

Southern Expressions

Alabama Florida Georgia Mississippi Puerto Rico South Carolina Tennessee

Volume 16, Number 1, Winter 2000

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Southern Chapter

<http://www.uab.edu/lister/scmla>

Next reporting deadline

March 15th, 2000

Next Publication Date

April 17th, 2000

Message from the Chair

Time flies. Even though it seems like we were meeting in Greenville yesterday, there are times when it seems like ancient history.

Well, the dust has settled, and I'm glad to report that the annual conference was a resounding success. Fay Towell did a wonderful job of hosting the meeting, and Greenville provided a beautiful small-town atmosphere complete with a charming main street. Conference evaluations indicated that we had an above average to outstanding educational program and overall conference. The keynote speaker challenged us to think about what we do in our jobs. Mary Ellen Bates discussed the importance of librarians selling our skill set, and ways to respond to administrators questioning the need for libraries when everything is going digital. Conference participants networked, renewed old relationships, and formed new ones. See the SC/MLA web page for highlights (with photos) of the annual meeting in Greenville.



One of the things I've learned is that the SC/MLA Board and committees contribute a great deal of time and effort to strengthen our chapter. I want to build on our personal resources to provide a stronger foundation for our association as we move into the new millennium.

At the "red eye" board meeting on Tuesday morning after the conference, I challenged members to critically reflect on improving the way our chapter does business. Our current chapter management can be complex, and it's not always clear who does what, with overlapping spheres of responsibility. Therefore, I asked the board (and now you) to consider the pros and cons of establishing a central office that would provide a one-stop management, as well as one primary information source, for members. Under a part-time paid executive director, we could consolidate the duties of bookkeeper, database manager, recording secretary, parliamentarian, public relations, central mailings, and similar activities.

So how did the board react? Surprise. Caution. Mixed reactions, both positive and negative. The first question that came up was whether any other chapter has an executive director (I was told that one does). Linda Garr Markwell volunteered to check on what the other chapters are doing and report back to the Board. Some Board members liked the idea, and others were opposed. Another expressed the philosophy that no position within our chapter should be paid, but that we should remain purely volunteer. I can't argue with that philosophical position. I ask only that you and the

(continued on p.5)

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Southern Expressions

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Statements and opinions expressed in *Southern Expressions* do not necessarily represent the official position of its co-editors or the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association. Contributions may be edited for brevity, clarity, or conformity to style. Final decision on the content of *Southern Expressions* shall be left to the discretion of the co-Editors with the advice of the Communications Committee of the Southern Chapter/Medical Library Association.

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Around the South

Tennessee Electronic Library

The Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) is here!

On September 30, 1999, the State of Tennessee signed a contract with the Gale Group to offer InfoTrac to all school, public, academic, and not-for-profit special libraries in the state of Tennessee. For more information, Tennessee libraries go to URL <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib>.

All eligible libraries will have free access to the following databases:

- Expanded Academic ASAP (2,000 periodicals, 50% full text)
- General Reference Gold (1,100 periodicals, 64% full text, plus selected reference books and full-text access to 40,000 newspaper articles)
- National Newspaper Index (indexes only to Christian Science Monitor, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times)
- Health Reference Center-Academic (227 health and medical periodicals, 180 full text, plus health related articles from over 1,500 general interest periodicals)
- Business and Company ProFile ASAP (1,335 business journals, 60% full text)
- Informe! (58 most popular magazines in Spanish, 69% full text)
- InfoTrac Kids (K-6) Edition (35 periodicals, all full text, plus selected newspapers and reference books)
- InfoTrac Junior (Junior High and Middle School) Edition (60 periodicals, 83% full text, plus selected newspapers and reference books)
- InfoTrac Student (High School) Edition (230 periodicals, 80% full text, plus selected reference books and maps)
- DISCovering Authors (biographical and critical information on 392 of the most studied authors in North American curricula)
- What Do I Read Next? (lists 78,566 recommended titles, 39,254 of which have narrative summaries)
- And more, including a Total Access interface that allows users to simultaneously search across Gale Group databases and specifically identified web sites.

Submitted by Jan T. Orick

Magnolia Regional Medical Center

Marcia Ann Glisson, Magnolia Regional Medical Center, Corinth, MS medical librarian was acknowledged by the authors for her expert review of a two part article that was published in the April and June 1999 issues of The Nurse Practitioner. These articles were written by Marcia's son, James Glisson and others. He was a PharmD at the time and is currently attending medical school, 2nd year, at the Univ. of Miss. Medical Center. (Mother and son are quite proud of this honor.)

Magnolia Regional Health Center Library will open a Consumer Health Library in 2000 at the Magnolia Community Service Complex and Marcia Ann will be librarian for this service as well as the medical library. (Marcia Ann has been with Magnolia for over 20 years as medical librarian.)

Submitted by Marcia Ann Glisson

MLA Board Appoints Mentor Program Task Force

At the February 1999 meeting, the Board of Directors voted to appoint a task force to define and develop a unified, comprehensive concept of mentoring within MLA.

