

**SLA Alabama Chapter  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Monday, February 5, 2007  
Birmingham Museum of Art

Present: Mangala Krishnamurthy, President; Beata Walton, President-Elect; Sherie Mattox, Treasurer.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

There was a brief discussion about how officers should continue to hold a planning meeting at the beginning of each year. January or February seem to be a good time for most officers to attend.

There was also a discussion of how to recruit more members into leadership positions. A nominating committee was suggested, as was simply calling people and asking them to serve.

It was suggested that these minutes be posted to the SLA AL website. Beata agreed to do this as soon as they had been reviewed by officers.

Tatum gave a report on chapter activities for 2006. There were three priorities for the year: reinstating and supporting the SLA student chapter at the University of Alabama's SLIS, membership recruitment and retention, and providing networking and educational opportunities for SLA members and the library community. Highlights of how these goals were met include:

- SLA student chapter was revived, with Sybil Bullock serving as faculty advisor. Tatum spoke to the student group in February and September about the benefits of membership in SLA.
- On March 9, the chapter hosted Rebecca Vargha, then president-elect of SLA, to UA SLIS. Rebecca spoke with a Special Libraries class, met with SLIS Director Elizabeth Aversa and faculty, and presented a public lecture.
- The chapter's Florine Oltman Scholarship was reinstated and was awarded to Beth Riggs.
- In May, an electronic survey of chapter members was conducted using SLA's SurveyMonkey software. Approximately 20 percent of members responded, and responses have been used to shape chapter programming.
- Several members attended the SLA Annual Conference, and the chapter hosted its annual Fall Professional Development Conference in Montgomery on October 20, with approximately 20 members in attendance.
- SLA members sponsored a student chapter tour of EBSCO, the Birmingham Museum of Art Library, and the Archives of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in the fall.

- The chapter published 2 newsletters and gained 23 members, some new, and some who were already members but affiliated with or moved to the Alabama chapter.

Sherie presented a year-end report and budget for 2007. A copy of the treasurer's report is included at the end of these minutes. The report reflects a deficit for 2006 due to programs/events hosted by the chapter. The 2007 budget was discussed and tabled until the dues allotment for members that will be received from SLA is determined.

The scholarship amount will remain at \$200.

Mangala and Tatum proposed a Knowledge Management Workshop in the spring. The workshop would be one-day, in Tuscaloosa, and taught by Dale Stanley and Guy St. Clair. Plans were discussed for fundraising for the workshop. Mangala will talk with University Libraries and SLIS, Tatum will talk with EBSCO, and Beata will talk with SIRSI about funding possibilities. We hope to have 30 attendees at the workshop, and estimate that we will charge SLA members \$50 and nonmembers \$100.

Mangala reported on the SLA Leadership Summit, held in Reno in January. She referenced a report from Anne Caputo, the head of Chapter Cabinet.

- Mangala noted that Anne's report mentioned activities of the Alabama chapter, including Rebecca Vargha's visit, our members survey, and the fact that our members are mentoring future special librarians.
- There was also continued discussion at Chapter Cabinet of merging SLA Chapters. SLA is encouraging more collaboration between chapters and suggests that chapters open and advertise their activities to neighboring chapters.
- SLA is also purchasing a system called AMS that will facilitate communication within SLA and will make it easier for members to keep in touch with SLA staff.
- Mangala also mentioned the WCE, World Computer Exchange, which SLA is getting involved with and encouraging chapters to pursue.
- Click University is still a popular programming for chapters, and some chapters charge \$10 to non-members and make the class free to members. Mangala wants to consider this for the Alabama chapter.
- SLA also encourages chapters to recruit retired members and to invite all members to attend Board meetings.
- At the 2007 annual conference in Denver, there will be a poster session in which chapters can participate. We need a volunteer to do a poster for the Alabama chapter.
- The 2009 Annual Conference will be held in Washington, DC and it will mark SLA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. SLA is seeking ideas for programming as well as volunteers for the conference planning committee, and members may submit ideas or volunteer by emailing [100@sla.org](mailto:100@sla.org).

- Mangala announced a South Regional Conference that will be held in St. Petersburg, FL February 28 and 29, 2008. The Kentucky chapter is also hosting a Diversity Workshop in 2008. The 2008 Leadership Summit will be held in Louisville, KY.
- Mangala also attended a session on developing an “elevator speech,” a 20-second statement about your organization and what it does. This is a possible program idea for the chapter.

Tatum reported on plans for membership recruitment and retention for 2007.

Plans include:

- Focusing on student chapter (\$35 membership)
- Seeking out information professionals in the state who SHOULD be members and soliciting “lurkers” on our listserv
- Continuing to attract members through good programming and offering a price differential for members vs. nonmembers
- Better solicitation of nonmembers who attend events and programs
- Keeping current members informed (this adds value to their membership)
- Emailing every new member to thank them, tell them more about the benefits of SLA, and offer networking assistance
- Thanking members at every opportunity

Several suggestions for employers of potential members were discussed, including Mercedes, the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, Hyundai, Honda, *The Birmingham News*, ACIPCO, and the Southern Research Institute. Tatum is happy to solicit potential members and encourages current members to suggest people or companies they know who might be interested in joining SLA.

Beata suggested that we change the newsletter publication dates from May and November to February and August to better inform our members of chapter activities. This change will begin with a newsletter that will come out late this February. Beata is also happy to make changes to the website whenever needed.

Plans for activities for the year were discussed, including the Fall Professional Development Workshop. This workshop is usually held in October. We need a volunteer to plan the workshop. It was also suggested that we make it virtual if possible. Ideas are also needed for content/programming.

The Chapter will present a panel discussion on special librarianship at the Alabama Library Association (ALLA) in April in Orange Beach. The purpose of this presentation is to increase visibility of SLA in Alabama and to expose librarians throughout the state to special libraries and their activities. We need a handout for this workshop. We can print a tri-fold membership brochure from the SLA website, and will also create a one-page handout with the biographies and contact information for each panelist, as well as some information on SLA. We will also create a list of the special libraries in Alabama in which our members

work. Mangala will ask Beth to publicize this program at UA SLIS. We also need to email a list of questions/topics for discussion to the panelists so that they can be prepared with answers.

We will schedule another Executive Board meeting when needed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tatum Preston

**ALABAMA CHAPTER SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION  
(SLA)  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
JANUARY 12, 2007**

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

Balance as of 12/31/2006	\$ 8,613.23
<u>Balance as of 12/31/2005</u>	<u>\$ 8,592.11</u>
Total Increase for 2006	\$ 21.12

**CHECKING ACCOUNT**

Balance as of 12/31/2006	\$ 2,737.57
<u>Balance as of 12/31/2005</u>	<u>\$ 3,046.51</u>
Total Decrease for 2006	\$ -308.94