



ALA Student to Staff Experience

New Orleans, June 2006

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Staff to Student Participant

- Selected to represent LSO by random drawing in Jan. 2006
- Committed to work 4 hours each day during the conference
 - Dependent upon assignment
 - Assignment is based on section need

The American Library Association, LSO's parent organization, has a student intern program for the Annual Meeting. Each student organization can send one student participant to work during the national meeting. In exchange for hotel and per diem, the student is committed to working four hours each day of the conference. Student are matched with sections based on interest and the sections need. Some sections had 4 workers, others only 1 or two!



ALA – OLOS

- Staff Members
 - 2 Student workers
- Many scheduled programs
 - Preconference on aging
 - “To your health: Accessible Health and Medical Information”
 - “The National Assessment of Adult Literacy and You: How Libraries can serve Low-Level Readers”



I was assigned to the Office of Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS). Many of my responsibilities included staffing information tables during the pre-conference on older adults and assisting with special events.

● ● ● | ALA OLOS Responsibilities



- Preconference on Aging
 - Older Americans Act Discussion
 - Reaching out to Older Americans
 - GeoLib @ FSU
 - Sensitivity Training

During the preconference on aging banquet dinner, the audience members were charged by the speakers to include libraries into the Older Americans Act. This meant that first thing the next morning, I had to go and make copies in the ALA headquarters office at the convention center.



ALA OLOS Responsibilities

- You never know who you will meet
- You never know who is listening!



Another big event was the Diversity Fair. At this fair, former SIRLS student Jolie Ogg Graybill was presenting a poster. You also never know who is listening to conversations. I was having a conversation about my upcoming graduation with some librarians and another librarian turned around and walked back into the fair when he heard that I was interested in a Science Reference Position. We exchanged business cards and he actually contacted me after the meeting.

● ● ● | ALA OLOS 35th anniversary



Virginia H. Matthews – an ALA Icon!



I highly suggest attending fun events such as anniversary celebrations! You never know when you get to meet an ALA Icon.

● ● ● | Coretta Scott King Awards



Big events such as the Coretta Scott King breakfast are excellent events to volunteer and to attend. You get to hear great speakers and come away with great goody bags!

● ● ● | Other Librarians!



Meeting and networking with new and seasoned librarians are the highlight of any meeting!

● ● ● | Things to plan for...



Kevin Henkes
•Author of *Olive's Ocean & Kitten's First Moon*

Margaret Peterson Haddix
•Author of the Shadow Children Series



ALA offers opportunities to meet authors! Check your program to see who will be there! You never know, your favorite author just might be signing books!



Things you can't plan for....



I bumped into Anderson Cooper of CNN, who graciously posed for a picture with me.



ALA Highlights

- Prepare yourself for the large conference
 - But not too seriously!
- Take a careful look at of preconferences
- Surprise yourself by trying something new
- Get involved by going to committee meetings



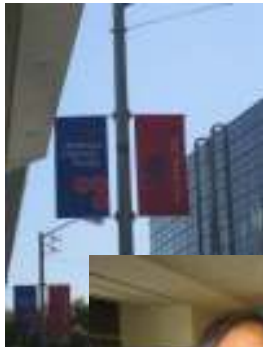


What does a librarian do at a chemistry conference?

American Chemical Society
232nd National Meeting
San Francisco, September 2006

I had the opportunity to go to the American Chemical Society meeting in San Francisco.

● ● ● | Find the Information Division



- Seeing faces from the listservs
- Meeting other subject specialists
- CINF dynamics
 - Librarians
 - Computational Chemists
 - International

In the national meetings for your subject specialty, look to see if there is an information division! It's great to meet all the names you see on the listservs. Most are just as dynamic in person as they are online. CINF is an interesting group in that it is comprised of librarians and computational chemists, medicinal chemists and those interested in sharing information. Since computers are the common bond, we are all in the same group! There is also a large international presence within ACS CINF.

● ● ● | Networking Opportunities



Network on the Bus! At luncheons! Look for the scheduled or impromptu receptions!



ACS Highlights

- “Smaller” conference
- Focused Symposia
- Vendor training sessions
- Keeping current in the subject area



ACS is a large conference, but for information there is a smaller group of symposia. One should try to go to as many talks as you find interesting, even if it's not in the “information” division. It's the best way to see what is up and coming with in the realm of your subject specialty.



Upcoming conferences

- AzLA – Mesa, AZ
 - November 14-16, 2006
- ALA MidWinter – Seattle, WA
 - January 19-24, 2007
- ACRL – Baltimore, MD
 - March 29 – April 2, 2007

Go to upcoming conferences!! There are student scholarships if you look closely!



Thank you!

- Student to Staff
 - LSO
 - ALA
 - GPSC
- ACS Meeting
 - CINF
- To you for your attention.

Thank you so much for your time and attention.



Questions? Comments?

Please contact Olivia Sparks @
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