Members of the 1999-2001 MLA Mentor Program Task Force are: Craig Haynes, Chair; Ysabel Bertolucci, Kelly McManus, Cheryl Rae Dee, Julia Kochi, Mary F. Prottzman, Diane Wolf, Diane Schwartz, Board Liaison and Kate Corcoran, Staff Liaison.

Since their appointment, the Task Force has retrieved and reviewed websites and information on various mentor programs throughout the United States. The Task Force will continue its review, but would also be very interested in the ideas, suggestions, expectations of the membership.

For this reason, the Task Force has set-up a listserv: mla-mentor-l@ucsd.edu and invites interested members to subscribe, lurk, and post ideas and comments as appropriate. Or members may send comments directly to Craig Haynes, chaynes@ucsd.edu.

The Task Force is specifically interested in receiving answers to the following questions:

1. What services and features would you like to have implemented in the ideal MLA Mentor Program ?
2. If MLA is successful in launching a Mentor Program with services and features which are of value to you, would you participate either as a mentor or a mentee?
3. How much time would you be able to commit to participation in a Mentor Program?

The MLA Mentor Task Force looks forward to working on this project and strongly urges all members to assist in the design and development of a program which will meet the needs of the membership.

Submitted by Craig Haynes

Job Announcement

Georgetown University would like to announce three available positions at their Medical Center Library. They are recruiting for an assistant director - education services, a technical services/automated systems librarian, and a web development specialist. For more detailed information about these positions, please visit their website at:

<http://www.dml.georgetown.edu/library/jobs/>

Submitted by Jane L. Blumenthal

Personals

Lisa Rains Russell Retires

A native of Atlanta, Russell received her undergraduate and Masters degrees from The University of Alabama. She served as a graduate assistant under Barbara Doughty in the Health Sciences Library while completing her Masters. After graduation she worked as a research assistant in the Graduate Program in Hospital and Health Administration at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. She served as Director of the Medical Library at Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan prior to joining CCHS in January 1983.

Throughout her career, Russell has been active in the Medical Library Association (MLA), Southern Chapter of MLA (SC/MLA), Alabama Health Libraries Association (ALHeLA), and Alabama Library Association. In addition to numerous committee positions, she has served as president of ALHeLA, secretary/treasurer of SC/MLA, and president of both the Tuscaloosa Health Sciences Library Association and the Jefferson County Hospital Librarians Association. She is currently serving her second double term as treasurer of ALHeLA and is president-elect of the Library School Association, the alumni support group for the School of Library and Information Studies at UA.

Russell has made presentations at national, regional, and state conferences and has published articles in *Alabama Medicine*, *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, and *Medical Reference Services Quarterly*. In 1990-92 she served as co-project director of "Introducing Family Practice Physicians in Alabama to Online Searching and Retrieval of Information Resources," which was funded by a \$25,000 grant from the National Library of Medicine.

Although Russell will miss daily involvement in library operations, she plans to continue work in development of the Clinical Digital Libraries Project under the direction of Steven MacCall, Ph.D., in the School of Library and Information Studies. She is an active member of the Kiwanis Club and was recently elected an elder at First Presbyterian Church. Also on her agenda are traveling with her husband James, relaxing, and spending as much time as possible with her four-year-old niece Taylor, who lives in Tallahassee, Florida.

Submitted by Martha Cook

USC Welcomes New Circulation Librarian

The School of Medicine Library in Columbia SC welcomes Victor Jenkinson as its new Circulation Librarian. Victor is a graduate of the USC College of Library and Information Science and was formerly the evening Circulation Coordinator at the USC Thomas Cooper Library.

Submitted by Karen Rosati

New Director at University of South Carolina School of Medicine

The search process for a new Director of the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Library has successfully concluded. We are pleased to announce that Ruth Riley will assume the position in January, 2000. Ms. Riley did her undergraduate work at the University of Kansas and earned the Master of Science degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois. Her experiential background includes positions as Information Services Librarian at the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library at the University of Missouri and Coordinator of the Information Management Education and Database Services at the Alfred Taubman Medical Library at the University of Michigan. Since 1994 she has served as Associate Director of the Library at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She is a member of a number of professional organizations including MLA, South Central Chapter/MLA and the Arkansas Library Association. The faculty and staff at USC welcome Ruth and look forward to her leadership as we move into the new millennium.

Submitted by Karen W. Rosati

Frances Verble Gavel Presentation

The following is a transcript of the gavel presentation speech given by Lois Bellamy, a librarian at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Library and Biocommunications Center in Memphis. The gavel was presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association, held Monday, October 19, 1999 in Greenville, SC.

Just about a year ago, Frances Verble died as a consequence of an aneurysm. Frances had worked in the Health Sciences Library at UT Memphis for 20 years as our cataloger.

She was a long-time Southern Chapter member and most recently Chair of the Governmental Relations Committee. She was very interested in all things political and kept a close eye on matters that affected libraries and librarianship. She was always urging all of us at UT and perhaps many of you to write and call our congressional representatives and senators any time an issue arose that affected the library community.

