A wonderful crowd of new and future library professionals attended the New Members Round Table conference program in Houston titled, “Inside TLA: A Guide to Jumpstarting Your Membership.” A panel of active library professionals spoke to the crowd of their TLA involvement and gave advice on how new members can make the most of their TLA experience. The panel included: Chris Salerno, TWU SLIS Adjunct Instructor, member of TLA Professional Rights and Responsibilities committee and TLA Task Force on Transforming Libraries; Stephany Compton, Distance Education Librarian at Texas Woman’s University, TALL Texan, Past Chair of District 7 and Distributed/E-learning Interest Group; Dana Rooks, University of Houston Dean of Libraries, TLA Past President, TALL Texan, member of TLA Task Force on Transforming Libraries and TLA Transform Libraries Steering Committee, previous TLA Librarian of the Year; Beth Wheeler Fox, Director of Westbank Community Library District and previous TLA Librarian of the Year; Deirdre McDonald, Librarian at UT-Pan American, NMRT Past Chair, Distributed/E-learning Interest Group Chair Elect; and Elizabeth Sargent, Librarian at Houston Public Library, NMRT Chair, and Acquisitions and Collection Development Round Table Chair Elect.

While not every TLA member aspires to become TLA President, panelists encouraged new members to explore the many facets of TLA and become involved in areas of the organization in which you are interested. The great thing about TLA is there is something for everyone and active involvement can take many forms, from simply attending conference to volunteering for round table committees to running for a unit executive board position. After the panel spoke, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions, then enjoy refreshments while chatting with the NMRT executive board.

So discover which form of involvement you are most comfortable with and go for it! Meet people, attend district and conference meetings, ask questions, volunteer and have fun!

Many thanks go to NMRT Booth Chair Kim Herrington for her creativity and time dedicated to the exhibit hall booth and for organizing NMRT members to man the booth during conference. Many conference goers stopped by the booth and lots of NMRT members volunteered for our committees. Thanks again Kim!
Attending TLA 2009

By Kelli Wilder

Attending TLA 2009 in Houston, Texas was a fantastic time of learning, networking, sharing ideas, seeing old friends and making new ones. Day 1 I attended the Planning and Assessing Instruction Sessions Using Learning Outcomes pre-conference. We had some great hands on activities where we shared our ideas with fellow instruction librarians from all over the state. I attended the CULD Community and Junior Colleges interest group to see what that group was all about, and by the end of the meeting I was chair-elect for 2009-2010. Just goes to show you never know what will happen at conference. That evening I attended the Conference Welcome Party with some colleagues. The Programming Committee really deserves a standing ovation for making this event such a success. It was a lovely outdoor venue with excellent food, live music, and lots of carousing with previous colleagues and new friends. A great time was had by all.

Wednesday (day 2) was a great day of learning and sharing ideas. Paula Poundstone was hilarious in opening session. Anyone who can get me laughing at 8:30 AM deserves a medal. Then it was off to NMRT’s program. The panel presented great ideas for getting involved with TLA and taking on leadership roles in librarianship. I was inspired. Volunteer- ing at the NMRT booth put me in the pathway of several exceptional up and coming librarians who I know I will be seeing and hearing about in the future. After lunch, I attended Collaborating on Campus: The SACS Quality Enhancement Plan and Libraries where the panel discussed how they worked with faculty and administration to take on a collaborative role in the QEP. Great ideas were shared. Next on my list of things not to miss was the Library Instruction Round Table meeting. I always enjoy getting together with motivated librarians planning ways to improve information literacy, my passion. By the end of this meeting I was wonderfully exhausted so after an incredible Vietnamese dinner with friends, it was back to the hotel and to bed!

