

## First Student From American University Interns At FNIC

by Natalie Updegrave Partridge  
Food and Nutrition Information  
Center, NAL

FNIC 101: (3 graduate credits) Work in the Food and Nutrition Information Center located at the National Agricultural Library. Learn about resources in food and nutrition, including print, audiovisual, and electronic sources. Create a publication listing the most up-to-date nutrition books. Try nutrition software programs. Assist with building databases of resources. Number of students: 1.

Does this sound like an ideal course? Would you sign up to take it? Alisa Green is doing just that! Alisa, a graduate student in the Health Fitness Management Program at American University, is working at NAL's Food and Nutrition Information Center during the spring semester. Alisa is the first American University student to work at FNIC, and the first student ever to work at FNIC for college credit!

Alisa decided to pursue an internship at FNIC because she wanted to learn more about nutrition, especially access to nutrition information and resources. In the Health Fitness Management program Alisa took the required nutrition course, but wanted more. Her instructor, Dr. Anastasia Snelling, who knew about FNIC's work with students, suggested that she work at FNIC for credit. Alisa contacted FNIC staff and arranged to start her internship in January. Alisa will work at FNIC for 16 hours per week and earn three graduate credits that will count as an elective course. Alisa felt that working at FNIC was "one of the best ways to get more experience in nutrition." She also added, "And besides I really like libraries because my mom is a librarian."

While at FNIC, Alisa's major pro-

ject is to update the *Nutri-Topics* on "Sensible Nutrition." *Nutri-Topics* is a series of resource lists produced by FNIC. Each *Nutri-Topics* features a different nutrition subject area. The "Sensible Nutrition" *Nutri-Topics* lists reputable consumer books, newsletters, and brochures on basic nutrition, nutrition information, and healthy cookery.

During her internship at FNIC, Alisa is also helping to maintain FNIC's in-house databases of resources, answer FNIC reference requests, write directions for food and nutrition software programs, and test directions for accessing electronic sources of information. She is also creating a display featuring the new food label in the FNIC lobby area.

In addition to her work at FNIC, Alisa is currently working at The National Center for Health Fitness at The American University and completing the courses needed for her degree.

After finishing her internship at FNIC in April, Alisa will go to Cincinnati to complete an internship in community health promotion at the American Heart Association to fulfill requirements for graduation. She will graduate with an M.S. in Health Fitness Management in August. When asked

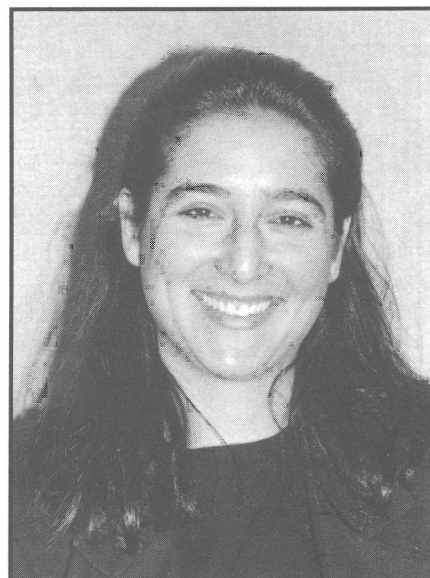
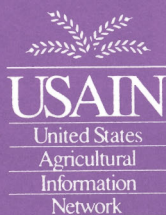


photo: J. Swab

Alisa Green

what she hopes to gain from her work at FNIC, Alisa replied "more exposure to information about nutrition resources, how to use library information systems, and the opportunity to do a publication." She hopes to "widen her horizons, find out what is out there, and come back and use FNIC as a resource in the future."



## USAIN National Conference Report

by Dana W. R. Boden  
Assistant Professor  
C. Y. Thompson Library  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Photographs by Joseph N. Swab, NAL

The Third National Conference of the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) was held at Auburn, Alabama, Thursday through Saturday, October 28-30, 1993. The conference theme was "Rural Informa-

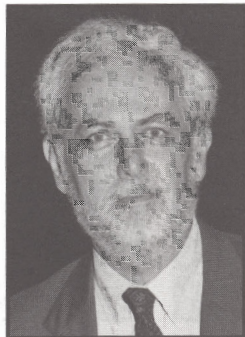
tion at the Crossroads: Issues and Opportunities," with sub-themes each day of the conference. The conference attracted approximately a hundred attendees from the National Agricultural Library, land-grant institutions, federal agencies, corporations, other libraries, and vendors.

