# Southern Expressions

Alabama

Georgia

Puerto Rico

Tennessee

Florida

Mississippi

South Carolina

Virgin Islands

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#### **Southern Chapter**

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

Next reporting deadline December 30th, 2001

Next Publication Date

January 15th, 2002

### Message from the Chairs

Lynn Fortney & Janet Fisher



Fortney and Fisher

It seems that it is SC/MLA tradition that the outgoing chair writes a farewell message to the chapter membership. I believe that traditions are valuable, important, and can always do with a little tweaking to keep them updated and fresh. So your new Chair, Janet Fisher, and I have written this column in tandem to read like a conversation as I pass her the gavel.

(continued on p. 3)

SC/MLA members who did not receive their copy at the SC/MLA Business Meeting in New Orleans will find

The Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association

A Fifty Year History 1951 – 2001

By T. Mark Hodges Included with this mailing of *Southern Expressions* 

Many thanks to Mark Hodges for his excellent work on this project and many thanks as well to Linda Flavin for planning and executing the "distribution strategy".

For those of you who did not find a history included with this issue -Linda's records indicate that you or a colleague signed for a copy at our business meeting.

#### **ELECTEDOFFICIALS**

Chair
Janet Fisher
Quillen College of Medicine Library
East Tennessee State University
Johnson City, TN
fisherj@etsu.edu

Chair-Elect/Program Chair
Jocelyn A. Rankin
CDC Information Center
Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention
Atlanta, GA
jrankin@cdc.gov

Secretary/Treasurer
Jack T. Smith
Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL
jsmith@uab.edu

Past Chair/Nominating Chair Lynn Fortney EBSCO Information Services Birmingham, AL lynnf@ebsco.com

MLA Nomin Comm Candidate
Thomas Basler
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC
basler@musc.edu
tscott@uab.edu

Chapter Council Rep Sarah Gable School of Medicine Library University of South Carolina Columbia, SC sarah@med.sc.edu

Chapter Council Alternate
Jan LaBeause
Medicine Library/LRC
Mercer University School of Medicine
Macon, GA
labeause.j@gain.mercer.edu

#### **APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

Archivist
Mary Lynch
Health Sciences Center Library
Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, GA
libmcl@emory.edu

Benchmarking Educator Linda Garr Markwell Grady Branch Library Emory University School of Medicine Atlanta, GA libgm@emory.edu

Bookkeeper Marilee Creelan Greenblatt Library Medical College of Georgia Augusta, GA mcreelan@mail.mcg.edu

Historian
T. Mark Hodges
Nashville, TN
tmhodges33@aol.com

Membership Database Manager Linda Flavin Birmingham, AL lflavin@aol.com MLA Credentialing Liaison Sandra Franklin Health Sciences Center Library Emory University School of Medicine Atlanta, GA librsf@emory.edu

Parliamentarian/Historian
Danny O'Neal
Health Sciences Center Library
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
doneal@hsc.usf.edu

Southern Expressions Co-Editors
Kay Hogan Smith
Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL
khogan@uab.edu

Sondra Pfeiffer Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences University of Alabama at Birmingham Birmingham, AL Sondra@uab.edu

SoChap-L Moderator Nelle Williams Health Sciences Library University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, AL nwilliam@cchs.ua.edu

Web Site Coordinator
Pat Higginbottom
Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL
phiggin@uab.edu

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Bylaws
Lois Bellamy
Health Sciences Library
University of Tennessee, Memphis
Memphis, TN
lbellamy@utmem1.utmem.edu

#### Communications

To be appointed

Governmental Relations Connie Machado Rowland Medical Library University of Mississippi Medical Center Jackson, MS cmachado@rowland.umsmed.edu

History of the Southern Chapter Tom Williams Baugh Biomedical Library University of South Florida Mobile, AL twilliam@usaovid.usouthal.edu

Honors & Awards Lynette Ralph Library Georgia Baptist College of Nursing Atlanta, GA lynette.ralph@gbhcs.org Hospital Libraries
Thomas Hill
Medical Library/Self Memorial Hospital
Greenwood, SC
thill@selfregional.org

Membership Marian Morris McMahon Sibley Medical Library Princeton Baptist Medical Center Birmingham, AL marian.morris@bhsala.com

Professional Development
Sandra Martin
Eskind Biomedical Library
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN
sandi.martin@mcmail.vanderbilt.edu

Public Relations
Jane Bridges
Memorial Health University Medical Center
Savannah, GA
BridgJa1@memorialhealth.com

Research
Helvi McCall
Rowland Medical Library
University of Mississippi Medical Center
Jackson, MS
hmccall@rowland.umsmed.edu

Strategic Planning
Tom Singarella
Health Sciences Library & Biocommunications
Center
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Memphis, TN
tsingarella@utmem.edu

#### **Southern Expressions**

Newsletter of the Southern Chapter / Medical Library Association

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Kay Hogan Smith Lister Hill Library University of Alabama at Birmingham 1700 University Blvd. Birmingham, AL 35294-0013 Voice:205-934-2230 Fax:205-975-8313 khogan@uab.edu

Sondra Pfeiffer Lister Hill Library University of Alabama at Birmingham 1700 University Blvd. Birmingham, AL 35294-0013 Voice:205-934-2230 Fax: 205-975-8313 Sondra@uab.edu

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## Message from the Chairs continued from p.1



Fortney

**Lynn:** Whew, Janet, what a year it's been! I wonder if any incoming Chair ever realizes what a BIG job managing SC/MLA can be? Too bad we can't just take a year's paid leave of absence from our "real" jobs, which is almost what it would have taken for me to feel 100% effective in doing everything I had hoped to accomplish. In

discussions with other MLA Chapter officers at the MLA meeting in Dallas, at the Roundtable luncheons, and on the Chapter Chair Internet Discussion list, you'll really come to appreciate the wonderful spirit of volunteerism within SC/MLA, the great ideas that come from the members, and contributions of time

and effort, and the sense of community we have. Each chapter has its own personality, and ours is typically Southern: warm, hospitable, fun-loving, forgiving (mostly), hardworking, and just a little bit eccentric.

"Each chapter has its own personality, and ours is typically Southern: warm, hospitable, funloving, forgiving (mostly), hardworking, and just a little bit eccentric."

**Lynn Fortney** 

certificates for everyone. When I arrived in New Orleans, I discovered several duplications and omissions. Most of the certificates were distributed at the business meeting in New Orleans, and I just finished mailing the remaining ones on December 4th. If you have not received a certificate acknowledging your contributions, it was my accident - let me know!

