Recently went to the Fiesole Retreat which every four years is in Italy. I have a confession to make. I love pasta. And there is no pasta anywhere that tastes as good as the pasta in Italy. I went on a diet so that I could eat all the pasta I wanted for five days. And that’s exactly what I did! And while I was dieting, I had plenty of time to work on this issue of *ATG* which is edited by the energetic Forrest Link with the theme The Grass Really is Sometimes Greener. Forrest enlisted contributions from librarians who had become vendors, and vendors who had become librarians, and every which way. It was truly fascinating to read all about the experiences of Corey Seaman, Valerie Tucci, Kate Kosturski, Laura Harris, Amira Aaron, and Scott Smith. And many of these authors have also provided a people profile so we can learn even more about them. Our interviews in this issue are with Leslie Straus, Max Phua, and Dr. Mehdi Khosrow-Pour, with accompanying publisher profiles for SkyRiver Technology Solutions and IGI Global.

Leila Salisbury writes a university press column from a different perspective, we have a report on the Association of Subscription Agents (ASA) annual conference from Anthony Watkinson, and more reports from the 31st Annual Charleston Conference written by conference attendees that Ramune Kubilius has compiled. There is another installment of the Richard Abel story, a discussion of the Internet vis-à-vis libraries, tales of a boy and a tribal drum, and there’s even something about dance. Bob Nardini tells of visiting his old library school, Jesse Holden talks about professional ethics, and Tinker Massey has been thinking, “What Are We About?” Greg Tananbaum went to the Paris of the plains for the SPARC meeting, while Tom Leonhardt was busy reading for *Foreword Magazine*, and Dennis Brunning has much to say about *Britannica*. And, of course, there is much, much more, so keep reading!

Meanwhile, back at *ATG* headquarters, it’s supper time. I need to diet to get over the pasta but maybe tomorrow! See y’all soon! Yr. Ed. 🍝

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**Letters to the Editor**

Send letters to <kstrach@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: *Against the Grain*, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the *ATG* Homepage at [http://www.against-the-grain.com](http://www.against-the-grain.com).

**Dear Editor:**

I really think I cannot participate as a conference director anymore. My time before retirement is getting shorter and my to-do list is getting longer. Much as I have loved being involved in the Charleston Conference, it is time to say farewell.

As I mentioned when I saw you at Midwinter, Norton died in December. This has thrown my life head over heels and my mind has been mushy ever since, although it seems to be improving, and I have an incredible number of things to pay attention to.

My last day will be Feb. 29, although I will maintain my email address and will have access to my office for awhile. It has been a wonderful experience knowing and working with all the conference directors and attending the conferences since the 1980s.

I wish you all the best.

Heather Miller
<hmiller@albany.edu> 🍝

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**AGAINT THE GRAIN DEADLINES**

**VOLUME 24 — 2012-2013**

**2012 Events**  
**Issue**  
**Ad Reservation Camera-Ready**

- ALA Annual  
  June 2012  
  04/05/12  
  04/26/12

- Reference Publishing  
  September 2012  
  06/22/12  
  07/13/12

- Charleston Conference  
  November 2012  
  08/22/12  
  09/12/12

- ALA Midwinter  
  11/09/12  
  11/30/12

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

Toni Nix <justwrite@lowcountry.com>; Phone: 843-835-8604; Fax: 843-835-3572;  
USPS Address: P.O. Box 412, Cottageville, SC 29435; FedEx/UPS ship to: 398 Crab Apple Lane, Ridgeville, SC 29472. 🍝