### Conference Opening

The Conference opened with a welcoming session chaired by USAIN President Martha Alexander and



**Martha Alexander**  
President  
Univ. of Missouri



**Richard Rohrer**  
Past President  
Univ. of Minnesota



**Beverlee French**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
U. California, Davis

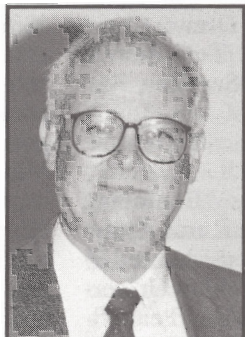


**Robyn Frank**  
NAL/USAIN Liaison  
NAL

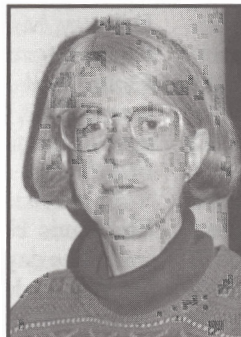


**Kent Hendrickson**  
Univ. of Nebraska

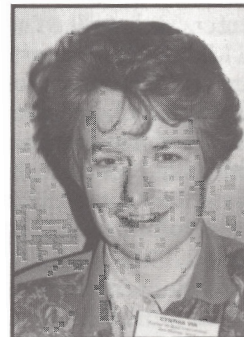
photo courtesy K. Hendrickson



**Brice Hobrock**  
Kansas St. Univ.



**Barbara McBride**  
Food Marketing  
Institute, D.C.



**Cynthia Via**  
Pioneer Hi-Bred In-  
ternational, Inc., IA

## 1993-94 United States Agricultural Information Network Executive Council

remarks by Dr. William Highfill, Director of the Auburn University Library; Dr. Paul Parks, Auburn University Provost; Ms. JoAnn DeVries, Program Chair, University of Minnesota; and Ms. Sheri Downer, Local Arrangements Chair, Auburn University. Ms. Martha Alexander also hosted a breakfast for new USAIN members, and exhibits opened with exhibitions by Auburn University Office of Information and Research; BellSouth; CAB International; the National Agricultural Library and NAL's Plant Genome Data and Information Center; SilverPlatter; and SOLINET. Past USAIN President, Mr. Richard Rohrer, University of Minnesota, was moderator at an opening luncheon for the general membership, at which the principal speaker was Mr. Sam Taylor, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Small Community and Rural Development, USDA Farmer's Home Administration.

Mr. Taylor's address, "USDA and

Communications with Rural America," concerned goals, among them, striving for efficiency and avoiding duplication. He viewed Secretary of Agriculture Espy's primary goal in this area to be the revitalization of small farmers and small family farms. Mr. Taylor fielded some pointed questions from the audience, which were not easily answered.

### Thursday

Thursday's theme, "Defining Rural Information Issues," was supported by two sessions moderated by Mr. Kent Hendrickson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Ms. Robyn Frank, National Agricultural Library. Speakers were: Dr. Cornelia Flora, Head of the Department of Rural Sociology at Virginia Tech (soon to start a position at the North Central Rural Development Center at Iowa State University); Dr. Janet Poley, Deputy Administrator, Communication, Information and Technology, USDA Extension Service

[since moved to Agricultural Satellite Corporation, (AG\*SAT) Lincoln, Nebraska]; and Ms. Melanie Gardner, Rural Information Center, National Agricultural Library.

Dr. Flora spoke on "Rural American and Global Restructuring: the Importance of Social Infrastructure." She noted that the great percentage of the rural poor are working poor. Among the interesting points she made was her recommendation of a book on rural poverty written by Cynthia Duncan.

Dr. Poley's topic was "Americans Communicating Electronically." She recognized the instrumental role library, as well as extension, people have in carrying this capability forward. She reported that there are ten working groups in this area; they are not just Washington-based, and desire more in-put from across the nation. She noted the growing concern with the questions of access for the information haves and have-nots. She realized that libraries are often better located than



William Highfill



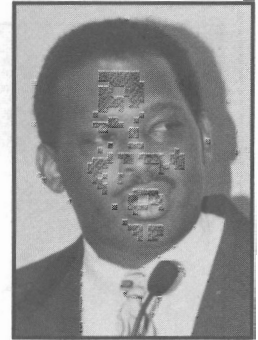
Paul Parks



JoAnn DeVries



Sheri Downer



Sam Taylor

extension offices to address concerns. She noted both are moving from being centers with walls to networks.

Ms. Gardner reported on "Information and Resources for Rural Areas." Highlights of her presentation were: the Rural Information Center (RIC) within NAL deals with anything rural-related, not just agricultural issues; the Rural Information Center Health Service (RICHS) is also within the RIC's direction; and rural development is a major point of Secretary Espy's revamping of USDA.