In an effort to make our business meetings interesting and lively, I "decreed" that all annual committee reports would be sent to me prior to the annual meeting. I packaged these up with the agenda for the meeting and as a result, we spent less time listening to long committee reports and more time on recognizing the accomplishments of our members, meeting new members, and

> celebrating our 50th birthday. This was another idea I copied - this time from the South Central Chapter, whose business meetings are over in record time. I don't know how they did it this year, but they finished their business meetings in about an hour and fifteen minutes!

Back in October of 2000, I hoped to be able to address several issues during my term including 1) recruitment to the profession, 2) diversity issues, 3) getting more complete content on our Website in terms of committee manuals, 4) establishing a First Time Meeting Grant, 5) the first ever Triple-Chapter meeting, and 6) continuing the SC/MLA momentum of member involvement and participation in our governance and committee work.

As my epitaph, I would like it written that "Nothing is as easy as it seems".

I'll talk about that sixth goal first. With the Public Relations Committee chaired by Jane Bridges as our newest committee, we now have thirteen standing committees, six elected officers and 10 appointed officials. I had certificates of appreciation made for each of the eighty or so committee members, chairs, officers and officials of SC/MLA. I copied this idea from Midcontinental, which is a much smaller chapter, and this first time, it took us several days to produce

Which leads into the goal of pulling off a Triple Chapter meeting. In my experience, joint meetings with other chapters can lead to a heavy burden of work on the host, inadequate participation in the planning by one of the chapters, a loss of community, arguments over finances, changes in the "usual" meeting schedule, some loss of tradition, differing ideas about social functions, and hurt feelings. Sounds like a bad marriage, right? Well, I've had some personal experience with bad marriages, too, and I know that maturity and accommodation can change a lot of things. I really enjoyed this meeting, and I have to believe that this is largely because from the very beginning, it was the goal of all involved in the planning to make every attempt to avoid those issues. Our hosts, having had quite a bit of experience with conference planning, showed that maturity and accommodation goes far! Janet, you were our "primary" contact on the Conference Program Committee - what was your impression?

## Message from the Chairs continued from p.3

Janet: In terms of the program - I agree that the Triple Chapter Meeting was a success and I certainly hope that everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. Kudos to Bill Postell and Cindy Goldstein, and all of their committee members, who worked so hard to make it look so easy. As chair-elect, my program responsibilities were much reduced because those New Orleans folks took care of most of the program content and all of the local arrangements. I served on the Program, Poster, and Fundraising Committees, Lynn served on the Program and Contributed Papers Committees , and Rebecca Fehrenbach on the CE Committee. All three of us had input into the selection of invited speakers, both in making recommendations and ranking the speakers who had

been recommended. I think some of the other articles in this issue will talk about the invited speakers. I knew the poster session would be great, having read the abstracts. I wish we could have had more time with the authors

"I'm sure the 70 or so people who actually cut lunch short (by New Orleans standards) to come to our business meeting will never forget the vision of you in your green feather boa and snappy shades! You really 'kicked it up a notch,' as a famous New Orleanian would say."

**Lynn Fortney** 

Meeting Attendance Grant.

Janet: Chris' report is also published in this issue. SC/MLA is expecting great things from him in the future. The Honors and Awards committee, chaired by Lynette Ralph, deserves our thanks for coming up with



Fisher

the criteria, posting the announcement, reviewing the applications and making the award in six months time. SC/MLA's treasury is healthy enough to

support this for the time being, but we will be looking at fundraising projects for the future.

Lynn: We continue to take in money for the Martha Watkins Scholarship thanks to the talents, dedication, and donated time and

supplies of **Linda Flavin** and organizational efforts of **Jan LaBeause**. Once again, they had Christmas ornaments for sale at the annual meeting. This continues by popular demand.

Janet: And while we're talking about talent - what about that band at the Welcome Reception? Our own Scott Plutchak and Danny O'Neal, with Ken Oyer of MCMLA on clarinet! Not to mention the cheerleading efforts of Linda Garr Markwell. Give me a B - E - N - C - H - M - A - R - K!

**Lynn:** The social events were great fun and the food was plentiful. I'm sure I saw you and others at the Halloween on the Bayou party, but with all the feather Mardi Gras masks and costumes, we may never know who was actually there. I also attended the Hospital luncheon with **Michelynn McKnight** as the speaker. She was excellent and so was the food.

(continued on p.11)

of the posters, and I've passed that recommendation on to our Conference Committee for the Nashville meeting next year. I also moderated a Contributed Papers Session. We had so many good papers that these sessions were really too long; again, this will not be a problem in Nashville. The "distractions and attractions" of New Orleans in general, the casino across the street, the shopping mall downstairs, the river, the restaurants, the music, and the cable cars - they were all formidable competition for the meeting. Even the weather was beautiful.

Lynn: That's why I was concerned about attendance at the Business meeting. Usually, we have it over breakfast. I'm sure the 70 or so people who actually cut lunch short (by New Orleans standards) to come to our business meeting will never forget the vision of you in your green feather boa and snappy shades! You really "kicked it up a notch", as a famous New Orleanian would say. Thank you for introducing those first timers, especially Christopher Colthorpe, the winner of our very first First Time

## Here beginnith the reading of proclamations as presented at the Tri-Chapter Meeting October 27, 2001, New Orleans, Louisiana.

## Proclamation I Southern Chapter

Ø Whereas William D. Postell, Jr., Wilba Swearingen, the Local Arrangements Committee members, and the Hospitality Committee have successfully combined the 18<sup>th</sup> century charm of New Orleans with the 21<sup>st</sup> century informational needs of the Midcontinental, South Central, and Southern Chapters of MLA to create an absolutely perfect environment for the first ever MLA/Triple Chapter Meeting . . .

and

Ø Whereas Cindy Goldstein, Craig Elam and members of the Program Committee have creatively combined many ingredients for a hearty gumbo of challenging courses, informative presentations, and opportunities for professional development and networking which offered something for everyone's professional tastes . . .

and

Ø Whereas the steady stream of memos, emails and articles of our very own "Steel Magnolia", Lynne Fortney, which covered the Southern Chapter like kudzu, kept us informed, inspired us to attend, continually cheered us on throughout the year and filled us with a ravenous hunger for both the hearty main entrée of our meeting and the tantalizing desserts of the Big Easy . . .

and

- Ø Whereas bowls of jambalaya, mounds of crawfish étouffée, a sampling of alligator sauce piquant, and the beignets and coffee of the Café Du Monde nourished our bodies, while the lively tunes of Scott Plutchak and his group, "Train Wreck on the Levee," brought a spring to our steps, a smile to our lips, and envy to the hearts of the musicians in Preservation Hall . . . and
- Ø Whereas the sponsors and vendors have provided the foundation roux for this wonderful 50th anniversary gumbo that has so successfully embodied our Southern Traditions and satiated our intellectual appetites . . . and
- Ø Whereas the strategic location of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, and the warm, courteous hospitality of its staff, proved to be much more than the lagniappe of our meeting, but rather provided us with a calm oasis which soothed our spirits and quenched our thirst at the edge of the Vieux Carré...

