



President's Message: Cherie Feenker

This is my first opportunity to greet our Chapter Membership. On behalf of the Alabama Chapter of SLA I would like to thank Ron Dial for his leadership and persistence. Thanks also to all of you who have taken leadership roles in recent months and/or who have agreed to serve this year. I would like to encourage others to actively participate in upcoming Chapter activities.

In addition, I want to tell you that I look forward to working with you. I am very willing to listen to your comments and recommen-

dations. As we move rapidly toward a new Chapter year I would like to pause and take stock of our membership through conversations and through a survey to see who we are, as well as, what we want and need from this organization. Together we can look for new ideas and for ways in which we can fill our professional and Chapter needs. We will explore working with other library associations. We will revisit the popular neighborhood meetings and encourage the sharing of ideas and information.

Many of you will attend

the national convention in June in Nashville. Enhance your skills. Bring back ideas to share.

Mark your calendar for the October meeting in Birmingham. The program is coming together nicely.



Cherie Feenker, President,
Alabama Chapter of SLA

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DON'T FORGET...

- Sign up for the Alabama Chapter List-Serv to keep you up to date on all chapter happenings <http://www.sla.org/content/community/lists/chapterlists.cfm> or email amber.collins@maxwell.af.mil and ask to be added.
- Check out the SLA Career Center <http://www.sla.org/content/jobs/index.cfm>
- Attend the Breakfast Meeting, Tuesday, June 8th, 7am with Janice Lachance, SLA Executive Director in Nashville at Rachel's Restaurant in the Opryland Hotel.
- **Needed for Prison Legal Library:** Criminal law books, any edition; electric typewriters in working order. Anyone having items to donate contact Sybil Bullock, Tel 205 822-6560 or shbullock@charter.net

Meet your new area representatives

- Auburn -- [Andrew Wohrley](#) -- [Auburn University](#)
- Birmingham -- [Dre Sossa](#) -- [EBSCO](#)
- Florence -- [Beatta Totten](#) -- [Tennessee Valley Authority](#)
- Huntsville -- [Martha Knott](#) -- [Redstone Scientific Information Center](#)
- Mobile -- [Patricia Rodgers](#) -- [Harrassowitz Booksellers & Subscription Agents](#)
- Montgomery -- [Joan Phillips](#) -- [Air University Library](#)
- Tuscaloosa -- [Barbara Hedges](#) -- [Rodgers Library, University of Alabama](#)

By Ron Dial

Our state covers a lot of territory and it is not feasible or cost effective for us to get together as much as we would like to. Therefore, I've asked individuals

to be the leaders in local areas.

These area representatives would then sponsor gatherings for those chapter members, would-be members or friends to an event

in your part of the state.

What would/could be beneficial to the chapter from your meetings? We hope to see leaders develop for our state chapter offices

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Birmingham Museum of Art to Host the Fall Continuing Education Program

Alabama Chapter members have much to look forward to as planning has begun for the Fall Continuing Education Program. It will be held at the Birmingham Museum of Art (BMA) on Thursday, October 14, 2004. Oliver Pesch, Chief Architect and Vice-President at EBSCO Publishing, will be the key-



Birmingham Museum of Art (Photo courtesy of BMA)

note speaker. Factiva will be presenting among other distinguished guests.

If you would like to help with the planning of this event or for more information please contact [Ms. Tatum Preston Taylor](mailto:tpreston@artsbma.org), (tpreston@artsbma.org), Librarian, BMA.

In addition to the conference, a tour of BMA — the largest municipal museum in the Southeast — will be provided to attendees. The BMA houses a permanent collection of over 21,000 works of art dating from ancient to modern times.

The collection offers a diverse selection of artworks from Western (Renaissance to present) and non-Western cultures, the latter encompassing the largest and most comprehensive collection of Asian art in the Southeast. A multi-level outdoor sculpture garden en-

ables art to be seen both inside and outside the Museum.

Notable collections include the American Art Collection, with paintings by Sargent and Bierstadt; the Kress Collection of Renaissance art, with works by Bordone, Mainardi, Garofalo, and Perugino; the Dwight and Lucille Beeson-Wedgwood Collection, the finest collection outside England; the Eugenia Woodward Hitt Collection of 18th-century French paintings and decorative arts, one of the finest collections of French decorative arts in the United States; and the Rena Selfe Collection of Photography. The Museum also has a large and growing collection of African, Native American, and Precolumbian art.