Also on Thursday, the USAIN Committee and Interest Group Meetings were held. These are important since USAIN is a young organization; along with the USAIN Executive Council, these groups addressed not only the business of the particular committee or interest group, but also the direction USAIN should take in the future. Committees meeting at USAIN were: Legislative & Government, Ms. Jan Olsen, Chair; Membership, Ms. Eleanor Mathews, Chair; Nominating, Mr. Kent Hendrickson, Chair; Telecommunications & Networking, Mr. John Ulmschneider, Chair. Interest Group meetings included: AGRICOLA, Ms. Anita Bat-

tiste, Chair; Collection Management, Ms. Peggy Johnson, Chair; Document Delivery, Ms. Margaret Drews, Chair; Rural Information, Ms. Toni Powell, Chair; and Technical Services, Ms. Amy Paster, Chair.

### Friday

Friday's theme was "Exploring Electronic Highways to Rural America." The day's sessions, moderated by Dr. William Highfill of Auburn University and Ms. Helen Smith of Pennsylvania State University, consisted of reports on activities libraries or extension personnel have carried out to make information available, especially electronically, and on developments in the world of communications. This included a report, by Dr. James Summers, Director, Office of Evaluation Studies, University Extension, University of Missouri, on "Evaluation of a Pilot Test to Produce and Distribute the *Journal of Extension* Electronically." Dr. John Kane, Coordinator of the Youth Development Information Center (YDIC) at NAL, gave a report entitled, "The Child, Youth, and Family Education and Research Network [CYFERNET]: Some Preliminary Steps in Networking for Extension."

[See also the report on YDIC and CYFERNET in *ALIN* May/June 1992, 18(5/6):10-12.]

The USAIN participants also heard two other speakers on Friday, one corporate and the other from the federal government. Mr. Stephen Barreca, Manager of the Technology Forecasting Group at BellSouth spoke on "Emerging Communication Technologies." Mr. Larry Williams, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary, National Telecommunications Information Administration spoke on "Government and the Superhighway." Both seemed unaware that those they were addressing were information professionals and aware of current developments in the electronic information field.

At a special session on Friday, Dr. Brice Hobrock, Dean of Libraries, Kansas State University, presented the report developed by USAIN's preservation group: "A National Preservation Program for Agricultural Literature." Copies were distributed to participants who will be taking them home to their institutions for further discussion prior to adoption as the national program.



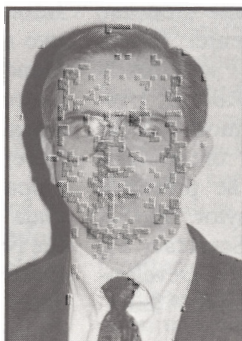
Cornelia Flora



Janet Poley



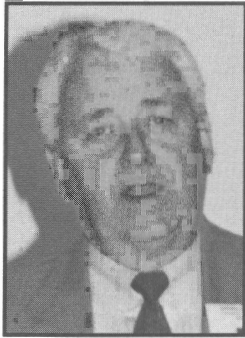
Melanie Gardner



Stephen Barreca



Helen Smith



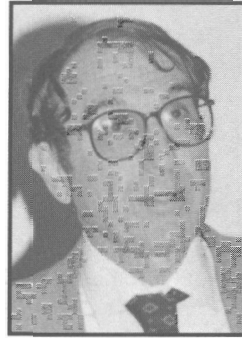
James Summers



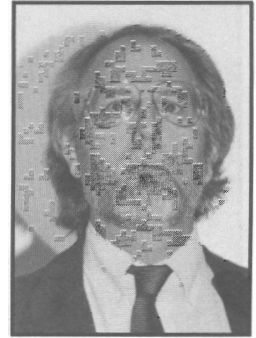
John Kane



Larry Williams



Irwin Weintraub



Connor Bailey

### Saturday

The theme the last day of the USAIN Conference was "Opportunities for Meeting Rural Needs." The first morning session moderated by Mr. Irwin Weintraub, Rutgers University, featured speakers addressing issues related to problems faced by Black farmers and landowners, and ways better access to information may help them make more informed decisions and utilize current laws rather than be taken advantage of by those who use legalese. Speakers from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Auburn University, and their topics were: Dr. Connor Bailey, "Environmental Racism," and Dr. James Novak, "Profitable and Environmentally Sound Agriculture: A Sustainable Approach to the Future." Speakers from the George Washington Carver Agricultural Experiment Station, Tuskegee University, and their topics were: Dr. Robert Zabawa, "The Age Factor and Black Land Ownership," and Dr. George Paris, "Black Farmers."