**Be it resolved** that on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, in the year 2001, we the members of the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association, assembled in New Orleans, city of our Founding Fathers, offer our heartfelt resolution of gratitude to the organizers, presenters, exhibitors, patrons, sponsors and all the participants who have contributed to the success of this historic meeting. We further resolve to show our appreciation with a lively Fais do do, accompanied by Zydeco tonight on the bayou. **Laissez les Bons Temps Rouler!!!!** 

continued from p.5

## Proclamation II South Central Chapter

Whereas the officers of the Midcontinental, South Central and Southern chapters of MLA, in a rare fit of collective wisdom and brilliant inspiration, decided to meet together in this first-ever tri-chapter meeting of the Medical Library Association in the great city of New Orleans, where the mighty Mississippi River nears the end of its journey touching all three chapters...

#### and

Whereas the medical librarians of New Orleans were so gracious in extending their caring spirit and charming Southern hospitality to host this exceptional meeting...

and

Whereas the Program Committee did organize and provide a conference of both hearty substance and unique entertainment to feed our minds and our appetites...

and

Whereas the CE Committee arranged for talented CE instructors to enlighten us on subjects ranging from copyright to palmtops...

and

Whereas the speakers, poster and paper presenters, moderators and panelists shared their knowledge to help foster our professional growth...

and

Whereas our sponsors, donors, and exhibitors did support this endeavor with their time, money, products and services...

and

Whereas the Hilton Hotel staff catered to our every whim...

and

Whereas the Local Arrangements Committee, toiled many hours before and during the meeting to provide us with an enlightening program and social events with a uniquely New Orleans flair, and enabled us to "laissez les bons temps rouler..."

**Be it resolved** that we assembled here today extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all who gave so much to make this conference a resounding success.

## MLA Tri-Chapter Meeting continued from p.6

### Proclamation III Midcontinental Chapter

Whereas the people of the Mountains AND Plains experienced Southern hospitality at its best through official and unofficial social events...

and

Whereas we have learned to share the value of our work with the world by continuing our own work as Avatars of the Word...

and

Whereas we have wined and dined and seen various wonderful and weird sights in New Orleans, all of which will send us back to the Mountains AND the Plains full of new ideas and information — not to mention clothing options...

Let it be known that we now know what we always suspected:

Southern Chapter members have hearts more open than the Plains...

and

Southern Central Chapter has more charm than a mountain stream dancing through a grove of Aspen trees...

and

Together, we three chapters - full of leaders, innovators, pioneers, artists, and educators - are a mighty force with which to be reckoned!

Lisa Traditi

Thus endeth the reading of the proclamations as presented at the

Tri-Chapter Meeting

October 27, 2001, New Orleans, Louisiana.

### Personals

### SC/MLA First Time Attendee Scholarship First Time Awardee Christopher Colthorpe

This year, for the first time, the SC/MLA Honors and Awards Committee offered the First Time Attendee Scholarship to offset meeting attendance costs for newcomers. Clemson University librarian, Christopher Colthorpe, was the first recipient of this award. As such, he was required to submit an application, including a response to the question, "What do you expect to gain professionally and/or personally by attending the SC/MLA annual meeting?" As the scholarship recipient, he received funding to pay for his travel costs and registration in New Orleans at the triple chapter meeting, including CE costs. (See Chris' report of his impressions of the meeting in this newsletter.)

Librarianship is a second career for Chris, having wrote and produced instructional TV for 20 years before deciding to seek an MLS. He obtained that

degree from the University of South Carolina in 1999, and began his first professional position at Cooper Library at Clemson University in July, 2000. Chris' current position is that of Reference Librarian assigned to liaison with the Clemson University departments of Nursing, Public Health, and Food Science and Human Nutrition. Chris explains that, "As liaison I am responsible for collection development in the R and Tx ranges, and provide health specific bibliographic instruction to graduate students (and new faculty) in the assigned departments. In addition I work with South Carolina's extension services program. My unofficial title is Health and Food Science Librarian, at least that's how the position was advertised and what they put on my cards."

Don't miss Southern Expressions' exclussive article, Perspectives of a First Time Attendee, by Christopher Colthorpe on page 14.

Submitted by Kay Hogan Smith

## A. J. Wright Serving as President of the Anesthesia History Association

A. J. Wright, MLS, Department of Anesthesiology librarian, University of Alabama at Birmingham, is currently serving as president of the Anesthesia History Association for the 2000-2002 term. He is the first non-physician to serve as president. The association was founded in 1982 and is the oldest anesthesia history organization in the world.

### Chapter Council News

### Chapter Council Report October 27th, 2001

The 2001 annual meeting of the Medical Library Association in Orlando, Florida was a wonderful meeting in a location that offered about as many distractions as you could possibly wish for. Chapter Council met on Saturday, May 26th and both your Representative and Alternate were in attendance. **Linda Garr Markwell** was also present in her role as incoming Chair of the Council.

As you know many Southern Chapter members worked very hard prior to and during this meeting to make it a success. In addition Southern Chapter members were much in evidence as they actively participated in the meeting as presenters of papers and posters and played leadership roles in sections, councils, committees, and the MLA Board of Directors. Nowhere were they more evident than at the Honors and Awards Luncheon where Scott **Plutchak** was the recipient of the Estelle Brodman award, where Shelley Paden won the MLA Research Development and Demonstration Project Grant, where Carol Burns was named an MLA Fellow, where **Everly Brown** received an EBSCO/ MLA Annual Meeting Grant and where Lynn Fortney accepted the MLA/Majors Chapter Project of the Year Award on behalf of all Southern Chapter members.

There are several things that you can do to make sure the Southern Chapter maintains a strong presence in the national organization. First, if you are not a member, join. Secondly, fill out the MLA Committee Appointment Application form, which is available on MLANet, and volunteer to serve on a committee or jury. You can do this electronically from the web page and the form was included in several issues of MLA News. And please remember to complete and return the MLA ballot. Be sure to vote and continue to support Southern Chapter members who are vying for elective offices Nancy Clemmons is a candidate for the Board of Directors and Sandra Franklin, Frances Lynch, Cheryl Dee, Rosalind Lett, and Mary Fran Prottsman are candidates for the Nominating Committee.

The Chapter Sharing Roundtables seem to grow each

year both in terms of participants and in the number of topics for discussion. This was initially conceived as a way for the committee chairs and officers from each Chapter to gather and exchange ideas about how to best fulfill their role within the Chapter. Over time more and more topics that are not related to a particular committee or post within the Chapters were added. Therefore there has been some discussion about changing the name, but thus far nothing definite has been done in that regard. A new feature for the Roundtables this year will be a "Meeting the Experts" table where one or more MLA Fellows will share details of their careers and successes with participants. This is seen as one more opportunity to strengthen mentoring within the organization.