It is, therefore, fitting that the Southern Chapter remembers her with this gavel to be passed from outgoing president to incoming president. I hope that every time you hear the crack of the Frances Verble gavel, it will remind you to be politically active for your profession.

Message from the Chair -- *continued from p.1*

Board consider the idea. Let the Board members know what you think.

How well this concept would work depends on the model and the person serving as executive director. I envision the executive director as a long-standing member, perhaps someone who has retired or will shortly retire. In short, a person who has a history within the Southern Chapter and who evidently cares about it, as we do. Several people might qualify and could run the chapter office from their home. Funding could be provided by money generated from each annual meeting. This person would support all of the committees and serve at the pleasure of the Board. An RFP would need to be developed clearly outlining expectations, and providing an equal opportunity for the application. Specific details are not as critical at this point as considering the concept. The benefits could be significant.

Other goals that I outlined for the year include facilitating improved communication via the newsletter, discussion lists, web page, networking, and using our money wisely to support the professions and our field. At the last Board meeting, we agreed to investigate investing in a CD to earn interest for a rainy day fund. The Board needs to hear from you on ways extra money could be spent. You are our greatest asset and I encourage your input.

I would also like to see SC increase public relations activities. For example, we should be sending press releases to the CEOs letting them know of the contributions of SC members from their institutions.

The Board is considering meeting jointly in 2001 in New Orleans with the South Central and Mid-Continental Chapters. We are also considering meeting in Puerto Rico in 2002.

As you may know, Tom Williams and Lynn Fortney are gearing up to implement an excellent 50th annual SC meeting in Mobile, AL, October 20-24, 2000, at the Adams Mark Hotel (\$93/night, up to 4 people). This will be a joint SC and AIHeLa (Alabama Health Libraries Association) meeting.

Finally, Rosalind Lett did a terrific job as Southern Chapter Chair this past year. Let's build on her leadership with a great team of individuals who have been elected (or appointed) for leadership this year.

Tom Singarella
Chair, Southern Chapter/MLA

South Carolina Healthnet Debuts

The libraries of the Medical University of South Carolina and the University of South Carolina School of Medicine are pleased to introduce the new South Carolina HealthNet Library Catalog. Reflecting the collections at both institutions as well as other South Carolina consortial medical libraries, SC Healthnet's web-based catalog can be accessed at <http://muscls.musc.edu/>.

SC Healthnet is the culmination of a joint implementation project for the two libraries, which have replaced their character-based LIS library systems with Innovative Interface's Millennium system. SC Healthnet also offers a text interface by telnetting to muscls.musc.edu. The web catalog is also on each library's public website <http://www.library.musc.edu/> (MUSC) or <http://uscm.med.sc.edu/LIBRARY.SHTML> (USC School of Medicine). The project was managed by Nancy Smith, Manager, Library Systems and Technology Support at MUSC (smithnj@musc.edu) and Laura Kane, Cataloger (laura@med.sc.edu) and Ed Sperr, Systems Librarian (esperr@med.sc.edu) at USC School of Medicine. Questions about the project can be directed to any of these librarians.

Submitted by Nancy McKeegan

Research Spotlight

Marcia Epelbaum interviews Tom Singarella , Ph.D. Director of the Health Science Library, University of Tennessee, Memphis.

Q: Why do you think research is important in the running of a biomedical library?

A: Research is information which can lead to enlightenment. It is studious inquiry aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts and can provide an accurate basis for changing the way we do things. Different kinds of research are important in the operations of a biomedical library. There are usage statistics and surveys of library patrons. There is research on trends in collection development, technology, and organizational structure. Research can be systematic and empirically based, scholarly, or anecdotal (e.g., compiling trends from listservs). Collection information about a particular subset or area within the library can be very useful. Research for practical purposes provides us objective information on ways we might improve or do things more efficiently.

Q: How do you apply research in the running of your library?

A: Well, this depends on the research and our goal. For example, the annual AAHSL descriptive statistics provide good information to use with central administration for making a case for raising staff salaries, increasing library hours, or adding to the collection. We have used information from surveys of our client population in identifying patterns as to which databases faculty want. I use research from the professional literature in making changes in the library. What works and what doesn't? Research can tell us, and if it does, we use it.

Q: How do organizations such as MLA, SC/MLA, AAHSL, etc. contribute with their research to the running of the Health Sciences Library at your institution?

A: As I stated above, I often use the statistics provided by AAHSL (probably more than any other association) in seeking to understand and make a case for improving library operations and the collection. Of course, research findings presented at annual conferences are helpful. Refereed publications provide useful research findings in the field of health sciences librarianship and information technology. Reporting on how to do something better is one thing, but measuring the impact provides a scientific basis. Professional organizations provide a catalyst for good research and a reporting conduit. That is one of the strengths of these associations.

Q: How does the UT Memphis Health Sciences Library support the research endeavors of your faculty, staff, and students?

