

American Council of Learned Societies (Margaret Humphreys)

Report on the ACLS annual meeting, 2008

Margaret Humphreys, AAHM Delegate

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies took place at the Hilton Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, PA on May 8-10, 2007. Guests enjoyed an opening reception at the Andy Warhol museum hosted by VisitPittsburgh. Informal sessions on "Student Representation in Learned Societies" and "Barriers to International Scholarship" were held that evening.

The Board of Directors met on May 8. The Council met on May 9. At the Council meeting, Charlotte Kuh, treasurer of the ACLS Board of Directors, and Herb Mann, chair of the Investment Committee, reported on ACLS finances. Voting members (Delegates of the member societies and members of the Board of Directors) approved the ACLS budget for FY09 and the new elections to the Board:

Also by vote of the Council, the Rhetoric Society of America (RSA) was admitted as ACLS's 70th member society. The RSA represents over 1,000 scholars and teachers of rhetoric, including individuals working in fields such as composition studies, English, communication, philosophy, linguistics, history, political science, sociology, and visual arts. In her report, Pauline Yu discussed the global interest in the workings of higher education in the US and the role of ACLS and its member societies in maintaining the dynamism of the American academy.

As in recent years, the Council meeting concluded with a presentation by current ACLS Fellows on "Emerging Themes and Methods of Humanities Research." This year's speakers were Jonathan Levy, Early Career Fellowship Program, 2007, 2008, doctoral candidate in history, University of Chicago; Tina Gianguitto, Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship, 2008, assistant professor of liberal arts and international studies, Colorado School of Mines; and Louise Meintjes, Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars, 2007, associate professor of music and cultural anthropology (joint position), Duke University.

Bruce Cole, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, spoke at luncheon.

The topic of this year's program session was "Learned Societies and the Future of Publishing: When will the Internet revolution arrive?" The panelists were Peter Bol, Charles H. Carswell Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University; Donald Brenneis, professor of anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz; James Chandler, Barbara E. & Richard J. Franke Professor of English, University of Chicago; Michael Keller, Ida M. Green University Librarian, Stanford University; and Tara McPherson, associate professor of cinema and critical studies, University of Southern California. The session, moderated by James O'Donnell, provost, Georgetown University, and secretary, ACLS Board of Directors, included questions from the floor.

In the evening, the 2008 Haskins Prize Lecture was delivered by Theodor Meron, appeals judge and former president, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), and Charles L. Denison Professor of Law Emeritus and Judicial Fellow, New York University Law School. The lecture will be published in the ACLS *Occasional Papers* Series. The Conference of Administrative Officers held their spring meeting on May 10.

(Report extracted from meeting summary on ACLS website, www.acls.org)