

The LaSoMi Newsletter

Louisiana/Southern Mississippi Chapter

President's Message

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Happy 2007 to all LaSoMi'ers, and let's hope that this year will continue to be one in which we recover, renew, rebuild, and retool, both professionally and personally. As the new LaSoMi president, I hope that we as an organization are able to facilitate the professional part of this in some way for each of you. One of my goals as President, is to try and make LaSoMi relevant to your professional life with meetings, seminars, and networking opportunities with SLA colleagues from all over Louisiana and Southern Mississippi. And while LaSoMi is committed to the professional enhancement of its members, each member should also be contributing to our local chapter, not only your dues, but with your presence and participation in the events and governance of our Chapter. LaSoMi is small enough for an individual to have a direct impact, either as an officer or as a program planner. If you haven't been active up until now, I would urge you to get involved. We're at the point, in some ways, of recycling officers, and while our number may be a little down, we do have 66 members as of January '07. This indicates that there exists a critical mass of members who could move the Chapter ahead in the next few years.



This year also marks a change by our chapter and SLA that has our normal "year" coincide with the calendar year, rather than the academic year. This made it necessary for our 2005/06 officers to extend their commitment until the end of 2006, and I'd like to especially thank Lisl Zach for agreeing to stay on as President for the additional six months. This allowed me a little more breathing room before taking office. I'd also like to thank our other officers for remaining on the job, including Lisa Lewis who has agreed to continue to edit the newsletter.

We are in the final stages of planning Chapter events for Spring 2007, and I hope to get announcements to you via e-mail before too many more days go by. Please don't hesitate to contact me or

President's Message (continued from page 1)

one of the other officers if you have ideas or suggestions for future seminars or meetings. We hope to be able to offer some of the SLA continuing education seminars, either live or taped, to our membership, as well as other events and meetings. I leave for the SLA Leadership Conference next week which will be in Reno, and I hope to be able to touch base with some of the national SLA leadership while there. They have expressed their willingness to help our chapter, but it will be up to us to provide the planning and execution of future programs. In the meantime, think about attending the SLA National Conference this summer in Denver. There are ample opportunities for continuing education, to interact with well-informed speakers and colleagues, and to re-connect with old friends.

Best wishes for a successful and fulfilling New Year,

Bill Strickland

SLA 2007 Annual Conference

SLA will hold its Annual Conference in Denver, CO, USA, 3 - 6 June 2007 at the Colorado Convention Center. The conference will create an environment for networking, communication, learning and other developmental opportunities for information professionals. See the SLA website, www.sla.org for more information



SLA Annual Conference, Baltimore, Maryland **by Bill Strickland**

As LaSoMi president-elect and recipient of a very generous Factiva grant this year, I attended the Annual SLA Conference and wanted to reflect on some of my impressions. The grant came at an ideal time, since both my personal finances as well as my travel budget at work took a beating in the aftermath of Katrina.

For those of us who don't closely follow the national SLA organization or sometimes even read the communications very carefully, understanding the array of leadership positions, rules, committees, divisions, and chapters is not always an easy task. The Annual Conference does, however, make this a little easier, and one is able to put names and faces with real people who are instrumental in keeping the organization viable and moving ahead. One is also struck by the fact that the full-time staff members at SLA, as well as a great number of member volunteers, are very capable and dedicated, and that the vast machinery of presenting a conference of this size works pretty well, with few perceived glitches.

While I like to attend sessions in my area (Business and Finance) as well as "hang out" with my academic business library colleagues, I frequently find other sessions to be informative and enlightening. In some ways the Conference program is like JazzFest, in that you have to make a choice from many simultaneous sessions. Sometimes it's a dart-throwing exercise, unless one knows the speaker. I bailed out of one session that looked good from the outset, but turned into (for me) an exercise in staying awake. Fortunately, I was able to find an interesting News Division program and was able to salvage something from that time slot. One of the notable things about the small sessions is that often the speaker (or speakers) is an expert in his or her field. In addition, there is usually a question-and-answer time period which allows for an informal exchange of information.