Speaking of mentoring, the Mentoring Program Task Force completed its work, submitted a report to the Board in Orlando and the Task Force was dissolved. It is now the responsibility of the Executive Committee to assign each of the Task Force recommendations to the appropriate MLA unit for action recommendations. MLA is also interested in supporting the individual Chapter mentoring programs and either Janet or I will be polling you soon for ideas about how MLA can assist Southern Chapter in this endeavor. Please be thinking about this and submit any ideas or suggestions that you have when you are contacted.

The Benchmarking Task Force has also completed its work and is being replaced by the Benchmarking Implementation Task Force which is chaired by **Debra Rand**. The survey questions have been revised based on responses in the beta test. All Hospital Librarians are urged to enter their information when the data collection site opens this fall on MLANet. This comparative data could prove extremely useful to you in the future. If you have questions or need information, don't hesitate to touch



(continued on p.22 )

### Around the South

### **Jane Bridges Joins Mercer Faculty**

Beginning July 1, 2001, the Health Sciences Library at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah became the Clinical Campus Branch of the Mercer Medical Library & Peyton T. Anderson Learning Resources Center in Macon, GA. On October 1st, Jane Bridges, ML (formerly Manager of Educational Resources at the Leslie M. Stratton Nursing Library, Methodist Healthcare, Memphis, TN) joined the Mercer faculty as Clinical Campus Librarian. The Health Sciences Library is also staffed by Vanessa Wallace-Lonon, Library Technical Assistant III.

Submitted by Jan H. LaBeause

### News from Shimberg Health Sciences Library University of South Florida

Rose Bland, Allison Howard, Karen Keene and Danny O'Neal attended the Triple Chapter Meeting of the Medical Library Association in New Orleans, October 24-28, 2001. Danny O'Neal presented the poster session "Making Contact: Reaching Out and Bringing Them In!" on October 27, 2001.



Danny O'Neal

Submitted by Karen Keene

#### Allison Howard Elected Vice Chair of FCLA Committee

Allison Howard, Cataloging Librarian at the University of South Florida Shimberg Health Sciences Library, has been elected Vice chair of the 2002 Florida Center for Library Automation Technical Services Planning Committee.

Submitted by Karen Keene

#### **News from Tennessee**

Glenda Mendina has accepted the position of Manager, Educational Resources at the Leslie M. Stratton Nursing Library, Methodist Healthcare in Memphis. Glenda has served as Librarian there for the past 3 years. **Denise Fesmire** has returned to the library staff and nursing school faculty as Librarian.

Submitted by Jane Bridges

#### **University of South Carolina News**

An open house was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate the completion of the renovation of the second floor of the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Library. Journals are successfully re-shelved and the students have taken possession of the four group study rooms and their assigned carrels. Work will continue on the small "Rare Book/History of Medicine Room" for which custom cabinetry and shelving have yet to be installed, but for the most part this two-year project is now complete. We are pleased with the results and feel ready for a visit from the LCME site team in February 2002.

Laura Kane has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for assessment and preservation of a small collection of books and materials that will be housed in the "Rare Book/History of Medicine Room." She and Roz McConnaughy were selected to participate in a workshop, "The Preservation Training Initiative for Small Libraries and Museums in South Carolina" which is funded by a National Leadership Grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

Submitted by Sarah Gable

### Message from the Chairs

continued from p.4

Janet: Perhaps some of our members wonder what happens at the CONBLS luncheon that appears on the program every year; and why so much laughter at what should be a serious meeting. This is just your academic library directors networking, comparing notes and sharing successes and developments in each library. And, you wouldn't expect a group to meet without food at Southern Chapter.

Lynn: "Feed them and they will come" might be our motto. But we had plenty of food for the mind, too.

James J. O'Donnell started and John M. Barry ended the conference with many things to think about, and in between those two keynote speakers, we had Carol

"I was especially impressed with the outpouring of letters of condolence that immediately came from librarians around the world to show support for our various national library associations and their members after the horror of September 11th."

Janet Fisher

information required. We're not there yet, but we've

got a great Web master in Pat Higginbottom, and she is heading a task force charged with recommending how we'll go about archiving all of this critical material.

Because if the records suddenly disappear with the flick of an electronic switch, how will Mark Hodges ever be able to write the history of our NEXT 50 years?

responsibilities are tended to. No one who has NOT

their professional organization or those who are trying

established the SC/MLA Website (soon to change to

served on a committee or as an officer should

to serve in their abundant "free time". At our

Executive Board meeting in New Orleans, we

www.scmla.org) as our "source of record" for committee rosters, procedure manuals, the Southern Strategy, criteria for honors and awards, and other

criticize any perceived deficiencies on the part of

Southern Chapter is a wonderful group of people, full of ideas and enthusiasm. I am delighted to turn the gavel over to you, Janet. You won't run out of things to do anytime soon!

**Janet**: I have a couple of things I'd like to close with. Kudos go to Lynn for her leadership during the past year and for making it a productive and enjoyable year. Kudos also go to Ken and Anne Robichaux, who contributed their literary and humorous talents to the annual conference Resolution of Thanks to the conference hosts. The other is not directly related to the conference, but to the nature of collegiality among librarians. I was especially impressed with the outpouring of letters of condolence that immediately came from librarians around the world to show support for our various national library associations and their members after the horror of September 11. The friendship and compassion that we have in great abundance in the Southern Chapter continues to exist around the world among librarians.

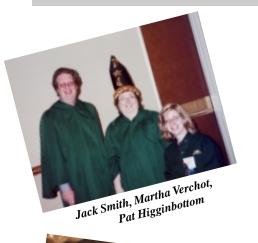
Submitted by Lynn Fortney and Janet Fisher

Jenkins, President of the Medical Library Association, update us on all the activities MLA is involved with. We also heard an update of activities at the National Library of Medicine from Betsy

**Humphreys**, Associate Director, Library Operations at NLM. If we could ever demonstrate to those outside our profession what we are able to accomplish and learn and still have so much fun, we would not have to think about recruitment and addressing diversity issues as "goals".

**Janet:** That brings up one of my own goals, which is mentoring. We have awards for what our members have accomplished, and they are discussed elsewhere in this issue. I plan to focus on the importance of mentoring so that our members WILL accomplish great things for our profession beginning as soon as they join us. More about that in the next issue of Southern Expressions.

