Gaetz: Editorial Introduction: Telling Stories

Editorial Introduction: Telling Stories

Ivan Gaetz (<u>igaetz@regis.edu</u>) General Editor, *Collaborative Librarianship*

This issue marks the start of Collaborative Librarianship's third year of publication. The articles presented here reveal the great richness of creative thought moving librarians to develop intriguing and exciting ways of working together and of reaching out to persons and groups outside the profession of librarianship. Description and analysis of student-library partnerships in Florida show how a "participatory culture" can be created. A rejuvenated movement in "library entrepreneurship" taking hold in North Carolina not only rests on the principles of collaboration, but has emerged, as the authors detail, through an effective, fully collaborative planning process. Certain partnership-based transformations in that staple of library services, reference work, are described in a special bio-medical library in Minnesota and in a large pubic library in California. Perhaps the most concentrated and dramatic locus of collaboration is found in the good work of consortia, as borne out in our conversation with Tim Cherubini, a leader in LYRASIS and member of our Advisory Board.

March 2011 also marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps with the signing of the legislation by President Kennedy on March 1, 1961. Despite its troubles and threats over the years, the Peace Corps has thrived in countries around the world, contributing in myriad ways to community development and more broadly to the common good. In certain respects, the Peace Corps may be regarded as a paragon of collaboration, drawing together workers in many fields to accomplish amazing things. We present in this issue a substantial article by Janet Lee, a team member of Collaborative Librarianship no less, on a remarkable project of creating a children's library in Ethiopia – a project that likely would not have come about were it not for

the relationships built and nurtured through the Peace Corps over a period of more than 30 years.

Rounding out this issue, Nicole Engard's column and two insightful book reviews add further to the stock of stories we tell on collaboration. And finally, keep current with collaborative initiatives by monitoring our "News" section that is updated several times each week. Please consider contributing news items by contacting one of our "News" editors, Valerie Horton (vhorton@clicweb.org), Joseph Kraus (joseph.kraus@du.edu) or Robin Hastings (robin.hastings@gmail.com).

Not only is it important to tell these stories (Sly's point in his opinion piece about marketing), it is hoped they will inspire librarians to new heights in collaboration.