The Clarence B. Hanson, Jr. Library supports this collection with 20,000 noncirculating volumes on art, art



Clarence B. Hanson, Jr. Library at the Birmingham Museum of Art (Photo courtesy of BMA)

history, and related topics, over 50 periodical subscriptions, artists' files, auction catalogs, and various databases. Library holdings focus on the Museum's permanent collection and traveling exhibitions, but also include general art reference materials.

The Chellis Wedgwood Collection, housed in the Lucille Stewart Beeson Rare Books Room, is the largest and most comprehensive special collection in the world relating to Josiah Wedgwood and his manufactures.

Past President attends SLA Leadership Summit

By Ron Dial

Oh, there were seminars, speakers and brief times to enjoy Albuquerque and its unique beauty, but it was the genuine

spirit of information professionalism and the accompanying collegiality that tends to overwhelm participants at the SLA Leadership Summit.



Dav Robertson, SLA Board Secretary & Cabinet Chair, Ron Dial, Past-President, Alabama Chapter, and Cindy Hill, SLA President take some time out from the Summit to pose for a picture.

In a moment of give and take between all levels of SLA leadership someone directed a question to the dais about SLA's greatest weakness and strength. Janice, the SLA Executive Director, paused for a second and spoke gingerly. In so many words, "Our greatest weakness is the over-critical and negative way we view the profession, our association and ourselves. Our greatest strength is the awesome talent pool information professionals bring to bear on work everyday with diverse skills, credentials, flexibility and experience."

I'd like to take a second to encourage the Alabama chapter members to direct as much positive energy as you can into your everyday accomplish-

ments."

By the time you read this, the SLA Headquarters will have moved into a modern facility. With the new "international" headquarters, we are challenged to think accordingly and thus should think of SLA in global terms.



Janice Lachance, SLA Executive Director, takes the opportunity to show attendees the New SLA International Headquarters

Alabama Happenings: News from around the state...

AIR UNIVERSITY LIBRARY:

AUL is happy to have several new staff members on board as well as to welcome back other members to the fold.

Kim Hunter worked at AUL for several years before deciding to go for the gold and earn her Master of Library Science. Her life at AUL started in 1980 as a very young and shy airman working in the Administration/Security office.

In 1984 she became a civilian employee working in book cataloging. From 1987 through 1996 she worked full time in cataloging while pursuing an

Environmental Biology degree at AUM — managing to only take one quarter off during that whole time.

After graduating Kim had a few other job offers but she just couldn't leave AUL. Finally, in June 2002 Kim "realized her destiny" and enrolled at the Univ. of North Texas in the School of Library and Information Science. After graduating in December 2003 Kim was hired as the newest Assistant Electronic Services Librarian. With just under a month's tenure as AUL's newest librarian Kim has jumped

right into the mix of things at AUL.

Tyler Evans began as a Co-Op student from University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa's LIS program and since graduating in May has transformed his experience in the Editing Department to a full-time position at AUL.

AUL would also like to welcome back former staff members Evette Pearson, who returns stateside from a five year tour at Aviano AFB, Italy and Vicki Watkins from Dayess AFB, Texas. Evette is Chief of Electronic Services and Vicki

joins Kim as her techno-savvy assistant librarians.



Kim Hunter: The shy and young Airman (on the left) and the definitely no longer shy MLIS graduate (on the right).

Looking for a free lunch?

As you make your final plans to attend the SLA conference in Nashville, or as you look forward to your Chapter, Division, or SLA unit 2004-2005 year, keep in mind that there is grant money just begging to be used in support of worthy projects.

Chapters, Divisions, Units/committees are all eligible to apply by the August 1, 2004 deadline. Topics to be considered are those that are tied to SLA's new mission and vision statements, revised competencies, and other SLA standards—with priorities of networking, advocacy, or professional development and that provide a replicable model for use by other units of SLA. The idea should be defined and focused enough to make it feasible for your unit to accomplish in the stated time and proposed budget.