A: We are an information resource for the campus specializing in biomedical resources. Our mission mirrors that of the institution: education, research, service, and patient care. The library supports research on campus in a myriad of ways (e.g., books, journals, online databases, document delivery, reference services).

Our Section on Scientific Publications offers editorial services to faculty throughout the health sciences center to assist them in communicating more effectively the results of their research. The section provides workshops and consultation on scientific writing, communication, and publication ethics, as well as elective graduate courses. The head of this section also heads up our library communications office and maintains a centralized database for library information which can be used as boilerplate for campus faculty developing grants.

We also encourage and support research from library faculty both internally and via grants and contracts. We contribute toward providing the information resources necessary in the electronic age and an environment conducive to study to support students.

Q: Do you benchmark with other institutions? If so, what is the benefit of benchmarking? Which are your benchmarking institutions? How do you benchmark? What operations and services do you benchmark?

A: Our institution does benchmark with a couple of institutions in our region, including the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). This can have a direct benefit for our library. For example, we compare the number of journals in our collection along and expenditures with MUSC. This helps us to make a case for getting more money from the Legislature when we can show that our library receives less state expenditures than similar institutions in our region. This provides an objective measure, or benchmark, for our library. This is a very real benefit of research.

We also compare our library (when it's in our best interests) to other academic health science libraries in surrounding states and the southern region that are not listed as benchmark institutions, per se. I do this to garner support and more resources and most often compare staff salaries, number of staff in certain areas, budget, collections, operations, and organizational structure.

Q: What do you think are the top two topics that medical librarians should be investigating and why?

A: Impact of the Internet in delivering medical information and how it will effect our services in the future is one that springs to mind. This is important because the Internet is changing the way we provide service and do business. Another topic is the impact of new technologies on our operations. For example, where digitalization is leading us, search software, charge-back systems (e.g., public printer paper), multisite licensing, and networking issues.

Q: How do you involve your staff in research activities?

A: I practice participatory management and have periodic discussions with the library faculty regarding continual systems improvement. To be effective, we need to do research on our

(continued on p.7)

Research Spotlight--cont.

services and what our patrons need. I meet with all faculty and staff on a monthly basis during the academic year. Specific activities relative to a library faculty member's service area require that they participate in research for that area, with the goal of improving operations and meeting the needs of library patrons. I encourage our faculty to critically review what they do, contribute to the knowledge base in the field, and to present at professional meetings and publish. These things are listed annually as part of a faculty member's goals. Some people are interested in doing so while others are up to their eyeballs in service and may not be interested. We have special committee or groups of faculty who do research on, say, a particular database, or examine service operations (e.g., reference statistics). Both scholarly and practical research is encouraged and supported. For example, we support library staff who wish to pursue graduate degrees and this could be tied in with research in the library.

In summary, these responses to the research questions touch the tip of the iceberg. The modern academic health sciences library cannot function well without critically reflecting on the way we do things, the services we provide, getting the most bang for our buck and meeting the needs of library patrons, and positioning our library well to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Good research provides us the information we need to make informed decisions and prepare for the future.

Around the South

NLM Associate at Medical University of South Carolina

The Medical University of South Carolina was chosen as a site for NLM Associate Paula M. Kitendaugh to spend a second year, from September 1999 through August 2000.

Paula received her M.S.L.S. from The Catholic University of America in 1997, and her undergraduate degrees in Economics and International Studies from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1991.

Past work experience includes several special libraries, including an investment company, the Special Libraries Association, and the Voice of America television news department. She has also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Belize, Central America, where she gained an appreciation for both traditional and folk medicine.

The fellowship experience will provide work experience and project opportunities related to using new and emerging technologies, developing critical thinking and project management skills, functioning on interdisciplinary teams, and developing effective lifelong learning strategies. These planned experiences are congruent with principles set forth by MLA's Platform for Change and NLM's planning panel on the education and training of health sciences librarians.

Specific fellowship objectives include the following:

- To interact with representatives from clinical, research and education areas
- To identify one or two main areas of concentration
- To design, research and implement at least two projects related to interest/expertise
- To develop or improve Web publishing skills
- To develop a personal project toolkit within Webster, the MUSC Library intranet
- To improve knowledge of new and emerging educational technologies
- To improve understanding of complex academic health science centers

Throughout the entire project period, she will meet with a Multidisciplinary Advisory Group (comprised of key clinical, educational and research faculty), who form the core of advisors and colleagues.

submitted by Elizabeth Connor

Four positions filled at MUSC

The Medical University of South Carolina Libraries are pleased to announce the appointment of four talented, experienced and personable individuals to positions of leadership within the organizational structure of the MUSC Libraries.

Judith C. Wisniewski was appointed Informatics Lab Manager in August, 1999. She is managing and supervising the planning and operation of the microcomputer labs and classrooms within the Library's program. She is responsible for the effective operation of the Labs as instructional facilities and for their evolution with respect to curriculum requirements and technological advancements, and is working closely with university faculty to incorporate the use of new and emerging technologies in the curriculum.