From a strictly personal standpoint, I was able to fit the conference onto the tail end of an East Coast college tour with my daughter. Since I was driving, I had a little more latitude in where I could stay, and found a great B&B in an old mansion on the north side of Baltimore. Other personal highlights included getting a chance to hear Walt Mossberg, columnist for the Wall Street Journal, the annual meeting of the Baseball Caucus, and dinner with two of my friends from the Business Library Directors group.

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Shaw Named Rotarian of the Year

Joyce M. Shaw, head librarian of the Gunter Library at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, was named Rotarian of the Year on Wednesday, June 28, 2006, by the Rotary Club of Ocean Springs.

Shaw serves as Community Service Chair on the Club's Board of Directors. In that position, she oversees four committees that raise money for scholarships and other charitable activities and five committees that provide direct service to the local community. She is also chair of the Public Relations Committee and of the Sunshine Committee, editor of the club newsletter, project leader for the Club's dictionary project, Club website chair, and Club photographer.

"I am humbled and honored," Shaw said. "My goal at work and in the community is to live by Rotary's motto, 'Service above Self.'"

Shaw has maintained a perfect attendance record since joining Rotary in 2002.

Rotary is an organization of business & professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.



SLA Annual Conference, Baltimore, Maryland (continued)

The Annual Conference also gives us a chance to spend time with vendors whom we might not see very often, or find out about new products that could be useful to us. As painful as trooping around the expo can be, it does allow me to establish and renew vendor contacts that can be helpful over the course of the year.

The Conference also includes a meeting of all of the state chapters. While many of the smaller chapters of SLA have many of the same challenges as LaSoMi, the national organization is committed to providing as much help as possible to insure that SLA continues to meet its members' needs. This is especially true of LaSoMi now, and SLA will do what it can to help our Chapter move ahead. Look for your opportunity to get involved with this in the months to come.

“Recovered” GCRL Library Hosts Marine Library Meet

by Linda Skupien

Hurricane Katrina recovery of libraries recently joined information management and scientific topics on the agenda for marine librarians meeting at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. SAIL, the Southeastern Affiliate of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers, held its 16th annual conference at the GCRL in Ocean Springs, May 9-12, 2006. Librarians from the Atlantic seaboard, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean regions attended.

Hosts for the conference were Joyce Shaw, head librarian at the GCRL's Gunter Library, and LaGena Fantroy, librarian at National Marine Fisheries Service, Pascagoula. Both hosting librarians experienced damage to homes and libraries. Shaw joined Allisa Beck, Southern Miss Gulf Coast and other Mississippi and Louisiana librarians in a roundtable session on Katrina recovery.

Shaw said in October 2005 she faced the decision of whether to host the conference as scheduled at the GCRL. Her co-host lost her library due to flooding, and the GCRL library sustained damage from more than a foot of storm surge during the hurricane. Both librarians also had storm damage to their homes.

"Shortly after the storm Shaw launched her salvage operations, leading a small crew of her two library workers and a couple of graduate students in removing the mud, debris and live animals deposited in the library by the storm surge," noted Dr. William Hawkins, executive director of the lab. "That was before any services were restored on site. She worked for days in extreme heat and with no air conditioning."

By October, the mud was out but the demolition required for restoration was still in progress.

"Hosting a regional conference seemed to be an impossible task," Shaw said. "But what happened to us can happen to any member of SAIL. We thought it was important to show other marine librarians the struggles and rewards of recovery after a terrible natural disaster."

The conference theme was "Preserving the Past—Focusing on the Future" and it was sponsored by Thomson Scientific and EBSCO Subscription Service, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium and the Marine Science Institute of the University of Texas at Austin.

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“Recovered” GCRL Library Hosts Marine Library Meet (continued)

Topics for the scientific seminars were: whale sharks in the Gulf of Mexico, presented by Dr. Eric Hoffmayer, GCRL, and local populations of marine mammals, presented by Dr. Keith Mullin, NOAA Fisheries, Pascagoula.



