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## Message from the President

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## **Message from the President**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Frank Allen and the Editorial Board of *The Southeastern Librarian* for the excellent work they have done with our publication. In my opinion, the fact that they have recruited a group of SELA members to provide peer review of the journal is a major accomplishment. Equally impressive is the fact that all four issues of volume fifty are available on the SELA website. This is the first complete volume to be made available to the membership electronically. I am excited by what this offers for the future, and I look forward to other changes Frank and the board are planning.

Our Leadership Conference in Atlanta on May 16 was an excellent meeting. Even with budgets as tight as they are in most libraries, we had one of the larger Leadership Conferences in recent years. It gave me an opportunity to work with a number of members whom I had not met before. One of the most inspiring parts of the day was participation by what - at least to my knowledge - was our first currently enrolled full-time student committee member. Active committee participation by a growing number of SELA members and the beginning of active student participation, are encouraging signs for the health of the association and the library profession in the Southeast. I really appreciate the enthusiasm expressed by both those who were able to attend the conference and those who were limited to electronic participation.

All the work done at the Leadership Conference will go a long way toward making 2003-2004 another successful biennium for SELA. Working together, we can accomplish a lot on behalf of the libraries and the library and information profession in the Southeast even when facing challenging economic times. We look forward to another impressive biennial joint conference as we help the North Carolina Library Association celebrate its One Hundredth Anniversary in 2004. Planning for that conference was a major part of what was done at the conference. The SELA tradition of providing excellent programs at its conferences will continue because of that work.

The SELA Conference Committee held lengthy meetings with representatives of the North Carolina Library Association to discuss plans for the joint conference. It is probable that the conference will be held during the fall, but the exact site has not been determined. The other committees meeting during the conference did a lot of planning that will lead to outstanding conference programs. They have a lot of exciting ideas for programs that they hope, in many cases, to develop in cooperation with their counterparts in NCLA.

I would especially like to thank Lauren Fallon for all her hard work in helping organize the conference. I would also like to thank the members of the Executive Committee - Judith Gibbons, Vice-President/President Elect; Faith Line, Secretary; and Diane Baird, Treasurer - for their help in planning a successful conference.

If you are interested in being active this biennium, it still is not too late. If your name was not on the list of committee appointments that was distributed with the Leadership Conference registration materials and you would like to serve on a committee, please contact me by e-mail at <ahamilton@gasou.edu> or by snail mail at Box 8074, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA 30460-8074. We can use your help whether in person or electronically!

- Ann Hamilton