Judith came to MUSC from Delaware County Community College, Media, PA, where she had been a faculty member in the Communications, Arts & Humanities Division, and Graphic Design Degree Program Coordinator, since 1987. Previous to that she worked as a Graphic Designer for TV Guide. Judith has an M.F.A. from Syracuse University, and a B.F.A. from Temple.

Sylvia M. Bush was named Service Desks Supervisor September 1st. In this role she is coordinating services and oversees all hours of operation of all service desks of Public Services and Education, located on two floors of the Library.

(continued on p.12)

Images from Greenville
49th Annual Meeting
Southern Chapter/MLA
October 15-19, 1999 Greenville, South Carolina

Jane Bridges and Mary Fran Prottzman
working the booth



Linda Flavin and
her beautiful handiwork



Jane Bridges and Jan LaBeause
enjoying the conference





Jocelyn Rankin and Jan LaBeause presenting their poster

Scholarship recipients (L-R)
Mary Ann Camp, Tara
Douglas Williams, with
Jan Orick (chair)



Linda Flavin, creator of the Martha Watkins pillow, with the winner, Susan Poorbaugh

(below) The Board at work



Around the South

From the University of Florida Health Science Center Libraries, Gainesville, Florida.

Perhaps the most exciting news of all is that Faith A. Meakin, Director, UF HSC Libraries has announced her engagement to Edward (Skip) J. Frederick. The wedding will be held in late March. Congratulations Faith and Skip! You have our sincere wishes for a long and happy lifetime together!

New Faculty

The HSC Libraries extend a warm welcome to two new faculty members this fall. Myra Sterrett has accepted the position of Associate Director for the HSC Libraries. Myra has worked in academic and corporate libraries, including the libraries at IBM, SUNY at Purchase, and Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals. She is looking forward to her new management responsibilities and the warm Florida winters.

Secondly, we wish to welcome Nancy Schaefer as our newest Reference/Instruction Librarian. Nancy hails from the University of Washington in Seattle where she has worked as a graduate reference librarian and as a network librarian. Nancy is adjusting to the East Coast and is also enjoying the Florida sunshine!

Barbara Francis has been serving as Acting Assistant Director for Reference, Education and Information Management since September 15, 1999 following Linda Butson's new assignment as Assistant Director for Outreach Services. Barbara continues to serve as Coordinator of Educational Services for the HSC Libraries.

Departures

The HSC Libraries bid a fond farewell to Lori Driscoll, Reference Librarian and Webmaster. Lori has accepted a new position as the Library Technical Services Coordinator at the Santa Fe Community College Library in Gainesville, Florida. We wish Lori the best in her new position!

Grants Funded

Dr. Lenny Rhine, Assistant Director for Collection Management at the HSC Libraries has recently been contracted as a consultant for the U.S. National Library of Medicine to analyze "Library Partnership Programs" between U.S. Libraries and those in developing countries. Lenny is working in conjunction with Heather Wilder, a NLM Associate, and together plan to develop a database about present programs, summarizing key factors for success and failure, and develop guidelines that foster sustainability. The duration of the project is for four months with a final report due by late March 2000.

Cunningham Fellow

The HSC Libraries are pleased to announce that we will be hosting the 2000 Cunningham fellow, Elena Leonova, February 20-27. Elena is from the Cardiology Research Complex

Scientific Library in Moscow, Russia. Dr. Cathy Silverman, Reference Librarian will be coordinating the visit and hosting Elena in her home.

Contributed Papers and Posters

University of Florida Health Sciences Center librarians were active at the Southern Chapter MLA annual meeting in Greenville, SC: Ramona Miller, Lori Driscoll, Barbara Francis, Sue McCullough, and Tara Tobin presented a paper entitled 'From Classroom to Computer: Spinning an Interactive Web Tutorial' on October 17. To visit the PubMed tutorial, please see <http://www.library.health.ufl.edu/PubMed/index.html> and have fun!

Lori Driscoll, Ruth Fitzgerald, Jennifer Johnson, Robert Lockwood, Ramona Miller and Tara Tobin presented a poster 'Reference Staffing in the New Millennium: Paraprofessionals Save the Day' on October 17.

Jennifer Johnson, Gregory Clayton, Adam Stone and Griffen Sundeen presented a poster 'Room to Grow: Creating Shelving Space' on October 17.

Jennifer Johnson, Acting Assistant Director for Access Services also received a student reimbursement of \$250 from the Southern Chapter of the MLA to attend this meeting.

Invited Talks

Libby Anderson, Coordinator for Information/Publication services, presented an invited talk, 'The Internet as a Marketing Tool', on December 2, 1999 to the Health Services Administration students in the University of Florida's College of Health Professions.

Conferences and Workshops Attended

Barbara Francis, Coordinator of Educational Services, attended the meeting 'Powerful Learning, Powerful Partnerships: Educating the University Community in a Dynamic Information Environment' held November 11-12 at the University of Iowa.