Other presentations included talks on the University of Southern Mississippi's plans for the Hurricane Katrina Research Center in Hattiesburg, digital library projects, new developments in online library resources, and archival collections.

A Brief but Rewarding Baltimore Visit

by Brent Hightower

My time at the SLA convention in Baltimore was a bit shorter than I wanted, a day and a half, but I was very glad to have had the opportunity to attend my first SLA conference. Meeting members of the News division for the first time in person was great, and it was also nice to see familiar faces from home.

The highlights of the conference for me revolved around News Division activities. I tried to learn as much as possible about the process of digitizing microfilm and where different vendors stand in this growing business. The News Division had a roundtable discussion on the topic, and I went to the individual vendors for demonstrations as well. I learned a lot of interesting information about the process of digitizing the film itself, the different interfaces vendors have developed, and aspects of marketing the digitized film databases.

Also interesting were the sessions I attended regarding the use of Wiki technology in the newsroom. There are many applications for this technology, and I am hoping to begin developing a library Wiki at the Times-Picayune in the near future.

Downtown Baltimore is a very nice area with lots of restaurants, bars, shops, etc. Meeting other SLA members from around the country and with different fields of expertise was also very rewarding. I hope to be able to attend another SLA convention in the coming years.

Louisiana/Southern Mississippi Chapter, Special Libraries Association

Meeting Minutes Saturday, May 6, 2006

The meeting was held at newly-renovated The Advocate newspaper building off Bluebonnet in Baton Rouge at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2006. Judy Jumonville, head of The Advocate Library, welcomed everyone. Linda Lightfoot, Executive Editor, welcomed the group, emphasizing librarians' active promotion of the freedom of information. She reviewed The Advocate's history of archiving their paper's clip file early on thanks to the efforts of librarian Lou Thomas. She invited everyone to call her if they want to attend any of the news meetings at 1:30 and 4:30 each day.

Notes from the meeting's library speakers: Judy Jumonville, head, and John Sykes, who works in the library at night.

The library/information center has a staff of 7: 5 librarians, 1 clerk and 1 part-time clerk. The library is open 7 days/week 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Three librarians work during the day; 1 librarian and a clerk on Saturdays 1:00-10:00 p.m.; 1 librarian and the half time clerk on Sundays.

The library is not open to the public. Nothing can be removed from the library, with exceptions made for serious researcher, e.g. Museums. The library does reference for the public when there is time. They charge for extensive research. The librarians' work is very interesting because they never know what the information needs will be and many of the requests are on short deadlines. It is a dynamic environment, never dull.

The 7 bureaus of reporters are the library's clients. They and the library staff also use the collections at the State Library, EBR Public Library and other libraries' resources. There are 6 ranges of books, all reference. The library has Lexis/Nexis and other online information databases. They subscribe to several newspapers in paper format, based on input from reporters, which are kept for 3 months. A new paper format encyclopedia is purchased every other year. The library keeps the entire newspaper in paper format for one year and 2-3 years of the paper by sections; these are useful to reporters who need copies of their work when entering competitions. The public can purchase paper copies back 13 years.

Clip files are not indexed but there is a list of the subject headings used. Over the years, various librarians may have assigned different subject headings. Librarians assigned subject headings until Merlin was installed. They stopped subject headings then because only librarians were using them and Merlin is so easy to search. It took 7 hours to process a newspaper before Merlin. Now, with Merlin, it takes only 4 hours.

The library storage room is full of compact shelving containing the clip files. The moving company interfiled microfilm with the paper clip files. There has been little acid damage to the resources. The clip files were reorganized when the library was moved to this new building in October 2005. The files have progressed from paper to microfilm to CD to DVD to electronic in Merlin, the library/photo software. The library and the photo department began using Merlin in Nov. 2005. They had training then and will have a second training session soon.

MINUTES (continued)

The photo files include some negatives. The photo collection goes back to the early 1800's but pictures have been removed over the years. It is more complete beginning with the late 1950s. There are not negatives for everything but they make copy negatives to replace missing photos. All are silver nitrate. Today, every assignment generates 100+ photos but only one or two are published.

