. We were the first librarians in the history of our institution to be given this opportunity.

The tenure process at SWOSU, as on most campuses, revolves around three major criteria: teaching, scholarship and service. As Jason and I were, and continue to be, heavily invested in instruction we were uniquely posited as librarians to blend into the expectations held of faculty regarding the classroom. But we also realized that work of librarians, in other departments, is often carried out unseen, if not unnoticed, by other faculty. We knew that this work needed to be granted equal weight in the tenure process and so with a great deal of help from all the Librarians and our allies across campus we were able in the spring of 2012 to have the faculty handbook amended to ensure that the work carried out by Academic Librarians was given equal weight in the Tenure review process.

A great deal of ground work was laid prior to our formal submission to the tenure process, and a great deal of work remains to be done in terms of promotion and faculty service, but this August 2013 both Jason and I will be recognized before our peers as the first librarians at Southwestern Oklahoma State University granted Tenure with all the requisite responsibilities and opportunities.

It is humbling and gratifying to be breaking new ground, and a demonstration that our profession has always, and will continue, to play a meaningful role in the realm of higher education.

Frederic Murray
Southwestern Oklahoma State University
The NSU Libraries, Broken Arrow Campus, is pleased to welcome their newest faculty member, Karl Siewert. Karl is filling the position of **Instruction Librarian/Resource Coordinator** to the College of Education.

Karl comes to NSU from the Tulsa City-County Library, where he has been a reference librarian for 11 years. Since 2007 he has worked with teens, but prior to that, he was focused on business reference. Karl received his MLIS from Dominican University, taking his courses through the College of St. Catherine (now St. Catherine University) in St. Paul, Minnesota. He grew up in Kansas and attended Fort Hays State University for his BS in English Education.

Karl’s reading interests include horror, fantasy, teen fiction, comics (DC more than Marvel), history and art. He considers himself a “maker,” building new things from old materials. In that arena, his greatest accomplishment is a ukulele he made from an old candy tin, which he’s teaching himself to play. He also worked during library school as a professional yo-yo performer.

**Karl Siewert**
Instruction Librarian and Resource Coordinator for the College of Education
Northeastern State University
Broken Arrow Campus
OK-ACRL Board Members and the Conference Planning Taskforce are hard at work preparing the lineup for the 2013 fall conference. Though no official details are available to report, it is going to be EPIC! Stay up to date through the OK-ACRL list-serv.

Interested in becoming more involved in OK-ACRL? Consider running for an OK-ACRL office position for the 2014 term. Next year’s open positions include:

President Elect, Secretary, Board Member

Nominate yourself or a colleague for one of these positions by contacting Dona Davidson, President Elect, at dona.davidson@okstate.edu. Duties for each position are described in OK-ACRL bylaws, which are available at http://www.okacrl.org/about-ok-acrl/bylaws/.