Thursday was indisputably the best day of conference. I finally had worked up my nerve to tackle the vendor booths, which if you have never attended or only attended once or twice, can be quite overwhelming. I met some great vendors, gathered ideas for databases and additions to the collection, and spent all my money on books for my daughter and her friends! The deals were just too good to pass up. After braving the vendor booths, I attended Instruction on Demand: Online Technologies to Reach Your Learners. I learned great tech- niques on podcasting, LibGuides, and more. Then we all headed to lunch with Bites with LIRT. Upon returning from a fantastic lunch filled with excellent Italian food and even more excellent camaraderie with fellow instruction librarians, I attended what turned out to be my favorite session, Brain Research and Education: The Vital Connection. It was amazing thinking about how people learn from a more scientific perspective. I left the session with some great ideas to incorporate into my instruction. I will definitely be doing further research in this area. Now, for la piece de resistance, I had 4th row seats to hear Gloria Steinem, my personal hero, speak! She was enlightened as always and it was hard to believe she is 75! It was incredible how she managed to create an intimate conversation with a room full of thousands of librarians. She is gifted. After the general session, still a little awestruck, I attended the District 10 meeting followed by the UNT Alumni dinner. It was a perfect day.

Ah, Friday, the last day of conference, and I am not the only person who is exhausted. I attended the Acquisitions and Collection Development Round Table meeting and vendor breakfast, made one final swoop through the vendor booths to buy more books, and headed home. The Conference was a wonderful experience that I will not soon forget. I am very grateful to the TLA/NMRT/Quality Books Development Round Table meeting and vendor breakfast, made one final swoop through the vendor booths to buy more books, and headed home. The Conference was a wonderful experience that I will not soon forget. I am very grateful to the TLA/NMRT/Quality Books Professional Grant for providing me with this wonderful opportunity.

2009 Professional Development Grant Recipient

The purpose of the NMRT/Quality Books Inc. Professional Development Grant is to encourage professional development and participation in TLA and NMRT among new professionals by providing financial assistance for the expenses involved in attending the TLA Annual Conference. This year’s grant was awarded to Mrs. Kelli Wilder at the TLA Annual Conference in Houston.

Kelli lives in San Antonio with her wonderful husband, David and four year old daughter, Hannah. She completed her Master’s Degree in Library Science from the University of North Texas in December 2007 and currently works at St. Philip’s College as a reference and instruction librarian and recently took on the role of distance learning coordinator for the library.

Information literacy is Kelli’s passion as she feels that it is a competency that encompasses all disciplines and is paramount to success in today’s world—the information age. She and her colleagues are currently creating an online information literacy course via Blackboard, and her goal is to create a successful campus-wide, accredited information literacy program. Kelli feels that involvement with TLA is a great way to share ideas with colleagues, network, and collaborate with other librarians in an effort to spur each other on to success in our endeavors. Congratulations Kelli!

“The world of librarianship is in such a fascinating place right now. I feel fortunate to be a part of such a dynamic field during such a revolutionary time for information.” -Kelli Wilder

2009 NMRT/Quality Books Professional Development Grant recipient Kelli Wilder of St. Philips College Library (San Antonio) with NMRT Chair, Elizabeth Sargent, at TLA Annual Conference.

Congratulations Kelli!
2009 Outstanding New Librarian Award Winner

The NMRT Outstanding New Librarian Award honors an individual who is new to the profession and working as a full-time librarian. The award winner is nominated by colleagues and chosen by a NMRT committee based on their initiative as a new librarian to improve their library and the field of librarianship. This year’s award was given to Mrs. Jamie Eustace at the TLA Annual Conference in Houston.

Jamie is an Associate of Public Service at the Sterling Municipal Library in Baytown. In her position, Jamie oversees the Public Service department which consists of over half of the entire library staff. Through her leadership, her co-workers believe the library has been transformed through the improved customer services such as floating public service, a mobile kiosk service desk, computer classes, adult summer reading program, and Sunday hours. Jamie began a reader’s advisory committee where staff discuss what they are reading, which has resulted in the active promotion of reader’s advisory by the staff and has included the addition of end panel displays, book marks, and web presence for this purpose.