University of Florida Health Science Center Libraries --

(continued on p.12)

Honors and Awards

Academic Librarian of the Year

The Southern Chapter presented the Academic Librarian of the Year award for the first time this year. This award honors a professional librarian at mid-career who has distinguished accomplishments and exhibits promise for ongoing contributions to the profession. The Southern Chapter nominates the recipient of this award for MLA's Estelle Broadman Award.



This year's award went to T. Scott Plutchak. Scott is currently the Director of the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham as well as the University's Associate Director for Academic Programs Information Technology.

A Distinguished member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals, Scott served twice on MLA's national program committee and is currently chair of the MLA Medical School Libraries Section. He has served 2 years as chair of the review committee for the NLM Internet Connection Grants. Recently, Scott was named editor of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*.

Active in the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, he chaired the committee that successfully guided a proposal to bring full text and other electronic databases to all libraries in Alabama. He has written and received grants, amassed an impressive list of publications and presentations, and edited a chapter newsletter as well as the *NLM Technical Bulletin*.

Honorary Membership Conferred

Anne Kabler Robichaux received an award of Honorary Membership in the Southern Chapter this year. Last bestowed in 1993-1994, this award goes to an individual showing extraordinary dedication and contribution to the field of health sciences librarianship. It is particularly fitting that Anne receives this award since she chaired the first Honors & Awards committee which established the guidelines for Honorary Membership.

Anne is currently the Associate Director of Libraries and Learning Resource Centers, the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC. Anne has served the University not only in her capacity as librarian but also by supplying her organizational skills to numerous university-wide committees.

She has worked to further her chosen profession at the state, regional and national levels. Anne has served on various committees of the South Carolina Library Association. She has been a strong supporter of the Southern Chapter and has served the organization in many capacities, including Bylaws Chair, Honors & Awards Chair, Chair of the Southern Regional Group, 1979-80 and as a member of the Committee on History of the Southern Chapter, 1993-97. A Distinguished Member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals, Anne has served the Medical Library Association on Chapter Council (1982-85) and as Chair of the Elections Committee (1983-85).

Submitted by Marcia A. Reinhardt



Around the South

continued from p.10

Professional Development Opportunity

The University of Florida Health Sciences Center Library is hosting the NN/LM Online Training Course 'Introduction to Web-based Searching: Using PubMed, Internet Grateful Med, and the NLM Next Generation Gateway to Search NLM's Databases' on February 24-25, 2000 in Gainesville, FL. This 2-day class is designed for the searcher who is new to searching MEDLINE. This includes those who have never searched before, or the user with some searching experience but little prior knowledge of the MEDLINE database or the MeSH vocabulary. Students learn both the PubMed and Internet Grateful Med search systems as well as NLM's Next Generation Gateway, with emphasis on areas specific to NLM databases, including the MeSH vocabulary, database fields and creation, and Boolean logic. There is no charge for this class. You must register for the class with the ONLINE Training Center <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mar/online/>. At the same site address are listings for other NN/LM sessions being held in the Southeast.

Submitted by Cathy Silverman

South Alabama AHEC

The University of South Alabama College of Medicine recently received funding for an AHEC program. The funding includes provision for library services at the six centers in the Southwest Alabama AHEC (SWAHEC) and the Southeast Alabama AHEC (SEAHEC). The USA Biomedical Library is in the process of hiring a Circuit Librarian who will provide library services to the six centers.

Submitted by Judy Burnham

Four positions at MUSC -- continued from p. 7

Sylvia has been employed at the MUSC Library since April, 1988. She brings over twenty-two years of increasingly responsible experience in libraries to this managerial position, having come to MUSC with a solid background in libraries, both at the College of Charleston and the Charleston County Library. At both libraries she developed and honed skills in library operations, wrote policy, procedural and instructional materials, and learned reference and resource materials.

Robert K. Poyer was named Manager, Educational Programs and Instructional Development in October. In this position, he is planning and managing the Library's daily instructional programs, including those taught as components of the curricula. He is coordinating the design, development delivery, and evaluation of formal and informal instruction, and managing the provision of reference/ research consultation services.

Bob holds a Bachelor's degree in the social sciences from Ball State University and a Master of Science degree in library science, with a specialization in medical librarianship, from Case Western Reserve University. In over twenty-four years as the Coordinator of Public Services at MUSC, Bob has established strong and effective liaison relationships with the Colleges of Pharmacy and Dental Medicine, built a solid and experienced team of reference faculty, and contributed to the overall success of electronic resources on the Library Web.

Lisa M. Boyd accepted the position of Manager, Library Enterprises, Projects and Emerging Technologies, effective 11/1/99. In this position, she is planning, managing and monitoring a variety of programs and outreach initiatives that support educational, clinical and research aims. She will be identifying and recommending new collaborative opportunities and partnerships, developing grant proposals and other funding opportunities, and evaluating current activities and programs for effective and efficient service provision and outcomes.

Lisa holds Bachelor's degrees in history and in sociology from Mary Baldwin College, and Master's degrees in history and in library and information science from the University of Maryland at College Park. As the Outreach Coordinator and later, the Consumer Health Coordinator, with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine/Southeastern Atlantic region in Baltimore, Lisa has extensive experience teaching, exhibiting, demonstrating and presenting NLM programs, products and services.

