

# FCC/SLA Bulletin

## In This Issue

### Chapter meetings and events

- ▶ November 2004 Meeting:  
*The Importance of Competitive Intelligence: An evening with Jerry Miller @ Cytech Industries*

### Articles

- ▶ The New Stamford Law Library: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Legal Information Network
- ▶ Talent and Curiosity
- ▶ Challenges Facing Today's Information Professionals
- ▶ Tolstoy, Where Have You Gone?

### TidBits: "A Bit About...."

- ▶ Marianne Cirrito
- ▶ Susan DiMattia

### President's Message

### Editor's Corner

### Congratulations!

### The Vormelker-Thomas Student Award

## President's Message

VOTE!

Greetings Colleagues,

I've just returned from SLA's annual Leadership Summit in Tampa. This is the second year I've attended and the programs keep getting better. A good balance of association business discussion, networking time, and leadership training made the trip well worthwhile.

Your ballot for SLA's election will soon show up in your mail. **Be sure to...  
...VOTE!**

The Summit is a perfect forum for announcing new organization initiatives and giving the Chapter and Division leaders the latest news. Executive Director Janice Lachance presented highlights of SLA's Performance Review in 2004. Some of the points Janice mentioned:

- Formation of a new chapter covering Australia/New Zealand
- Launch of online Communities of Practice
- Establishment of an online Legislative Action Center at <http://capwiz.com/sla/home/>
- Partnership with the University of North Carolina in a successful grant request to study the future of librarians in the workforce.

The Performance Review will soon be available on the association's website in its entirety.

VOTE!

One important goal of the Association is to provide more educational opportunities for its members. In 2005 SLA will launch SLA Online University. In partnership with Learn.com, this resource will start out offering courses on Microsoft applications and a wide array of management training. SLA will add its own material to the site; such as the Virtual Learning series and CE courses given at the Annual Meeting. Eventually, SLA members will be able to work towards getting an MBA through the Online University with courses offered by Syracuse University and Drexel University. And this is just the beginning! The target date for the launch of the Online University is June 2005.

VOTE!

A procedural change that directly affects the chapters was also announced at the Summit. The chapter governance year will be changed to match SLA's fiscal year starting in January 2008. Currently, the chapters elect board members in May, and their term starts in June. One problem with this timetable is that these officers go through half their term before they get the opportunity to attend the Leadership Summit.



## Editor's Corner



Where did the time go? Where is time going?

The year 2004 came and went by so quickly; before we knew it 2005 had arrived. And already we are half way through the first quarter of 2005. I

wonder how we are going to keep up with the demands of this fleeting time? Well, time dictates the next publication of the newsletter is due. Hence, welcome to the 2005 Winter issue of our Bulletin.

This issue features a rich selection of topics beginning with an article by Jon Stock about the new Stamford Law Library. The next two articles by Susan DiMattia and Jeff Baker discuss Talents & Curiosity, and Challenges Facing Today's Information Professionals respectively. There's also a featured column about "the dearth of clear writing in the workplace" entitled, "Tolstoy, Where Have You Gone?" by Frances Trelease. I am sure you'll enjoy the articles as much as I did.

I would like to say thanks to all the contributors. Without them, this issue would not have been possible. The Spring issue will be published in May 2005. If you would like to contribute to that issue, please feel free to contact me.

As always, I welcome your thoughts, opinion, ideas and feedback.

Thank you.

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### *Talent and Curiosity*

By Susan DiMattia, SLA Fellow

On a recent PBS show, Charlie Rose interviewed Nathan Myhrvold, former chief technology officer at Microsoft. After 14 years with Microsoft, Myhrvold launched Innovative Ventures, an invention incubator. In an age when people are anxious about the outsourcing of jobs to China and India, Myhrvold is more concerned that the United States may lose its reputation for creativity and inventiveness in the world economy. Rather than worry

about whether India and China are gaining on us, we should worry about whether we, as a country, have gotten complacent, he said.