Jamie also authors a monthly column and developed an innovative outreach program called Starbooks @Starbucks where she gives a book-talk to a standing room only audience at the coffee shop—ultimately promoting around 20 titles each month—and after which patrons are able to check-out the books on the spot. These and other efforts by Jamie have led to an increase in item turnover, total circulation, and circulation per capita.

Jamie is described as “forward-thinking, a risk-taker and thoroughly does her homework when making decisions.” Her skills have enabled her to be valuable in all aspects of library management from writing policies and the budget process to staff reorganization and a building remodel. Jamie has also authored numerous grants and has secured funding from local service organizations for library projects. Jamie is greatly admired and supported by her colleagues who nominated her as an outstanding librarian. Congratulations Jamie Eustace, the 2009 NMRT Outstanding New Librarian!

In Case You Didn’t Know…What’s a TALL Texan?

By Kelly Brouillard

I plan to make “In Case You Didn’t Know” a regular feature of each newsletter where we can inform you, the New Member, about some aspect of TLA that you may not be aware of or know much about. I remember at my first TLA annual conference I kept hearing people mention this thing called a TALL Texan. I wondered, “Was there a round table for librarians over 6 feet tall???” Alas, no.

The TALL stands for ‘Texas Accelerated Library Leaders.’ TALL Texans are individuals who have been selected, based on their leadership potential, to attend the TALL Texans Leadership Development Institute, a 5-day retreat where attendees experience intensive leadership training.

“The participants are mid-career library and information science practitioners (degreed and non-degreed) who are currently employed in the field and have at least five years of experience in a professional level position in library and/or information science.” The TALL Texan Class of 2009 includes two NMRT members: Jennifer Anderson, Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi and Susan Chandler, Sterling Municipal Library (Baytown). Congrats Jennifer and Susan!!!

For more information, visit the TALL Texans Round Table webpage at http://www.txla.org/groups/ttrt/index.htm
Message from the Chair

Greetings New Members! As I begin my year as Chair of NMRT I want to update you on things already in the works and things to look forward to. I am in the midst of planning next year’s NMRT conference program where I hope to have an exciting panel of speakers who can offer new members unique perspectives on TLA involvement. We are also working with the TALL Texans Round Table in planning a preconference program for next year that will be geared toward the new librarian and offer information on advocacy, leadership, and professionalism. More info to come!

This year I hope to work closely with the NMRT executive board and committees to reinvigorate NMRT activities and programs. I will encourage the Outreach Committee to continue the work of the previous Outreach Chair, Jennifer Anderson, in communicating with the Texas library schools and TLA units, as well as continuing the development and distribution of resources beneficial to library science students, new librarians, and new TLA members. I also hope to begin utilizing the NMRT blog to communicate and share information. Many new members have expressed interest in our mentor program which has been rather inactive in recent years.

With the help of the NMRT Mentor Program Committee, I plan to reinstate this program to better serve our new members. And beginning with this issue, I’m bringing back the NMRT Newsletter! The newsletter will be published at least 3 times a year, and I encourage you to send me items for inclusion such as information new members would find useful, or let us know about your libraries special activities or personal accomplishments that other new members would be interested in. Share pictures with us too!

I also encourage you to subscribe to the NMRT listserv (see instructions at top of this page) so that you are sure to receive the latest announcements from NMRT, and please feel free to contact me with any questions. I sincerely look forward to working with my fellow new members to make this a fantastic year for NMRT!

-Kelly

Announcing the 2009-2010 NMRT Executive Board!

Chair…………………………….Kelly Brouillard
Vice Chair……………………..Jennifer Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer……………..Susan Chandler
Councilor……………………………..Erin Cody
Past Chair……………………..Elizabeth Sargent
Councilor Alternate…………...Elizabeth Sargent
Webmaster……………………Elizabeth Sargent
Newsletter Editor………………Kelly Brouillard

http://www.txla.org/groups/nmrt/

NMRT Listserv

Be sure to subscribe to the NMRT Listserv for the latest announcements and information from NMRT.

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Kelly Brouillard
NMRT Chair, 2009-2010
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