Next, were three concurrent sessions where USAIN members presented chosen contributed papers on "issues and projects involving services

to rural communities."

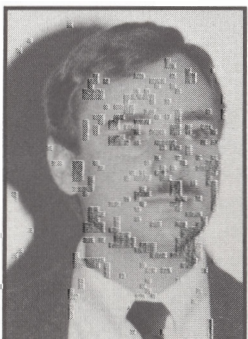
In a session moderated by Ms. Elizabeth Fuseler of Colorado State University, three papers were presented and discussed. Ms. Carol Graham Covey and Ms. Jeanne Stierman of Western Illinois University presented "Building a Rural Information Collection at a Non-Land Grant University" which also described how access has been provided to the targeted community and expanded beyond that original community. Mr. Harvey R. Gover of Washington State University at Tri-Cities presented "User Accessed AGRICOLA Made Available to a Branch Campus AG Program via the Internet and FirstSearch." In the third paper, Mr. Gregory Lawrence of Cornell University covered the topic, "Information Poor, Information Rich: Rural America and the Internet."

A second session, moderated by Ms. Eleanor Mathews of Iowa State University, contributed two papers demonstrating additional linkage between rural America and the National Agricultural Library. Ms. Peggy Beavers of NAL and Mr. Ted Sibia of the University of California, Davis, presented "Issues in Providing Information to Rural and Remote Constituencies" and Mr.

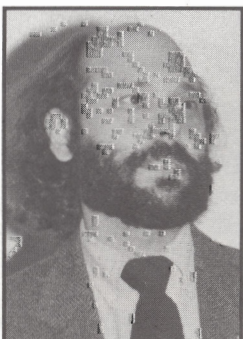
Gabriel Hegyes presented "Sustainable Agriculture Network: An Overview." [See also Hegyes article in the October-December 1993 *ALIN*, 19(10-12):6.]

The third session, moderated by Ms. Dana Boden, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, consisted of two presentations. The first, "Information Literacy for Extension Specialists" by Ms. Jodee Kawasaki of Montana State University (MSU), covered research done for a Master's thesis on the information literacy skills of Extension Specialists in the MSU service region. The second, "Meeting the Information Needs of the Front Line Information Providers," presented by Ms. Patricia Wilson of the University of Kentucky Agriculture Library, was on the organization, setup, and delivery of an in-service training workshop for extension agents in Kentucky, "Using the Library at a Distance."

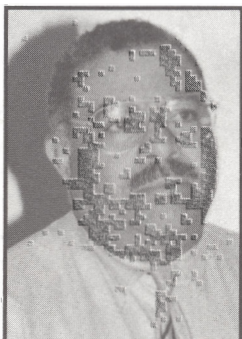
The afternoon session, moderated by Ms. Amy Pastor of Pennsylvania State University, highlighted information provision and communication with people in rural areas. The three speakers addressed trends and anticipated developments in this subject area. Dr. Ann E. Thompson, Assoc-



James Novak



Robert Zabawa



George Paris



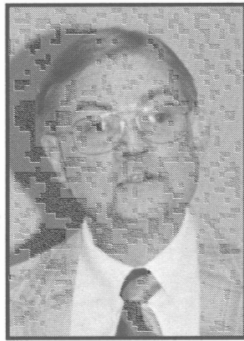
Elizabeth Fuseler



Carol Graham Covey



Jeanne Stierman



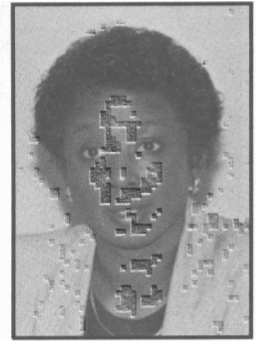
Harvey Gover



Gregory Lawrence



Eleanor Mathews



Peggy Beavers

iate Provost and Vice-President for Extension and Director Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, Auburn University, covered "University Outreach in the 21st Century." Ms. Antoinette P. Powell, Director, Agriculture Library, University of Kentucky, in "Information to the People: Cooperation Between the Library and Agricultural Extension," stated that by 1995 the University of Kentucky will get out of the print business in Extension. All those leaflets, bulletins, and reports generated by the Extension Service in Kentucky will be distributed electronically to county extension offices, and printed only when appropriate for the client's request.

Concluding the session and the conference, Ms. Willonla Goers, Director, Software Services and Broadcast Information, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, gave a paper entitled, "Beam Me Up Scottie!: New Trends in Pioneer Hi-Bred International's Communications with Rural America."