During a recent revision of my resume, I had the opportunity to review my rather lengthy career and the many twists and turns it has taken. Changes and challenges have been numerous. Creativity, flexibility, and inventiveness were important elements in moving successfully from one segment to the next. Have I been as creative and inventive as I could have been? Probably not. It takes a great deal of time, energy, and concentration to be creative, and sometimes there are just too many other things demanding those resources.

One of my favorite passages from children's literature is the opening paragraph of Winnie the Pooh. Pooh comes bump, bump, bumping down the stairs on his head (held by the foot by Christopher Robin, of course). There must be a better way of descending the stairs, he supposes, if only he could stop bumping long enough to think about it. I began my career as a solo librarian in a bank that had never had a library before. There was a lot of head-bumping as I built that library. I was determined to spend more of my time selling my services than cataloging the growing collection of books and other materials, so there would be growing demand for library services. However, my boss was concerned that, if I got hit by a bus on my way home, he would never be able to find anything in the Library. He was right, and I found that I had to rearrange my thinking to accommodate both the things I believed in and the things that were expected of me. Fortunately, I was authorized to hire, over the course of three years, a second librarian and two library assistants, so that I could continue to do what I was best at, and what I enjoyed most, while also providing the well-organized service that our growing clientele expected.

Following that bank library experience, I have been a public library reference librarian, a consultant, a writer/editor, a library school educator, and a professional association leader. Each of those activities has presented its own challenges, represented fairly major change, and necessitated creative thinking in order to make them work to my satisfaction. There has been a serious amount of head-bumping along the way.

Rose questioned Myhrvold about his wide range of interests—technology, food, travel, etc.—and asked Myhrvold what excites him. "To sit with an idea and begin to grapple with it," was the reply. What an intriguing prospect! To stop bumping on your head long enough to grapple with an idea. What a difference that could make in the way we handle the changes and challenges in our lives. How often have each of us sat with an idea and not had the motivation, time, or nerve to begin to grapple with it? What a mistake, to see an idea as an encumbrance and not a challenge and opportunity.

At the close of the program, Rose, refusing to characterize his guest as a Renaissance Man, called Myhrvold "talented and curious." As my career has made, and continues to make, its various twists and turns, if the people I have encountered remember me as talented and curious, I can't think of a better legacy. How would you like people to remember you? It's an idea to grapple with!

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## A Bit About Susan DiMattia

By Josephine Ndinayah, FCC/SLA Bulletin Editor



With an MBA from the University of Connecticut, an MLS from Simmons College, and a BA in English/ economics from Wilson College, Susan DiMattia career in librarianship goes back almost four decades. Her library vocation started in June 1965.

Susan has been extremely successful and experienced in libraries. She is one of those rare individuals whose expertise in librarianship is infused with diversity. Susan has worked in public libraries as well as in special libraries. She has been a business information consultant, a mentor, an educator, and a writer/editor. I could go on, and on for pages - you name it, Susan she has done it all!

Susan is highly respected in the field and is considered by her colleagues as a living legend among librarians. Presently, Susan is teaching a Special Libraries course at Pratt Institute.

I am pleased to present to you, in a format of a "re-sume", hi-lights of the career and achievements of this incredible lady. Please read on...

### Career Achievements

- Elected to the presidency of the Special Libraries Association, the 12,000 member global organization for special librarians and information professionals. Awarded the status of "Fellow" in 2004.
- Brought to market a new newsletter, *Corporate Library Update*.
- Invited speaker at conferences and professional meetings in North America and Australia.
- Built and operated independent business information consulting practice for eight years. For clients such as American Express, Champion International, Dun & Bradstreet, General Electric, Internal Revenue Service, Moody's, John Wiley & Sons, and others.
- Serve at various times on the adjunct faculty of three graduate schools of library and information science:

Pratt Institute, Long Island University, and Southern Connecticut State University.

- Visiting lecturer at the above, plus Simmons College, Wayne State University, University of South Carolina, and Cornell.