The 1st electronic catalog was created in-house then they used Newsview and Photoview before switching to Merlin in 2005. Merlin is used by other newspapers around the country. The company installed 7 new systems in 2005. The Advocate received a price break for Merlin because Newsview was discontinued. The big advantage for The Advocate is having a single system for the library and the photo department. The photo department had been using 4 different systems. Everyone in the building can use Merlin but at different levels. Merlin is very easy to use but the original manual was only at the primary level. The library staff is working with the vendor to improve the manual. Everyone had training initially but will soon have advanced training now that they have experience with the system.

With Merlin, a new photo archive was created with text added to the photo records. Not everything is archived but these are included: items originating in Louisiana, items by Advocate writers, national stories that affect Louisiana, and all AP wire stories for 30 days retention. The library staff assigns a copyright category to photos. They now archives the newspaper's stories in Merlin, creating their own captions for photos because the real ones are not always standard words but the published captions are also in the system. The notes field has a controlled vocabulary. They use the AP photos vocabulary for photos. Accident photos are destroyed after publication so the photographer and reporter will not be called to court as witnesses. Every story and photo has a unique ID number. The entire system is fed to tape and backed up continuously. There is a backup power source. Tapes are stored offsite.

The archives are sent to Lexis/Nexis. The entire paper is archived in Proquest and each page is made into a pdf file. A Merlin search links to the pdf file. Proquest microfilms the archive. The library staff is considering moving the microfilm (1842 to date) to electronic format but it would be very expensive. Advocate archives are on the website from 1985 forward and on Lexis/Nexis beginning with 1995. The staff hopes to eventually archive WBRZ news too since it is also owned by the Manship family.

The Advocate online is a totally separate department from the tangible newspaper staff. The library does not have any responsibilities for online. Online will begin producing their own stories. It will be important then for the library to work with them to archive webpages and stories. Soon the public will be able to purchase subscriptions to the online edition.

The group toured the library and the newsroom. The Austin Group designed the building renovations with lots of huddle areas where a few people can gather near they workstations in a less informal environment than a conference room. The editors area has tables in the huddle area. The library is further from the newsroom than in the old location but it was purposely placed on the same floor of the multistory building. Librarians attend the daily news meetings and actively outreach to reporters.

The renovations included as much storage area as possible because this was such a big problem in the old building. Staff tried out several workstations and chairs before the final selection was made for the new furniture. Every floor has a kitchen.

MINUTES (continued)

News meetings are each day at 10:00, 1:30 and 4:00. Librarians attend and have input at the 4:00 meeting where they take assignments from reporters. Librarians meet with reporters on special series to identify and perform research. The newspaper planning meeting is every Wednesday. The SLA members were invited to call if they are interested in attending a news meeting.

The Advocate will install a new press Oct. 29, 2006. The entire staff is carefully studying ways to improve the paper with the new press capabilities.

Business meeting minutes

President Lisl Zach opened the meeting by extending thanks to Lexis/Nexis for providing lunch and to Judy and John and The Advocate for hosting the meeting. The new SLA brochure, which will be used at the conference, was distributed.

Bill Strickland, Tulane Business Library, was awarded the \$1000 Factiva stipend to attend the SLA conference in Baltimore.

The May 19 diploma ceremony at LSU SLIS will be at 9:00 a.m. The speaker is Mary "Jack" Lentil, a SLIS alum who is director of the Library of Congress Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

The group was reminded that SLA is changing its governance year from June-May to the calendar year. This means that the current chapter officers will in place from now for 12 or 18 months: Lisl president through 2006, Bill is president beginning January 2007. The chapter needs a president for 2008.

The chapter bylaws need revision. They now prohibit officers from succeeding themselves. The bylaws are on the website and in the archives. Bill Armstrong and Bill Strickland are working on officers duties in procedural documents, e.g. chapter manual.