#### Other Events

As conferences often do, this one also gave the opportunity to meet and talk with vendors who serve the agricultural information field. One of these,

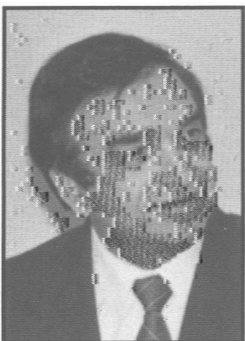
SilverPlatter, was demonstrating new search software using Windows; another, CAB International, hosted a breakfast for invited customers on Friday, where participants learned of new developments, and best of all were given the opportunity to give ideas and suggestions directly to CABI's representative, Ms. Andrea Powell.

At the USAIN Business Meeting a topic of much concern was the reorganization of the USDA and what it may mean for the National Agricultural Library. NAL was directed to merge with three other agencies to form the Agricultural Research and Education Service (ARES). Much support had come forth, and more was expressed at the conference, for NAL keeping its name and remaining a library and clearly identifiable. The proposal was in Secretary of Agriculture Espy's hands at the time of the conference. USAIN encouraged interested members to send their opinions on the issue to Secretary Espy.

A highlight of the conference was a Friday bus trip to Tuskegee University for a tour and reception hosted by Ms. Annie King, retired Head Librarian, Tuskegee University Libraries, and head of the National Sweetpotato In-

formation Center (NSPIC). The tour included the George Washington Carver Museum; the NASA-Tuskegee University Research Center for Food Production for Space Missions, Dr. D. Mortley, host; the Plant Molecular and Cellular Genetics Laboratory, Dr. C.S. Prakash, host; the Center for Research on Diet, Lifestyle, and Cardiovascular Disease in Rural Black Alabamians, Dr. R.D. Pace, host; and NSPIC, Ms. King and Ms. Sibyl Caldwell, hosts. Prior to the reception, held at NSPIC, several sweet potato facts and food samples were highlighted and served. Ms. King moderated a program at which USAIN was welcomed by Dr. Walter Hill, Dean, School of Agriculture and Home Economics, Dr. William Lester, Provost, Tuskegee University, and Mrs. Edna Williams, Head Librarian, Tuskegee University Libraries.

Another highlight of the conference was the hospitality of the Auburn University hosts. The Hotel and Conference Center, right across the street from the university's main library, was excellent. On Thursday evening, the A.U. Libraries hosted a reception at the conference center and proudly gave tours of the recently remodeled



Ted Sibia



Gabriel Hegyes



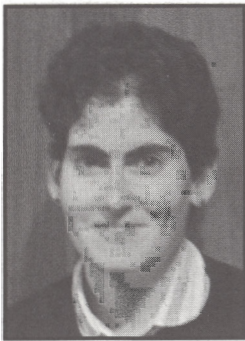
Dana Boden



Jodee Kawasaki



Patricia Wilson



Amy Pastor



Ann E. Thompson



Antoinette P. Powell



Willona Goers

and expanded main library. On Friday evening (Halloween weekend) all were encouraged to attend an annual campus event sponsored by the College of Architecture, where elaborately carved pumpkins were on display and had been judged and awarded prizes. On Saturday evening, the A.U. Libraries again played host with barbecue, jazz entertainment, and an instructional session on the correct way to do a "WAR EAGLE!!" cry.

A quite informative and enjoyable conference.

[Joseph N. Swab, *ALIN* Editor, NAL, contributed to this report.]



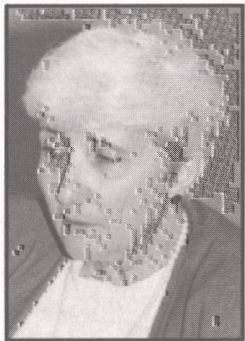
Auburn University Hotel & Conference Center



Jan Olsen



John Ulmschneider



Anita Battiste



Margaret Drews

### USAIN Committee & Interest Group Chairs\*

**Legislative & Government:** Jan Olsen, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

**Membership:** Eleanor Mathews, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

**Nominating:** Kent Hendrickson, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE

**Program Planning:** JoAnn DeVries, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

**Telecommunications and Networking:** John Ulmschneider, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

**AGRICOLA:** Anita Battiste, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL  
**Collection Development:** Chair vacant.

**Document Delivery:** Margaret Drews, Cargill, Minneapolis, MN

**Rural Information:** Antoinette Powell, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Technical Services:** Amy Pastor, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

\* Photos of other chairpersons appear earlier in the USAIN article.