### Employment History

**Editor**, *Library Hotline*, 1988- 2004.

**Editor**, *Corporate Library Update*, 1992- 2004.

**Business Information Consultant**, self-employed, 1980-88.

**Reference Librarian**, Commack Public Library, NY, 1975-77.

**Business Reference Specialist**, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY, 1973-74

**Business Reference Librarian**, Huntington Public Library, NY, 1971-73.

**Head Librarian**, Bank of New England, (now defunct) Boston, MA, 1965-71.

### Publications

Some of her publications include the following:

- "Executive Outlook" columns, *Information Outlook*, June 1999-May 2000.
- Special Libraries focus articles in *Library Journal*, three per year, 1997 - 2004.
- Annual Business Books Roundup, *Library Journal*, March 15 issue, 1978 -1998.

Additionally, Susan has several other articles and reviews in professional journals on topics in the field of library and information management.

### Memberships and Activities

Member of Special Libraries Association (SLA), American Library Association(ALA) and ALISE, the Association for Library Science Education.

### Leadership positions in SLA:

- 2005 Annual Conference Planning, Leadership & Management Division
- President, 1999-2000
- Chapter Cabinet Chair, 1995-96
- Business & Finance Division, chair 1990-91
- President, Fairfield County Chapter 1987-1988

### Leadership positions in ALA

- Awards Committee, chair
- Reference and User Services Association, President
- National Library Week Committee, chair
- Child Learning Centers of Stamford, Inc.
- Board of Directors, 1985-present
- President, 1991-1993

### Awards and Honors

- Fellow, Special Libraries Association, 2004

- Alumni Achievement Award, Simmons College, 1989
- Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, 1990
- Hall of Fame, Matawan Regional High School, NJ, 2002
- Connecticut Library Association Honorary Member
- Elevated to officer status at New England Merchants National Bank, Boston; in 1971, only the second bank librarian in the country to be accorded that honor, the first after a hiatus of 40 years

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## *The New Stamford Law Library: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Legal Information Network*

*By Jonathan C. Stock*

A major transformation took place on August 19, 2002. The Stamford Law Library completed its move from the old Courthouse built in 1957 to an entirely new, “state of the art” modern facility. Only the address remains constant: 123 Hoyt Street. Virtually everything else has changed. The most obvious enhancements involve physical space and equipment. The old law library occupied an area of slightly less than 2,000 square feet. Our new law library, located on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, incorporates 7,900 square feet.

An equally dramatic improvement has been made to our shelving capacity that grew from 3,396 linear feet in the old building to 6,707 linear feet in the new courthouse. In the old law library, we had to survive with five Windows98 computers. Two were reserved for staff, and three were available for public use. In the new law library, we possess nineteen Windows XP computers. Six are reserved for staff, and the remaining thirteen are available for public use. Four spacious microfiche cabinets were added: an important enhancement since our acquisitions in this area—mostly Connecticut Legislative histories, Connecticut Appellate Court Records & Briefs, and Connecticut Supreme Court Records & Briefs—routinely add well over 2,000 cards per year. Public photocopiers have grown from two to three; and fax machines have increased from one to two, including a unit on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor dedicated to public use. These enhancements affect our transformation into a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Legal Information Network by impacting three areas: traditional library resources, electronic library resources, and our role as an integral part of a larger information system.

Traditional library resources obviously denote books and microform—the formats that we have always known and that, if common sense prevails, will remain a key part of our arsenal. It is a truism that books require space for collection growth, and in Law, where primary source serials and secondary source subscriptions prevail growth is a key issue.

Our shelving capacity has doubled enabling us to bring back important retrospective resources from storage: pre-1986 Connecticut Supreme Court Records & Briefs, older National Reporter Service volumes, retrospective Federal Session Laws, Periodicals, and other materials that restore our archival depth. Some of these resources, of course, are available electronically; but others are not. Older Connecticut Supreme Court Records & Briefs are an important example on point.

