R. Arvid Nelsen

Guest Editor's Note

THIS ISSUE ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE a small piece of the 50th RBMS/ACRL Preconference, held last June 17–20, 2009 in Charlottesville, Virginia. Many people enthusiastically contributed to this 50th event, representing RBMS committees and ACRL and including former members we had not seen for some time. In addition to plenary speakers, many sessions featured individuals providing special congratulations or historical remarks, and we had a wide variety of short programs including seminars, discussion sessions, short papers, and a record four optional workshops.

All this is a way of saying how much content we had to work with this year. I am grateful to everyone who participated in the event and to everyone who answered the call for materials to publish in this volume of *RBM*. I was overwhelmed by the response and regret that we had room for only five of the contributed pieces. Much of the content from the preconference, however, can be found on the RBMS Web site. Interested people can listen to most plenary sessions and one seminar online. Also available are many slide presentations and some transcripts of talks. These electronic files can be found online at: <http://rbms.info/conferences/preconfdocs/2009/2009docs.shtml>.

It was a pleasure to serve as Program Chair for this special Preconference. I attended my first Preconference and Annual Meeting of ALA in 2003 and was immediately welcomed to the section and to committee work. A mere four years later, at my fifth Preconference, I was asked to undertake this responsibility. It was an honor ... a terrifying honor. Nevertheless, one I could not refuse and I wish to thank everyone who helped the in the planning process, on site, and in the follow-up. Thank you.