Submitted by Anne K. Robichaux

More Remembrances of Greenville
Southern Chapter/MLA October 15-19, 1999



Tom Singerella
shows off the
stylish conference
bags



Freida Weise, our MLA
President in a more
serious moment



Mardi Gras revelers
welcome Southern
Chapter attendees to
Mobile

MLA AHIP Credentialing Questions & Answers

In my role as Credentialing Liaison, I am often asked questions about the Academy of Health Information Professionals and about the credentialing process. Since some questions are asked repeatedly, I am sharing their answers hoping others will benefit.

Why A.H.I.P. membership?

Marty Adamson, Chair of the MLA Credentialing Committee, responds to the question by saying that academy membership provides opportunities for lifelong learning and professional development. It gives members an opportunity to review their career development every few years. At Southern Chapter's annual meeting, there were Academy members questioning whether or not to renew. Some are near retirement age and others have found no tangible benefit to Academy membership. I like to view the Academy as a personal goal for medical librarians who choose to make a difference in the profession and take personal pride in their accomplishments. Academy membership recognizes the time and effort devoted to professional development activities and could be used to chart career growth from one level to the next.

What is the A.H.I.P. application fee used for?

The application fee is used to support the staff time and equipment required to update and maintain Academy information on MLANET. It also helps pay the salaries of the professional development staff. The fee covers the postage and photocopying costs associated with the peer review of portfolios and Academy related brochures and mailings.

I do not have a copy of my CE certificate, what should I do?

If the course was a MLA CE course, contact Kathleen Gaydos at MLA headquarters to get a copy of an old certificate. Her email is mlapd1@mlahq.org. Please secure the certificate BEFORE you submit your portfolio.

How do I earn points for non-MLA-approved continuing education?

To earn CE points through non-MLA-approved activities, submit an Individual Participant Request (Form IPR) with your portfolio. The form requires a description of the course content, relevance to health information science, and documentation of accomplishment. Complete all parts of the form so the portfolio reviewer can determine if the activity will be awarded points. The form is available from the Academy pages of MLANET at <http://www.mlanet.org/academy/iprhelp.html>

I would like to hear from Southern Chapter members who use the new forms to complete new or renewal portfolios. The MLA Credentialing Committee expects feedback from the liaisons about the process and member satisfaction. Thanks!
e-mail: librsf@emory.edu

Submitted by Sandra Franklin

Governmental Relations Committee

The Worldwide Web has made contacting your representative in Congress about important library related legislation easier than ever! There are a number of authoritative web sites available to find out about the voting records of particular legislators and specific legislative activities. Some sites include sample letters about particular bills. You can even find out who your representative is, if you don't know already, then contact them by email directly from the site.



First and foremost among the legislative action sites is the "Legislative Action Center" released in March by MLA at <http://congress.nw.dc.us/mla/>. This site includes the "Action Alerts" on important library-related legislative issues, a directory of the U.S. Congress, and a zip code search capability for finding one's representative. A scrolling calendar at the bottom of the page alerts the viewer to upcoming sessions of Congress, committee schedules, etc. There is also a "Write to Congress" feature that provides sample letters on key issues and the ability to email one's representative directly from this page.

Often, however, we citizens are less attentive to our state and local representatives than our national ones. How would one find out about those who represent us in state legislatures? Project Vote Smart at <http://www.vote-smart.org/> is an excellent resource for this and other purposes. The "Candidates and Elected Officials" page allows one to search by name, district or zip code to find state legislators (or U.S. representatives), then gives a complete biography and political experience of particular representatives and candidates. (Voting records, stands on issues and evaluations by special interest groups are available for some national representatives and candidates, but not generally for state and local elected officials.) Within the candidate/elected official biographies are "Tips on Communicating with Your Elected Officials." Project Vote Smart also includes information on how to register to vote in your state (including links to some online voter registration forms), tracking of legislative issues, and a new feature allowing one to search the presidential candidates' public statements. (Try a search on "libraries" for example.)

Other useful sites for legislative issues and voting questions include the ALA Washington Office site at <http://www.vote-smart.org/>, the League of Women Voters national and local sites <http://www.lwv.org>, and THOMAS from the Library of Congress at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

Submitted by Kay Hogan Smith

Hospital Libraries Committee Report

Our chapter meeting in Greenville, SC, was wonderful. A special thanks to Fay Towell, hospital librarian extraordinaire, for providing gorgeous weather, excellent accommodations and entertainment, and lots of delicious food. Jan Orick completed her term as Hospital Library Committee chair by bringing us Jay Daly as speaker at the Hospital Librarians Luncheon, an event with 55 attendees. Jay spoke on the development of QuickDoc in the past, and the future enhancements which we can expect as the Windows-based version of QuickDoc and the web-based version of DOCLINE become realities, hopefully by February of 2000. Thanks to Jan's tireless promotional efforts, Martha Watkins scholarships were awarded to Mary Ann Camp, Tara Douglas Williams and Melissa McKie.