At this writing, no steps have been made to microfiche these materials. Nor are there present plans for electronic transformation—even assuming that such a step would be “safe” from a preservation standpoint. Safety is important when resources have ongoing relevance.

As noted above, the additional microfiche cabinets are equally vital. The growth of microfiche may be less visually dramatic; but it can be insidious as the crisis mounts with stuffed drawers. Although microfiche seems dated, it—like print—is a “safe” preservation medium. Since we still have mixed results on “how long a CD-ROM lasts” or what future software changes may portend, safety makes a compelling case for this medium as it does for print. For the foreseeable future, we have to plan on growth; and our greater space makes such planning possible.

Electronic library resources are enhanced by a modern Windows XP system that facilitates rapid on-line reference and legal information delivery. The Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Libraries provide public access to our Citrix CD-ROM Tower, offering a cornucopia of materials from principal vendors: Premise, LawDesk, Lexis/Bender Authority, LOIS, LegalTrac, and Shepard’s Citations as a Web based subscription. Other key on-line databases are available through public passwords or IP recognition from the Internet: RIA Tax Coordinator, Loislaw, and Hein-on-Line further strengthen our capabilities.

Judicial Law Librarians can also retrieve materials from Lexis and Westlaw through their staff passwords as the need may arise. Patrons should note that we are readily available via e-mail; and many of our reference transactions now take place through this medium—including the dispatch of relevant attachments to facilitate research. The traditional reference interview within the library remains equally important. Indeed, it is strongly encouraged for more complicated questions so that the full range of print as well as computer information can be brought into play.

Our role within a wider Information System has been greatly enhanced—not only through the 2002 move, but also by other institutional and technical developments. Stamford is an integral part of the Connecticut Judicial

Branch Law Library System. In order to perceive us most effectively, patrons might well enter through the front door: our Judicial Branch website at <http://www.jud.state.ct.us>. This portal allows one to search our on-line catalog, locate various branches, contact individual librarians through e-mail, retrieve Pathfinders on Connecticut Law, utilize other hypertexts for National or International law, and enjoy the full benefits of a strong virtual reference desk.

We retrieve materials from other Judicial Law Libraries, the Connecticut State Library, or through a very constructive partnership with the New England Law Library Consortium. None of our libraries stand alone; and all gain immeasurable strength through their linkages. It is as a proud member of this 21<sup>st</sup> Century Legal Information Network that the Stamford Law Library eagerly anticipates working in close association with all library professionals throughout Fairfield County. We all share a common goal that is best achieved when we walk together.

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## *Challenges Facing Today's Information Professionals*

*By Jeff Baker*

I was asked to write something about what I perceive to be the challenges of being a librarian these days. But, you know – I think not.

There are a bunch of challenges facing us as information professionals. We are all aware of, at least, some of them. Many of us are more than intellectually aware of them, it having been necessary to confront them at work. And some of us are painfully aware that some challenges can be more than challenging. So, for the present, enough already with the challenges. How about this? Working as an information professional (or insert title of choice) really is a good gig, especially these days.

I do information research. If you do as well, don't you just love the hunt? How about that feeling that hits you when that rascally bit of data or information that has eluded you for the past hours (days?) finally appears in print in front of you? Have you ever said right out loud to your computer screen – Gotcha! – as if that answer had been purposefully playing a game of virtual hide-n-seek? The array of sources of recorded information (the "new" phrase to describe the stuff with which we interface) at our beckon call is so deliciously huge and is expanding relentlessly. There is always a new alley to go down, a new forest to explore, a new lake to swim in. How great is that?!

Unlike Noah Wylie's character, I have never gone on a quest for the spear nor pulled Arthur's sword from the

rock. But, I have been called a secret weapon. And that's pretty true, at least some of the time. Once in a while, we get called a lifesaver by some poor stressed-out soul. While that is probably very far indeed from the truth, we get the drift of the compliment, hyperbolic though it might have been. Our clients/customers/patrons can occasionally get slack-jawed when we quickly, deftly, and comprehensively do what they cannot. That's the way it should be. We've worked hard to become the pros that we are and we deserve to feel the periodic glow of awesome respect.