Lynn: I know you have other ideas for projects and plans and goals. A voluntary professional association accomplishes what it can on the contributions of it's members' time. What we do, we do after the demands of our "real" jobs are met, after the needs of our families are fulfilled, and after our other





Susan Lee, Joedda Pessima





Sarah Gable, Laura Kane, Roz McConnaughy



Annette Williams





Steve McCall & Martha Verchot





Pamela Sherwill-Navarro, Addajane Wallace









Marcia Epelbaum & Taneya Koonce













Scott Plutchak & Lynn Fortney







#### MLA Triple Chapter Meeting, New Orleans, 2001 Perspectives of a First Time Attendee Christopher Colthorpe Clemson University

New Orleans, the French Quarter, perfect weather, and the MLA Triple Chapter Meeting - all at one time and in one place! Does it get any better? Nope! For those of you that missed it... well, you missed it. As a first time attendee I can't compare it to other meetings, but having attended meetings associated with higher education for twenty plus years, I would say there is nothing to compare it to.

New Orleans is one of the most beautiful, interesting,

and charming cities I have ever been to. That may be rubbing salt into the wounds of those who didn't make it to the meeting, but take heart. Believe it or not the meeting was so good that the city ran in second place when it came to spending time. Speaking of "spending", the hundred dollars set aside for Harrah's Casino

(a mere 200 feet from the hotel), remains intact because the papers, posters, and speakers were so genuinely interesting that they held one's attention better than the chance for a winning hand of twentyone.

OK, I won't deny lunch and dinner on a few occasions in the French Quarter (yum). And OK there was the Cuban restaurant with the daily lunch special (mmmm). But by and large I found myself wandering between exhibits, speakers, and CE classes. And I have to say, it doesn't seem fair that the vendors put on a get together with mounds of fresh fruit, piles of shrimp, heaps of catfish, and mountains of chicken. I mean who could find room for the finest French pastry after all that. And if you could tear yourself away from the food, who could walk away from the haunting laments and hot licks emitted by the show stopping band (Train Wreck on the Bayou)? Or how about the breakfast the exhibitors provided on Friday? That had to put a dent in the Cafe' du

Monde's profits. And what about the all you could eat Cajun food at the Halloween-on-the-Bayou party? I suppose that if you danced long enough to the zydeco band, you could have found a little room for more to eat, but too often that space was filled with an endless supply of free beer, wine, lemonade, or tea that poured forth from behind the bar.

But it wasn't just the Meeting's food, drink and entertainment that competed with New Orleans.

"Speaking of "spending", the hundred dollars set aside for Harrah's Casino (a mere 200 feet from the hotel), remains intact because the papers, posters, and speakers were so genuinely interesting that they held one's attenton better than the chance for a winning hand of twenty-one."

Four General Sessions that were top notch. CE classes that were timely and valuable. Paper and poster sessions that made me wish I had multiple personalities so I could attend more than one simultaneously. A Southern Chapter business meeting that was more fun than most birthday parties I've

been to (and the ice cream and cake were better than what I got on my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday). Meeting new people, exchanging new ideas, and learning about new products and initiatives. It was virtually (no digital pun intended) impossible to find a reason to leave the meeting.

Come on planners!!! If you are going to put together a meeting that impressive, please have it in an appropriate location. How about International Falls in January? Death Valley in August? Someplace where you have no incentive to poke your head outside. Not that I minded missing the tourist scene all that much, but now I have to deal with all the strange looks, because every time I'm asked, "How was New Orleans?" I respond: "I don't know. I was having too good a time at the Triple Chapter Meeting to leave the hotel."

Submitted by Christopher Colthorpe

### Research Spotlight

#### Southern Chapter Web Page: Research Committee

Are you a periodic visitor to the SC/MLA web page? In case you have not 'checked out the **Research** section lately, we would like to turn the **Spotlight** to this section of the web page for a virtual get acquainted tour. The SC web page is a wonderful professional resource for new information, professional development, and networking. The Research Committee contributes specific information to promote and support the research interests of the SC membership. Pat Higginbottom, our web master, continues to amaze us at how quickly she makes our new information live on the web and available to our membership.

Let's begin our tour on the main **Southern Chapter** web page\_http://www.uab.edu/lister/scmla by selecting **Research** for information on this committee.

Allow us to start by introducing the membership found at **SC/MLA Research Committee**, one of the hot links on the Research web page. Committee members are distinguished by their interest in research and represent both academic and hospital libraries. Wondering just what the Research Committee does? Look over the **annual report.** 

To review the Committee activities select **SC/MLA Research Activities.** Communicating and promoting research both locally and nationally is one important activity. Interested in participating on the research committee? Check mark **Research** on the SC/MLA membership form the next time you renew or apply for SC membership.

One of the principle activities of the research committee is to award funding for research projects by SC members. The Research Committee can award up to \$1,000 annually. If you are working on a research project or have an idea for a new project and require funding, please complete the **online application form** found on the Research web page at **Research Grant Award** and submit it. Note that the deadline for submissions is October 1 so don't miss out. The research project winning the award in 1999 is posted on the Research page - **Research** 

**Grant Funded Project 1999**. This may be helpful to you in describing projects that have been funded. The members of the research committee will work with you to refine the proposal for final acceptance.

Help can also come from **Available Research Mentors in SC/MLA**. The members listed on this page have expressed their willingness to serve as research mentors to the membership. You don't have to jump into research alone, <u>click on the underlined names and review their CVs</u>. One of them may be experienced in the type of research you are thinking about, seek that person out and ask for their assistance. By the way, do *you* have some experience with research that you are willing to share? Help encourage and shape new researchers by becoming a research mentor, just send your CV to the Research Committee Chair (preferably in electronic format) for review.

More information about research can be found in the abstracts of **Research Presented at the Annual Meeting**. Starting in 2000, we began posting some structured abstracts of new research presented at our annual meetings. This endeavor supports the MLA Research Section commitment to Evidence-based Librarianship, by attempting to preserve research reports at meetings that may never be published and therefore, may become lost to the discipline. Look at the new abstracts recently added of selected papers and posters presented at the MLA/Triple Chapter Meeting in New Orleans, LA October, 2001. This is another place to look for research ideas and locate members who may share your research interest.

Working with NLM funded projects can serve as a way to develop expertise in grant writing, program design, and evaluative research. The evaluative component in administering a grant program can help you get started on a research program. On the Research web page look under **Funded Projects**Within SC for descriptions of projects that were funded by the Health Information for the Public, an initiative of the National Library of Medicine in January, 2000. How can this information help you get started in research?

### Governmental Relations Committee

#### Capital Hill Legwork



As medical librarians we must keep abreast of actions in federal government that will impact our daily activities. These may range from copyright laws to budget shortfalls and who will control the Internet. The Governmental Relations Information Center site

on MLANET (http://capwiz.com/mla/home/) will connect you with your representatives on the Hill, and even provide a preformatted email message to forward on bills and issues concerning our profession.

