

**American Library Association  
ALA Annual Conference  
Report of President, Courtney Young**

Presidential Focus

20 state chapter representatives participated in the inaugural Career Development Facilitators (CDF) program. Face-to-face training took place on January 29-30 at ALA Headquarters, and continued in a virtual classroom format for fourteen weeks. A program on the CDF has been planned by HRDR staff and will take place during the 2015 Annual Conference. Two program participants will share their experience on Sunday, June 27, 2015 (see <http://alaac15.ala.org/node/28608>). All program recipients will also be recognized and receive their certificates at the end of the session.

Interest in the area of diversity has increased during my presidential year. Various divisions, round tables, and committees have focused considerable effort in this area, and I am grateful for their hard work and commitment to this programmatic priority of the Association. Of particular note were the Youth Media Awards honor and award winning books that reflected more diversity and the GLBT Round Table announced "June is LGBT Book Month".

I continue to work with staff in the Office for Diversity to add a top level link for Diversity on the ALA website. The landing page has been created by Gwendolyn Prellwitz. Leaders of the ethnic affiliates were asked during the 2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting to send information, stories, and images to highlight on the page. There are currently 94 members of the Diversity Member Interest Group (MIG). Many thanks to Alexandra Rivera who started the MIG for Melissa Cardenas-Dow who has posted on a regular basis and welcomed new members to the group.

My President's Program speaker will be Sarah Lewis. Ms. Lewis is an art historian, critic, writer, and "cultural powerhouse". Author of "The Rise", Lewis celebrates creativity, focusing on how it can lead us through fear and failure to ultimate success. Her presentation should be a good complement to my 2015 Midwinter Meeting President's Program speaker Mick Ebeling.

Strategic Planning

I have continued to work closely with Keith Michael Fiels and Mary Ghikas on the strategic planning process. I facilitated a successful planning session during Council I at the 2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Chicago, IL.

Several strategic planning discussions have taken place at state chapter conferences and will continue through the spring. The draft plan was presented to the Executive Board during the spring board meeting. It was then submitted to ALA Council and the ALA membership on May 26, 2015, via email and ALA Connect. The plan is scheduled to go to ALA Council for approval during the 2015 ALA Annual Conference.

### Press and Social Media

I continue to work closely with staff in PIO, the Washington Office, and appropriate ALA units to edit and approve library-focused press releases. I appreciate the increasingly collaborative nature of this process, resulting in stronger messages on behalf of the Association.

I continue to provide additional social media support for the ALA Facebook page and Instagram account, and via my Twitter account and the #teamala hashtag. I look forward to providing more support and member engagement via social media during my year as Immediate Past President.

### Media Interviews and significant publications

On January 27, 2015 I spoke with a reporter from the Chicago Tribune regarding the changing role of libraries and the ALA Midwinter Meeting.

On February 19, 2015 I was quoted in Politico's Morning Education regarding the FCC and net neutrality.

On March 6, 2015 I spoke with a reporter from the Associated Press regarding the James Patterson & Scholastic Reading Club school library program.

On March 6, 2015 I spoke with a reporter from Entertainment Weekly for an article scheduled to run during National Library Week (April 13-17).

I worked with staff in the Washington Office, PIO, Advocacy, AASL, and Immediate Past President Barbara Stripling on an op-ed related to ESEA for the Knoxville News-Sentinel. The piece ran on March 22, 2015.

On March 27, 2015 I spoke with a reporter from Desert News National Edition for a National Library Week piece.

With significant support from the ALA Washington Office and ALA Public Information Office, the May 5 piece "Long lines for freedom" was published in The Hill.

On May 6, I spoke with reporters from The Washington Post and The Dallas Observer regarding print vs. digital materials and the future of libraries.

On May 21, 2015 I spoke with a reporter from the Chicago Tribune on changing library facilities and library services.

## Travel and Speaking Engagements

February 26-March 2, 2015 I attended and presented the closing keynote at the Alaska Library Association conference in Juneau.

On March 17, 2015 I made a presentation to academic and public librarians and staff at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. I also toured the central branch of Milwaukee Public Library.

March 19-20, 2015, at the invitation of the dean of university libraries, I visited and make a presentation at the University of North Carolina Greensboro University Libraries. I also attended and gave brief remarks at a reception for Gerald Holmes, recipient of the ALA 2014 Achievement in Library Diversity Research Honoree.

March 25-28, 2015 I attended and gave brief remarks at the ACRL 2015 Conference in Portland, OR.

April 1-2, 2015 I attended and gave brief remarks at the REFORMA National Conference V in San Diego, CA.

April 8-10, 2015 I visited and made a presentation in honor of their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the North Carolina Central University School of Library and Information Science in Durham, NC.

April 14-15, 2015 I facilitated a kitchen table conversation and gave brief remarks at the Texas Library Association Annual Conference in Austin, TX.

On April 20, 2015 I made a presentation at Northwestern University Library in Evanston, IL.

From April 22-24, 2015 I attended and facilitated a kitchen table conversation with TN Chapter Councilor Courtney Fuson at the Tennessee Library Association Annual Conference in Memphis, TN.

April 26-28, 2015 I visited with library and alumni groups and spoke at the Annual MLIS Summit at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN. I also spoke at Roseville Public Library at an event organized by Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA).

On April 30, 2015, along with other library and publishing stakeholders met with White House staffers in the West Wing regarding the ConnectED Library Challenge. I also met briefly with the President of the United States, Mr. Barak Obama.

From April 30-May 1, 2015 I facilitated a kitchen table conversation and give brief remarks at the Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference in Midwest City, OK.

From May 3-5, 2015 I represented ALA at National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC.

From May 6-8 I attended "Engaging the Public: Best Practices for Crowdsourcing Across Disciplines" a workshop at the University of Maryland in College Park. The event is a collaboration of Dartmouth College and the University of Maryland, with the support of the National Endowment of the Humanities, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, and the Sloan Foundation.

On May 11, 2015 I met with the Diversity Committee, library leadership team, and made a presentation at the University of Maryland University Libraries.

May 16-19, 2015 I attended and presented the opening keynote at the Acquisitions Institute in Timeberline Lodge, OR.

On May 28, I made a presentation for the SLA Pittsburgh Chapter at the University of Pittsburgh iSchool.

#### Upcoming Travel and Speaking Engagements

On July 8-9 I will keynote the Seventh Session of the China and America Library Practice Forum at Baoshan University, China.

August 15-20 I will attend the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

#### Point of Personal Privilege

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the ALA membership, ALA staff, Penn State University Libraries, library employees, trustees, friends groups, publishers, and supporters for allowing me to serve as your 2014-2015 President. It has been a rewarding year of growth and opportunity to represent our diverse and dynamic profession. I am proud to be a part of an association made great by its members. I would also like to thank my father, Lt. Col. James Young (Ret.) for attending the 2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Chicago to participate in the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration with me.