Quite some long time ago, when the newsletter called *The U\*n\*a\*b\*a\*s\*h\*e\*d\* Librarian* started up, I bought one of their T-shirts and wore it a lot. I was quite happy to go through a little schpiel on what the phrase meant in response to the frequent "What the heck is that?" queries I received. The shirt has long since disappeared, but the reason I bought it hasn't. Challenges come and go. Thank goodness, on both counts. Through them all, I remain unabashedly pleased and truly honored to be doing what I do for a living. It's a terrific way to spend a day.

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## *The Importance of Competitive Intelligence (CI): An Evening with Jerry Miller*

*By Marianne Cirrito, FCC/SLA President*

The chapter meeting held on November 16, 2004 had two highlights. The first was the opportunity to visit the Technical Information Center at Cytec Industries in Stamford. Our hosts for the evening, David Breiner and Dana Moore, graciously showed us around their facility. While the Technical Information Center provides a much of its materials electronically to clients, the physical space is **still welcoming and well used**. David has kept the profile of his facility in the eye of the company by holding periodic training sessions and seminars to bring people in. Plus, the bank of windows along one wall with a view of the setting sun made most of us quite envious!

The second highlight of the evening was a presentation by Jerry Miller, Director of the Competitive Intelligence Center at Simmons College. Jerry was deeply involved in the push to create the new Competitive Intelligence Division in SLA. Competitive intelligence, in Jerry's view, blends the traditional roles of information professionals with strategic aspects of business or government. Many members of SLA have actually been filling a competitive intelligence function. The new Division now provides a forum within the profession allowing them to network with their colleagues.

Jerry started by giving an overview of CI, including an explanation of what it is not. It is not industrial espio-

nage or spying. It is not a collection of facts or articles about other companies in your industry. Competitive intelligence is the ethical collection, analysis and distribution of strategically important information. Competitive intelligence, when done correctly, can alert management to potential threats and opportunities. It provides reasonable assessments of the competition. But to be successful, it must have the backing of upper management.

The presentation skimmed along, as Jerry illustrated his points with examples of companies that have successfully used competitive intelligence in making good business decisions. He also had cautionary tales of bad decisions that were made by companies that ignored the careful analysis of information.

The role of competitive intelligence is one that librarians can fill if they have the opportunity to include the analytical aspect of the CI process. They already understand how to select sources of information and present relevant results to their clients. By developing the analytical skills needed, librarians can offer additional benefits to their organizations or could seek out an alternative career.

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## *An Interview with Marianne Cirrito*

*By Josephine Ndinyah, FCC/SLA  
Bulletin Editor*



Having worked for a consulting firm, an insurance company, an accounting firm, and a merchant bank, Marianne Cirrito now applies this diversity of experience to her present job at Purdue Pharma, where she is Senior Manager, Library Operations. In this position, Marianne is in charge of several library functions, such as purchasing and processing of library materials and interacting with external content vendors. She also supervises the Library's document delivery service. Marianne's magnificent management and people skills are the key to her ongoing career success.

Another key to her success is her involvement with Special Libraries Association (SLA), and her leadership roles in professional organizations over the years. Presently, as we all know, she is the President of Fairfield Chapter of SLA.

In her free time, Marianne enjoys traveling, reading, and listening to jazz. Epicurean? You bet! Marianne enjoys just about anything to do with food. She also loves cats and dogs! She volunteers at PAWS (Pet Animal Welfare Society) in Norwalk, CT.

I asked Marianne if I could interview her for a column in the bulletin, and she graciously agreed. Please read the answers to questions I posed to her.

**JN:** Who is Marianne Cirrito? Please give me a two-sentence, "elevator speech", introduction about yourself?

**MC:** I'm an information professional of almost twenty-five years who has worked for a range of companies including a small business consulting firm, a multi-line insurance company, an ex-Big Five accounting firm, an African merchant bank and now a private pharmaceutical company.