Some suggested topics include:

- Effectively use the Communities of Practice concept now available through SLA
- Revitalize a Chapter or Division by surveying "best practices" of others then creating a new/composite model
- Formulate an operating structure that provides "neighborhoods" in large Chapters
- Devise a program to recruit new SLA members or to recruit new people to the profession—either on a local level or in a subject area
- Prove "Value"—Partner with local corporations or a Division, being visible in groups and organizations of their subject area—through meeting attendance, presentations, publications, etc.
- Create a model for electronic delivery of Chapter programs
- Partner with a vendor on a topic of mutual value/interest

For more information visit the SLA web site <http://www.sla.org/content/learn/scholarship/index.cfm>.

Committee Chair Susan DiMattia (646-746-6813 sdimattia@reedbusiness.com) will be in Nashville for the entire conference, and encourages members to talk to her, Committee Staff Liaison Linda Broussard (linda@sla.org) or committee members Liz Bibby, Dav Robertson and Pam Rollo regarding the grants.

The committee is looking forward to reading the applications for all of the innovative projects you can imagine! They will present their recommendations to the SLA Board for a vote at their Fall Meeting.

The Bridge is published twice a year: May & November. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month of publication. Contributors should submit materials to the managing editor. Documents may be submitted as Word files or in Rich Text Format; graphics should be submitted in jpeg or tiff files. For advertising rates please contact the advertising editor.

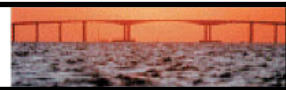
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What's happening in your neighborhood?

(Continued from page 1)

from all areas of the state. We want to see job vacancies in your area that people would feel comfortable giving chapter members an opportunity to be made aware of.

We want to hear about new information professionals in the area and work accomplishments at your agencies that you are particular proud of. These are things you feel our state chapter should know about or be doing.

I'm hoping we can become a stronger support network for our members, a place where our friends in special information centers can look to for support and expertise, and a conduit to gainful employment when our members and friends have to make career changes.

I'm hoping we can proudly advocate about the great value information professionals bring to your agencies and your communities, if not publicly, at least to each other.

Spotlight on Huntsville:



Martha Knott
Huntsville
martha.knott@us.army.mil
256 842-8434

Martha Knott serves as the Chief Librarian at the Redstone Scientific Information Center (RSIC) for the U.S. Army Aviation & Missile Command located on Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. Martha also serves as the POC for the Army Aviation Corridor of Excellence (AAE) online Website. Mrs. Knott earned her BS and MLS at the University of Southern Mississippi. She is a graduate of the Army Management Staff College.

Martha is taking advantage of the 2004 virtual learning series sponsored by SLA, and is planning on hosting a brown bag lunch get together followed by a seminar on Survey Design: Tips and Techniques.

The seminar itself begins at 1pm, with lunch beforehand, on July 28 at the Redstone Scientific Information Center's conference room and should end around 2:30pm. This event is sponsored by RSIC

and will be free of charge to chapter members. For more information regarding the brown bag lunch please contact Martha Knott, Huntsville's area representative.

To learn more about SLA's virtual learning series or to get some ideas for your own area get-togethers checkout their website at <http://www.sla.org/content/learn/learnmore/distance/virtsem2004/index.cfm>

Spotlight on Montgomery:



Joan T. Phillips
Montgomery
joan.phillips@maxwell.af.mil
334 953-5042

Joan is currently a bibliographer at Air University Library where she has been employed since 1986. While following her husband around the world (he is now retired from the Air Force) she managed to earn an MLS from Catholic Uni-

versity in Washington D.C. and has worked in various library settings.

Joan's duties at AUL include reference assistance, being a liaison to the Ira Eaker College of Professional Development, and compiling bibliographies on topics such as Africa, military transformation, arms control and sales, conflict termination, and total force.

In her spare time Joan enjoys traveling, sleeping — "I can never get enough", and exercising — you can catch her walking around the academic circle at AUL on a daily basis or working out in her home

Are You Lonesome Tonight?

Join the members of the Alabama SLA Chapter for a Biscuits game at the new stadium in Montgomery on July 9, 2004. Don't get All Shook Up, but Elvis sightings are expected. If you would like to sit with the group, please send \$10.00 per ticket to Joan Phillips by June 4, 2004. We'll meet at the ticket booth at 6:30 that evening. So brush off your Blue Suede Shoes and we will see you there!

For more information on the Biscuits Baseball team check out their home page at <http://www.biscuitsbaseball.com/>



Photo from: <http://www.guntherracing.com/scrapbook/baseball/>

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