Discussion of future meetings: Lisl suggested programs that attract people who do not think of themselves as special librarians. This meeting is an example because it drew people interested in Merlin and that technology. We should consider partnering with local/regional ARMA, AALL, museums and health sciences organizations for events. We could consider charging a meeting fee for non-SLA members. Ticketed events would generate funds to pay for a speaker. Consider doing something with the Houston chapter.

The last meetings in Mississippi were poorly attended. We should focus meetings/programs on where our members are: Baton Rouge and New Orleans put most are in Baton Rouge. Our goal is to hold one big event in the spring and one in the fall then perhaps have an additional social event. Any meetings at LSU need to be on Saturday because of the parking situation. About 40 people came to this meeting which was publicized to LSU library staff, SLIS faculty and students, and the BR ARMA chapter but not to the Baton Rouge Area Library Club, NOAL or the regional MLA group.

Discussion of membership: The SLA dues structure has been redone with a reduced rate for new professionals. 20% of our chapter members did not renew this year. Many of these were students and some were librarians from the storm-damaged areas. SLA waived dues for

LaSoMi Member Demographics

by Kelly Blessinger

As of January 2007, the Louisiana/Southern Mississippi Chapter had sixty-seven members. As the chart below indicates, most of these members are from Louisiana, (82%) followed by Mississippi (12%). Some surprises include members in Alaska and Ireland.

| Geographic Area | Number |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Alabama | 2 |
| Alaska | 1 |
| Louisiana | 55 |
| Mississippi | 8 |
| Ireland | 1 |
| TOTAL | 67 |

those affected by the hurricanes which included all of Louisiana.

MINUTES (continued)

Executive Board Meeting (continued from page 9)

Attendees: Lisl Zach, Bill Strickland, Gerard Patout, Cindy Bencaz, Ferol Foos.

Discussion on bringing in Doug Lipp who spoke at the SLA leadership conference. He "is an internationally acclaimed expert on customer service, leadership and diversity, who motivates and challenges audiences around the world as a consultant and speaker. Mr. Lipp has spent over 25 years working from the front lines to the board-rooms of corporations around the world. Formerly the head of training at Disney Studio's Walt Disney University, he is the author of 6 books including his most recent book *The Changing Face of Today's Customer*, which addresses how businesses can be more responsive to the growing number of foreign national customers and employees both in North America and internationally." His fee is \$20,000. Investigate co-sponsorship with museums, hotels, business schools, etc.

Lisl is preparing a grant proposal to SLA to revitalize the chapter.

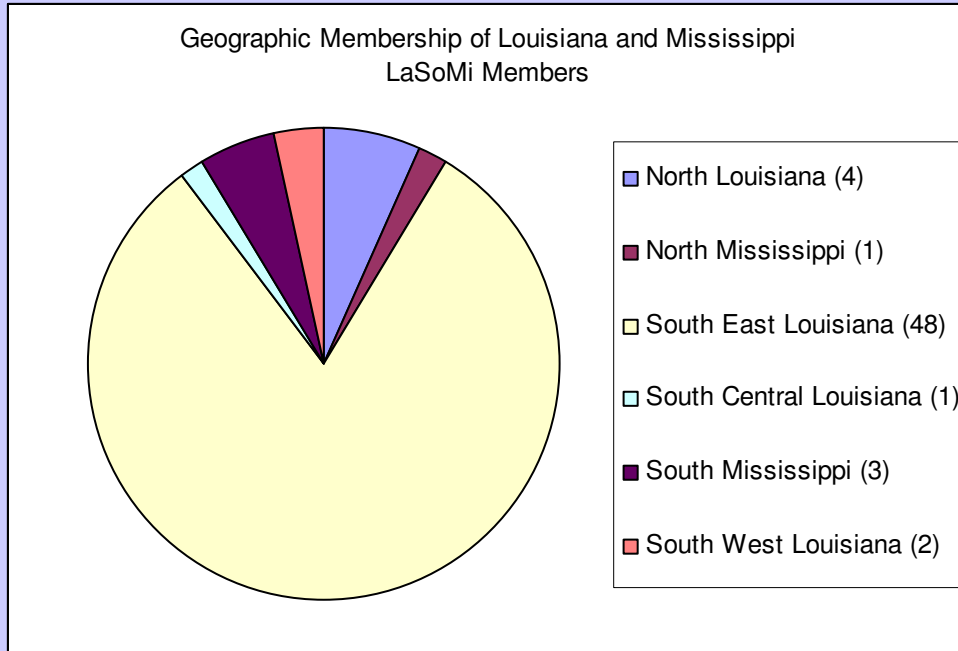
Dean Paskoff of the LSU Library School recently sent an e-mail informing that the profession of librarian has been named one of the best careers of 2007 by *U.S. News and World Report*. In light of that, consider this quote from Katharine Graham: "To love what you do and feel that it matters — how could anything else be more fun?"