Perhaps this is a reflection of my tendency to be a generalist, not a specialist. I remember my craving for the arts and humanities when I was a science major in college. Too much submersion in one field makes me want to break out into something different.

On a personal level, I'm fond of jazz, food, British police procedural mysteries and cats, not necessarily in that order.

**JN:** Where did you get your MLS?

**MC:** The State University of New York at Albany.

**JN:** Why did you decide to major in Library Science; and what do you think, in retrospect about this choice?

**MC:** It's that generalist attitude I mentioned before. As I went through my undergraduate courses, I realized that I had other interests that were stifled by the curricula I had to follow. In thinking about Library Science, what struck me was that the skills could be taken anywhere to any kind of company. The major information sources vary from industry to industry and each industry has its own particular language, but the competencies of information professional are transferable from one business to another.

I am quite happy with my choice of career.

**JN:** How long have you been a Librarian?

**MC:** Since 1980

**JN:** Over the years you have worked, what would you say have been major changes and challenges for you in this profession?

**MC:** Technological change ranks as number 1. At my first job, we had to dial out on a regular phone line and place the receiver into a coupler to get access to electronic databases. Life is certainly much different now.

The challenges have actually remained fairly constant in the profession. How do we prove our worth (or the worth of a library/information center) to our organizations? What marketing tactics make the biggest splash? How do we adapt our procedures and processes to stay current with our clients, with our vendors and with the continually changing technological landscape?

**JN:** How long have you been a member of SLA? In addition to being President of our chapter, what other SLA leadership roles have you had in the past?

**MC:** I've been a member since the mid 1980's. I'm relatively new to the Fairfield County Chapter. My previous leadership roles have been with the Connecticut Valley Chapter where I held the positions of Business Manager and Secretary.

**JN:** What are the challenges facing the president of FCC/SLA? Where do you see the organization in 5 years?

**MC:** The challenge is to provide something the membership finds worthwhile, whether it's providing a forum where people can network or programs where they can learn new skills to make them more valuable to their organizations. FCC/SLA also faces the same issues other small chapters have in trying to get people to volunteer for Board positions. There is simply a smaller pool from which to draw.

As to where we'll be in five years, I can envision the chapter as looking very similar to what it is now, in terms of the number of people. I would not be surprised to find a higher proportion of people working outside of the boundaries of the traditional library.

**JN:** What would you say is your legacy?

**MC:** Ask me again in a year's time.

**JN:** Thank you.

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## *Tolstoy, Where Have You Gone?*

*By Frances Trelease*

R. Craig Hogan, a former university writing professor in Bloomington, Ill, says corporate employees are struggling with writing skills like never before. "E-mail has just erupted like a weed, and instead of considering what to say when they write, people now just let thoughts drool out onto the screen," Dr. Hogan said. "It has companies at their wits' end."

A recent New York Times article spoke of the dearth of clear writing in the workplace, and the toll it takes on corporate efficiency. The Times cited a sobering statistic: According to the National Commission on Writing, a full third of employees in our nation's blue-chip companies write poorly, even as e-mail rapidly replaces the phone and fax machine for workplace communication.

Some might say there's a two-headed monster at play - employees write more frequently on the job than ever before; yet their mastery of basic sentence construction lags way behind.

Said Susan Traiman, a director at the Business Roundtable, an association of executives whose corporations were surveyed in the commission's study, "It's not that companies want to hire Tolstoy. But they need people who can write clearly, and many employees and applicants fall short of that standard."

The result - e-mails clogged with fuzzy missives, which in turn generate requests for clarity that often go unheeded.

If you decide to join ranks with American businesses that spend an estimated \$3.1 billion annually on em-

ployee training, make sure your instructor meets a few basic criteria. He or she should:

- State learning objectives and goals early on
- Customize your training to incorporate your own workplace challenges and stumbling blocks.
- Present material that is relevant to your particular on-the-job writing tasks.
- Present all information clearly and professionally.