Take some time to browse the options available to give you a voice on Capitol Hill. These include a summary of issues and legislation of concern to the profession, House, Senate and Committee Hearing schedules, and even "Capitol Hill Basics" showing you ways to make contact via phone, email, letters, etc. You can do all this legwork without setting foot in Washington, D.C.

Watch for notices from your state's Southern Chapter Governmental Relations committee member, and then take action! Become an advocate for libraries of all types. By using the tools available on MLANET, it takes only a small amount of time from your daily schedule.

We are still seeking a member for SC/GRC for Puerto Rico.

Please email if you are interested in serving a 3 year term.

cmachado@rowland.umsmed.edu

## Research Spotlight continued from p.14

Right now the NN/LM Southeastern/Atlantic (SE/A) is accepting applications from SE/A network members to provide NLM system, Internet training or technology-related classes <a href="http://nnlm.gov/sea/">http://nnlm.gov/sea/</a> outreach/oldrfqs/2001/training.html. The purpose of this program is to improve health professionals', librarians and the public's skills in accessing electronic health information. Perhaps you know how to do internet training and have presented programs outside your institution. Look over the projects in this section, Southern Chapter members gave sessions in public libraries, churches, health clinics. Contact the project directors for information about their experiences and seek their help in developing your own application. Janice Kelly and her staff at the NN/ LM SE/A will help you throughout the process. As with all sections, this is a work in progress. If you are or have been involved in a NLM funded project please submit it to the Research Section Chair for inclusion in this section.

Did you loose the textbook you used for research in library school? Turn to **Research Resources** for links to the MLA research policy, research bibliography and for a review of research methods. In addition look over the **Links for Researchers** for important web sites on research.

Hope you have enjoyed the tour; but let me emphasize, this web section is a WORK-IN-PROGRESS—we welcome and need your suggestions for new content, organization and activity reports. Help make this page a valued resource to all Chapter members. Send your suggestions and comments to the Research Committee Chair and remember to repeatedly visit the Southern Chapter web page and look for the red New! box next to **Research** 

Submitted by Addajane L. Wallace Research Committee

Submitted b Connie K. Machado SC Governmental Relations Committee Chair



**Kay Hogan Smith** 

As the new co-editor of Southern Expressions, it was somewhat embarrassing to me that I missed the most recent gathering in New Orleans of not only my own chapter, but two others as well!

Fortunately my coworkers came to the rescue, not only bearing "Good Luck Mama" souvenir voodoo dolls but actual notes of some of the sessions I missed. For the benefit of others who might have missed out on the festivities and educational opportunities in New Orleans, this issue offers a glimpse of those activities.

Everyone raved about the CE courses, contributed papers and posters, but it was the general sessions I most wanted to know about. **Martha Verchot** gave me the lowdown on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> general sessions and the social activities (and also the voodoo doll). General Session 1 on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, featured speaker **James O'Donnell** on the topic, "After the Internet..." Dr. O'Donnell explained the transitions we've faced since the rise of the Internet in a historical context with comparisons to other major technological innovations such as the development of the telegraph and railroad. Some major points from his presentation:

- Although we may feel caught up in a period of constant change, technologically speaking things have remained fairly stable since the advent of Netscape in 1994. However, look for a new major shift with the rise of wireless networks.
- Five hundred years ago, monasteries and universities looked identical to one another. The invention of the printing press did not eliminate either institution but changed how they fit in society. This, of course, can be compared to today's libraries and the Internet.
- During this transitional period, we tend to define new media using the old media terminology (e.g., moving picture, online journal, etc.).

General Session 4 was held on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

and featured **John Barry** with "Influenza 1918: the First Collision of Epidemic Disease and Scientific Medicine." The recent wave of bioterrorism unfortunately made this a timely topic. Barry spoke on the tremendous mortality rate of this epidemic and the fact that it killed a disproportionate number of people in their prime. In fact, he said, 25-29 year olds were the demographic group hit hardest by the flu, and more were killed in that age range than any other. A couple of salient points were brought out in this presentation:

- In the nationwide battleground to contain this epidemic in 1918, physicians at Rockefeller Institute became the first to work in what we would now call a public health investigation. This facility served as the model for the National Institutes of Health later on.
- The influenza virus is relatively unstable and therefore unsuitable for biological warfare.

As for the contributed papers, the common complaint heard was that there were simply too many good ones to choose from. Southern Chapter's **Martha Earl** was among those whose paper won an award at the meeting, while **Sally Murray** and **Justin Robertson** won an award for their poster.

Of course this meeting also marked the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of Southern Chapter complete with ice cream and cake and numerous candles. **Mark Hodges** presented his history of Southern Chapter at the annual meeting, and he and President **Lynn Fortney** blew out the candles on the cake

(continued on p.23)

### Around the South

#### News from the University of Florida Health Science Center Libraries

Amy G. Buhler joined the Reference Department as an Instructor University Librarian at the Health Science Center Libraries in Gainesville, FL. She is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. While a student there she worked as a graduate research assistant at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Library in Research Triangle Park. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in Anthropology. While an undergraduate at UF she worked as a library assistant in two of the other campus libraries.

Congratulations to **Sandra Canham** for her recent promotion to Education Coordinator from Reference Librarian at the Borland Library at the Jacksonville branch of the University of Florida's Health Science Center. Also congratulations go out to **Tara Tobin**, who was promoted from Instructor University Librarian to Assistant University Librarian and to **Barbara Francis** for becoming an emeritus faculty member.

Congratulations also go to **Michele Tennant**, who joined the staff of the University of Florida's Genetics Institute as their Bioinformatics Librarian. Her office is still in the library.

The UFHSCL is saying good-bye to **Myra Sterrett**. She is leaving her position as Deputy Director to take over as the Director of the Santa Fe Community College Library. We wish her the best in her new position.

Faith Meakin, Linda Butson, Pamela Sherwill-Navarro, Peggy Hsu, Rae Jesano and Sandra Canham attended the Tri-chapter meeting in New Orleans this year. Pamela Sherwill-Navarro co-authored a poster entitled "Impact of articles reporting Research on the Value of Medical Library Services to Clinical care" with Adajane Wallace They received third place for the South Central Chapter Research Award at the Tri-chapter meeting.

Nancy Schaefer attended the American Public

Health Association Annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga. **Faith Meakin** attended the AAMC meeting in Washington DC.

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001 The University of Florida HSCL hosted a Solinet class entitled: The Invisible Reference Desk. It was attended by **Tara Tobin**, **Pam Sherwill-Navarro**, **Nancy Schaefer**, **Rae Jesano** and **Peggy Hsu**.