Dixie Williamson was selected as Hospital Librarian of the Year. Dixie was nominated because of her ability to manage in the era of hospital financial crises, provision of a patient education library and development of a computer network within her hospital. Dixie has shared her knowledge and experience gained from these endeavors through presentations about her projects at annual meetings of MLA, Southern Chapter, and the Tennessee Library Association and through the publication of articles in *National Network* and *Bibliotheca Medica Canandiana*. Dixie has contributed to our chapter by serving as Chapter Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and Chair of the Hospital Libraries Committee. Dixie's low-key and highly effective leadership style has endeared her to all.

Thanks to the Knoxville consortium who made the Christmas ornaments which were sold this year to fund the Martha Watkins Scholarship Award. Jan LeBeause reported a total of \$1136.00 raised from sales of these items plus raffle tickets for a pillow made by Linda Flavin.

New members of the Hospital Library Committee are: Deborah Lawless of Jacksonville, FL; Doris Prichard of Knoxville, TN; Cathy Woolbright of Columbus, GA; and Thomas Hill of Greenwood, SC. We communicated throughout the meeting, considering topics and speakers for next year's Hospital Librarian's Luncheon and exploring options to facilitate communication among Southern Chapter hospital librarians throughout the year. We would like to expand the traditional HLC report in *Southern Expressions* to include contributions from the membership regarding problems for which you seek assistance as well as success stories of problems overcome.

For starters, Fay Towel's renovated library, completed 2 years ago, is breathtaking. The 5700 square feet renovation encompasses eight computer workstations in the reference area, complete with OVID, Internet access and Microsoft Office, in addition to a computer lab with three computers for hands-on training. So Fay is definitely the person to contact for anyone undergoing library renovation or participating in conference planning.

One of the concerns expressed during the meeting, was the lack of inclusion of hospital libraries in statewide licensing agreements. Scott Plutchak, in his report on Alabama's recent success in instituting a virtual library for academic, public and school libraries, indicated that of all the statewide licensing agreements within Southern Chapter, only Tennessee includes hospital libraries. Tennessee's inclusion of hospital libraries is due to the efforts of Doris Prichard, Martha Earl, and Jan Orick, who served on the state's steering committee. Linda Garr Markwell raised the question during the discussion portion of the panel on "Electronic Access and Multisite Licensing in the New Millennium" of RML leadership in this endeavor for hospital librarians. If any of you are involved in any type of cooperative electronic access agreements or have ideas regarding hospital library's access to such, please let me know so that I can include this information in the next issue of *Southern Expressions*.

Another concern expressed during the meeting involved dealing with hospital employees who are also students and inundate the library with requests for materials. How are you all handling this problem?

A final concern was raised regarding effective means of communicating with hospital administration. How do we get into the mindset of hospital administrators, what do they want, what do they need, how can we communicate most effectively what we offer? What works for you in your institution? Let me know so that I can share with the rest of the group. And check out Anna Beth Crabtree's suggestions in 'Leadership Alert: Methods for Reaching Out to Administrators, Part 1' in *National Network*, 24(2):4-5, October, 1999.

So, just a couple of questions/concerns and success stories to get us started. The rest is up to you. Please contact me with answers to the above concerns, any other success stories you have to share, and any concerns that you'd like to have addressed. We have always been quick to share on an individual and informal basis. By taking a few minutes to email me with the above, the impact of this sharing can be far greater than one on one. The information need not be long nor detailed. A paragraph will suffice.

Looking forward to hearing from you all.

Now is also a good time to express your opinions regarding CE courses for the 2000 conference in Mobile. Brenda Green, our new Professional Development Committee chair (bfgreen@utemem.edu) is anxious to hear from you.

Mary Fran Prottzman
Chair, Hospital Libraries Committee
prottzs@entercomp.com

25th Anniversary Celebration of the Atlanta Health Sciences Libraries Consortium



Five of the founding members were present for the event. Pictured above from left to right: Marilyn Barry (DeKalb Medical Center), Faye Evatt (Atlanta Medical Center), Carol Burns (Emory), Carol Dean (CDC) and Sharon Cann (formerly Georgia Baptist College of Nursing)

The Atlanta Health Sciences Libraries Consortium celebrated their 25th anniversary on October 2, 1999. Founded in 1974, the AHS�C institutional members include sixteen hospitals, four government health agencies, eight academic institutions and a pharmaceutical company.

A celebration dinner was held at the St. Joseph Hospital atrium. Entertainment featured a presentation of pictures of "The Way We Were" 25 years ago. Following dinner, the group was entertained with a live performance of the Sweet Adelines. Guests included both present and former members of the organization.

The event was coordinated by Paula Christian, St. Joseph Hospital, with support from the following vendors: American Health Consultants, Blackwell's Information Services, Ebsco Subscription Services, Walter Hopkins Company, Majors Scientific Books, Inc., Milner Business Products, National Library Bindery, Ovid Technologies, Inc., W. B. Saunders.