The need for writing support levels the playing field. CEO's need help. So do top-tier executives and managers, as well as mid-career professionals in almost every field, government or private. If you receive a memo or e-mail and don't know what the writer is trying to say, consider professional training for your workplace.

*Frances Trelease provides business writing and marketing support for corporate clients through BenComm, a Connecticut-based business. A featured writer in business publications, she also leads on-site training workshops in business writing and public speaking. Frances contributed an article on "Communicate Effectively Across Cultures" in the Fall issue 2003 of FCC/SLA bulletin. More information: e-mail – [fran@thewebwriter.com](mailto:fran@thewebwriter.com), [fjtrelease@aol.com](mailto:fjtrelease@aol.com); Website: [www.thewebwriter.com](http://www.thewebwriter.com). Phone/fax - 203-849-9453.*

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## *Congratulations!*

Congratulations are in order for two Purdue Pharma library professionals.



**Marianne Cirrito** was promoted in December 2004 to Senior Manager, Library Operations. Marianne joined Purdue Pharma in July 2002 after having worked as an Information Professional at Arthur Andersen in Hartford. Prior to that she was Senior Information Consultant at J&H Marsh and McLennan. Marianne also worked at three different libraries during a ten-year career at Aetna, Inc.



**Amanda Fair** was also promoted to Information Searcher II in December 2004. She joined Purdue's Library & Information Services Department in September 2003. Before transferring to the library, Amanda was Market Research Analyst at the company's Market Research Department for three

years.

Way to go, Marianne and Amanda!

## Vormelker-Thomas Student Award

The [News Division](#) of the [Special Libraries Association](#) invites graduate students and December 2004 graduates interested in a career in news librarianship to apply for the Vormelker-Thomas Student Award.

The award, co-sponsored by the News Division and Proquest, is a \$1,500 stipend to assist students attending their first Special Libraries Association Annual Conference. The [2005 Annual Conference](#) will be June 5-8, 2005, in Toronto, Ontario Canada.

### Selection Criteria:

1. Applicants must be members of the Special Libraries Association when they apply for the stipend.
2. Applicants must be attending their first SLA conference.
3. Applicants must be graduate students or December 2004 graduates interested in a career in news librarianship.
4. Applications must include:
  - a word-processed essay (500-1,000 words) addressing an issue in news librarianship
  - a letter of reference from a news librarian, a news editor, or a faculty member
  - a resume
  - a list of course work undertaken
  - a statement of professional goals
  - a statement of what the applicant expects to gain from attending the conference
5. Applications must be **e-mailed** no later than **Friday, March 11, 2005**.

E-mail applications to:

**Regina Avila**  
**The Denver Post**  
**Phone : 303-820-1444**  
**Email: [ravila@denverpost.com](mailto:ravila@denverpost.com)**

The winner will receive a check prior to the conference in June. The winning essay will appear in an issue of **News Library News**.

The News Division reserves the right not to award the stipend if there are no suitable applicants.

### *President's Message (continued from page one)*

In planning for this shift to a calendar year, the Fairfield County Chapter board will decide whether the officers elected to the board in June 2006 will serve an eighteen-month term to December 2007, or if an interim board should be elected to serve from June 2007 through December 2007.

VOTE!

Oh, and did I mention that it's election time? You should have received your ballot for this year's SLA election. This is your opportunity to select those candidates you feel are best able to provide the strong leadership our organization deserves. Please remember to send in your completed ballot by the deadline. Information about the candidates can be found at: <http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/governance/bodsection/0405bodcand/index.cfm>.

Last, but not least, I hope to see many of you at our next chapter meeting on February 24, 2005 at the Westport Public Library. The topic is "Gaining Commitment: How to Partner with Management." We'll all discover some intriguing strategies to help us build valuable alliances with our respective managements.

Best regards,

Marianne

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