Michele Tennant attended AMIA meeting in Washington DC. Immediately following she attended a meeting at NCBI with a group developing an educational program on NCBI resources for advanced librarians and beginning researchers. It includes educational materials and a 40 hour course. NCBI invited her to participate in this project.

On December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> the HSCL, the Genetics Institute and the Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology co-sponsored NCBI Training Sessions entitled A Field Guide to GenBank and NCBI Resources Instruction for Scientists, Researchers, Graduate Students, and Clinicians.

Submitted by Rae Jesano



### Grants and Scholarships

#### Martha C. Watkins Scholarship



Martha Verchot, Martha Earl, Linda Markwell, Lisa Russell at the Martha C. Watkins Scholarship Table

Did you miss your chance to donate to the Martha C. Watkins Scholarship Fund\* this year? If you were not able to attend this year's Tri-Chapter meeting in New Orleans (or missed us there) you still have a chance to donate to the Watkins Fund and get this year's Thank You Memento. For each \$10 donation to the fund you will receive the M.O.M.'01 Ornament, a quilted Christmas tree made by Linda Flavin.

To donate to the fund please send your check, made payable to: SC/MLA-Watkins Scholarship Fund, to: Linda Flavin SC/MLA Membership Database Manager PO Box 380634 Birmingham, AL 35238-0634

\*The Martha C. Watkins Scholarship was established in 1996 to honor Martha as a founding member of the Southeastern Conference of Hospital Librarians (SCHL) and a life-long leader, friend and mentor of Southern Chapter. She spent many years educating hospital library managers, instructing student and staff users of library services, and providing information to rural and underserved healthcare personnel. The scholarship was begun by Jane Lambremont and the SCHL Executive Committee with SCHL's treasury after the organization disbanded in 1995, and has grown each year through the fund-raising efforts of Martha's many friends.

For information on the Martha C. Watkins Scholarship see: http://www.uab.edu/lister/scmla/mom.htm

Submitted by Linda Flavin

## **MLA/Hospital Libraries Section Professional Development Grants**

This grant, sponsored by the Hospital Libraries Section, provides librarians working in hospital and similar clinical settings up to \$800 for educational or research activities.

**Application deadlines are February 1 and August 1.** 

### Obituary

#### **Dora Louise Platt**

Dora (Dee) Louise Platt, former MLA member, died August 16, 2001. Dee was Director of Library Services at Saint Thomas Hospital in Nashville, TN from 1959 until she retired in 1985.

After she was hired at Saint Thomas, she established the Health Sciences Library by merging the medical and nursing libraries at the hospital. When Dee retired, she had managed to acquire the library's first computer. She was a visionary, understanding how technology could impact one's ability to access information.



**Dora Louise Platt** 

After she retired, Sister Juliana Administrator of Saint Thomas, commissioned Dee to research the history of Saint Thomas. Her research later was the foundation for the book A Century of Caring. The book was published in 1998 in celebration of Saint Thomas' 100th anniversary.

Dee moved to California with her family in 1998. Her husband Jack Platt died earlier this year. Betty her daughter plus her son Doug and his family live in California.

Just a personal note. Dee was my friend and mentor for many years. She taught me so much (I took her position after she retired, but worked with her for 10 years prior to that). She had a wonderful sense of humor, was a true professional, and always had time for a talk. The following poem by Robert Frost fits her to a tee.

#### A Time to Talk

When a friend calls to me from the road And slows his horse to a meaning walk, I don't stand still and look around On all the hills I haven't hoed, And shout from where I am, 'What is it?' No, not as there is a time to talk. I thrust my hoe in the mellow ground, Blade-end up and five feet tall, And plod: I go up to the stone wall For a friendly visit.

### Hospital Librarian of the Year

### Sue Felber Recognized as Southern Chapter MLA 2001 Hospital Librarian of the Year.



Felber

At the October 2001 meeting of three chapters of the Medical Library Association in New Orleans, Sue Felber was honoured as the Southern Chapter "Hospital Librarian of the Year." The honour includes recognition by her colleagues at the annual luncheon, a plague and \$250.

Sue was nominated for her many years work coordinating SEND, the regional interlibrary loan network (SouthEastern Network using DOCLINE) and for her work with the Florida Health Science Library Association and the Tampa Bay Area Medical Library Network. Her publications include a BMLA article on SEND and articles in Cancer Control, the publication of the Moffitt Cancer Center. A recent article in National Network is entitled, "Commentary on the Informationist: a different perspective."

Sue is presently the medical library coordinator at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, Tampa, FL. Prior to serving at Moffitt, Sue was the library director at Naples Community Hospital, Naples, FL; Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, FL; and lived and

worked for ten years in Laramiee, Wyoming.

Sue is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Alpha Theta history honorary, and Alpha Lambda Delta freshman women's honorary. Her undergraduate work was done at the University of Denver, CO in education and history. Ms. Felber holds an Masters of Science in Library Science from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and is a member of Beta Phi Mu national library honorary society.

Sue was nominated by Thomas Hill, Self Memorial Hospital, Greenwood, SC.

Submitted by Thomas Hill

### Job Announcement

**GEORGIA** - Reference Librarian - Medical Library & Peyton T. Anderson Learning Resources Center at Mercer University School of Medicine has re-opened its search for a reference librarian to provide reference, information and instructional services for Library, LRC and GaIN (Georgia Interactive Network for Medical Information). Position also helps plan public services, identify/develop electronic information resources, and maintain GaIN electronic current alert services. Position participates in outreach and liaison programs, and reports to the Head of Public Services. Some evening and weekend hours, and some travel required.

Required: ALA?accredited masters degree in library

science; hands-on experience in computer, Internet and database searching; strong public services orientation; excellent oral and written communication skills. Preferred: Science or clinical background, AHIP membership, Web page development skills, experience in teaching and/or training adult learners. Salary: Faculty appointment with full benefits and responsibilities; AA/EOE/ADA; salary based on qualifications and experience. Minimum: \$32,000. Applications accepted until position is filled. Send letter, resume, and names of three references to: Jan H. LaBeause, Director, Medical Library & LRC, Mercer University School of Medicine, 1550 College Street, Macon, GA, 31207.

## Chapter Council News (continued from p.9)

base with our Benchmark Chapter Educator, **Linda** Garr Markwell.

MLANet continues to grow and improve. It always interests me what can be found on the site. While surfing around the other day I found a PowerPoint presentation that our own Lynn Fortney made to a group of librarians in Australia during a trip there in August. In September a change in Internet Service Providers took place to help speed the response time and enhance other aspects of the page. A new feature this year is the President's Page, which has the text of the President's inaugural address, outlines priorities for action while in office, and lists earlier accomplishments. Perhaps you have heard by now that the MLA Membership Directory is going to become an online publication without a print counterpart. To ease the transition, I understand that the October M LA News will contain a 24-page pullout section entitled 2001-2002 MLA Leaders Directory. This will have information that used to be available in the Directory such as committee rosters and charges, section and chapter officers and special interest group conveners.

This is something you will probably want to keep to use as a reference during the coming year. Meanwhile, to access the Directory online you will need your MLANET username (your MLA ID#) and your MLANET member's only password (three uppercase letters followed by 5 numbers that appear on your membership card). If you are unsure of your username or password you can contact Beverly Bradley in the Membership Services Dept. of MLA by e-mail or by phone.

In an effort to further diversity and increase the numbers of minorities in our organization and in our profession MLA and NLM joined forces to sponsor a scholar in the ALA Spectrum Initiative Program. I am pleased to tell you that the 2001 MLA/National Library of Medicine Spectrum Scholar is **Felicia A. Smith**, information specialist, at the Health Learning Center of Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago II. Felicia was also this year's recipient of the MLA Scholarship for Minority Students which is given to a minority student entering an ALA-accredited library school having at least one-half of

the requirements of the program to finish in the year following the award.

Other news about grants and scholarships includes a new award, the David A. Kronick Traveling Fellowship which was established by Virginia M. Bowden. This involves one grant of \$2,000 each year to cover the cost of traveling to 3 or more medical libraries to studey a specific aspect of health information management. Meanwhile the number of EBSCO/MLA Annual Meeting Grants offered each year has been increased from 2 to 4. This will begin with the 2002 annual meeting and each award is for \$1,000. Work continues on the Lindberg Fellowship as the assocation considers various methods for raising the principal required to fund it. The deadline for most of the grant and scholarship applications is December 1st, but you can find specific information for each one on MLANET.

Remember that in January 2002 the name of BMLA will be changed to *Journal of the Medical Library Association*. This will start with vol. 90, no. 1. MLA has announced that digital archives of the Bulletin have been added to PubMed Central dating back to January 2000, vol. 80, no. 1.

Both Chapter Council and Section Council will be appointing a liaison to the MLA Core Membership Committee. This new position will be a three-year term and will follow the model already established by Chapter Council with the MLA Continuing Education and Credentialing committees. In other Section Council news, the Medical Society Libraries Section's request to change their name to Health Association Libraries Section has been approved.

The MLA Continuing Education Committee is still working on the Technology Specialization Credential. It is expected that this will be a two-tiered credential. The first requiring 12 hours of Continuing Education credit and the second requiring a greater number of credits that has not yet been determined.

Carla Funk and Jeannine Gluck, the MLA Representative to JCAHO, have written a letter addressing the fact that there is not a representative

### Chapter Council News

(continued from p.22)

from the knowledge-based information community on the JCAHO Standards Review Task Force. The letter asks that MLA and other health information organizations be involved in this process and that a representative from the field be appointed to the Task Force. This letter has been sent to **Dr. Paul Schyve**, JCAHO Senior Vice-President.

Carla was also very involved with the 2001 IFLA meeting which was held in Boston this year. She served as the treasurer and was responsible for the budget for the meeting. Many other MLA members also participated and I understand the meeting was a great success.

In response to the death of a research volunteer at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, MLA President, Carol Jenkins drafted a statement concerning the role medical librarians could have played in searching and evaluating the biomedical literature relative to the case. MLA released this statement to major media outlets and as a result Carol was interviewed and quoted in an article in the August 25th issue of Lancet. Following this the MLA Board of Directors decided in their September meeting to appoint a Taskforce to Promote the Importance of Expert Searching. The charge will include establishment of guidelines on best practices for expert searching in biomedicine and research.

Both MLA President Elect Linda Watson and Carla Funk have been invited to attend the 2002 Southern Chapter meeting and acceptance letters were received from each, so we will look forward to having them join us in Nashville.

The bombing of the World Trade Center on September 11<sup>th</sup> has deeply affected all our lives. In response, the library community has issued a statement on freedom of speech and access to information that was endorsed by the MLA Board of Directors at their September meeting. MLA has also created a "Community of Caring" site on MLANET as a resource for the medical library community in addressing issues related to the attack.

I hope to see you all at MLA 2002 in Dallas, Texas, May 17th-23<sup>rd</sup>. Following Dallas, meeting locations

for the next 5 years include:

2003—San Diego, CA

2004—Washington, DC

2005—San Antonio, TX

2006—Phoenix, AZ

I feel certain that you successfully promoted yourself and your library during National Medical Librarians Month. The theme for the month is "Medical Librarians: Your Link to Quality Information". MLA hopes that the poster that was in the June/July 2001 *MLA News* and the ideas and tips on the web site were helpful to you in promoting yourself and your library. However, I'm sure you have used lots of your own creative ideas in this endeavor. Don't forget, when you return home you have until November 30th to enter them in the Creative Promotions Award contest. Two winners will receive \$100 in MLA money.

Sarah Gable Chapter Council Representative

Jan LaBeause Chapter Council Alternate

## MLA Tri-Chapter Meeting (continued from p.16)

(which appeared to be chocolate from the pictures - mmm!) **Carol Burns** was presented with an honorary membership in the Chapter as well.

The other social aspects of the meeting included the welcome reception, with musical arrangements led by **Scott Plutchak** and a belly dancer, and the closing banquet at Michaul's, which numerous librarians attended in disguise.

Submitted by Kay Hogan Smith

### Libraries Creating One World: Connections, Collaborations, Cooperatives

SC/MLA Annual Meeting October 17-21, 2002 Nashville, TN

### Gall for Presentations

You are invited to submit proposals for contributed papers and posters for the 2002 Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN. Presentations should relate to the theme of the meeting and should emphasize libraries working in partnerships to build campus, community, or regional approaches to information access and information management.

Proposals should be submitted in the format of structured abstracts (*See http:// hubnet.buffalo.edu/mla/abstract.html*). Each abstract may be up to 300 words in length and must include a list of authors, their institutional affiliations, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers as well as an indication of whether the submission is a Contributed Paper or Poster proposal. The deadline for submissions is April 2, 2002. Preferred method of abstract submission is by e-mail using a Word or WordPerfect attachment.

#### **CONTRIBUTED PAPERS**

Contributed paper sessions will be Saturday afternoon, October 19, 2002. Each paper will be 15 minutes in length.

#### **POSTERS**

Presenters should plan to be available to staff posters during a one-hour poster session on Saturday morning. Posters will remain up for viewing for the remainder of the conference. Electrical connections will be available.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 2, 2002

Send abstracts by e-mail to:

Jocelyn Rankin
Program Chair, SC/MLA Annual Meeting

E-Mail: <a href="mailto:jrankin@cdc.gov">jrankin@cdc.gov</a> **Phone:** 404-639-1761 **Fax:** 404-639-1160

Mailing Address:
CDC Information Center
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30333