Quoted from *The Guide to Better Birthdays*, compiled and edited by Dr. Criswell Freeman



LaSoMi Member Demographics (continued)

As the pie chart indicates, most of the LaSoMi members (72%) reside in Southeast Louisiana, which included the areas of Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Hammond and Chauvin. The Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas make up the largest percentage of total members, representing 68% of the total membership.



LASOMI TO SPONSOR WEB SEMINAR

The LaSoMi chapter is sponsoring a 90-minute Web Seminar titled **Work/Life Balance: Common Pressures & Coping Strategies** presented by Christopher Bauer, a licensed psychologist with over twenty-five years of experience as a business coach, trainer, and speaker. This session was originally broadcast as part of SLA's ongoing program of professional development. The seminar will cover a basic knowledge of the financial, emotional, and organizational costs associated with stress-related difficulties in the workplace, 'foundation concepts' for the development and maintenance of stress management and life balance skills, an understanding of five 'early warning signs' of high stress and what to do to combat them, and two immediately applicable 'quick induction' relaxation techniques.

The program will be held at noon, Friday, February 23, 2007 at the Hill Memorial Library on the LSU campus. A complimentary lunch will be served, and there will be opportunity to network with other library and information professionals from around the state.

To reserve a place, please RSVP to Bill Strickland via e-mail at horn@tulane.edu, or by telephone (504-865-5311). We look forward to seeing you in Baton Rouge.

2006 MAHD Conference Highlights

AMERICAN VISIONARY MUSEUM . . .

Tour Highlight of MAHD and SLA Conference, Baltimore 2006

<http://www.avam.org>

American Visionary Museum Founder and Director Rebecca Hoffberger said, “it’s been a miracle, the last ten years,” and the Baltimore Sun has described the museum as a “people magnet.” For MAHD and SLA, the personally guided tour of the American Visionary Museum, led by Ms. Hoffberger, was a highlight of the 2006 conference. A celebration of the creative spirit, the museum is an eclectic and synergistic blend of exhibition, distinct galleries, permanent collection artifacts, mechanical theatre as well as public art throughout the museum grounds. For museum librarians, the whole environment was sheer delight, food for thought and very empowering. Ms. Hoffberger’s personal tour of the complex was indeed the *pièce de résistance*. This is one museum not to be missed!



History Factory.com presentation a real hit . . .

<http://www.historyfactory.com>

As the division’s conference Horizon program for 2006, the History Factory session could not have been a better choice to feed MAHD librarians’ appetite for the issues related to their own special libraries and settings in the shifting organizational information management paradigm. The History Factory is a heritage management firm that helps organizations discover, preserve and leverage their history to address a wide variety of business challenges. Presenter, founder and CEO Bruce Weindruch who Forbes magazine described as the man who’s “Making History Pay,” informed the standing-room-only session that effectively managing corporate heritage and using historical resources can benefit the corporate bottom line. Utilizing a well-crafted PowerPoint presentation and his remarkable personality with facts at hand, Bruce wowed the attendees as to their roles in unleashing the potential of these historic resources found in their libraries.



2006 MAHD Conference Highlights (continued)



What a setting, what a story ! The Miles Harvey lecture. . .

<http://www.library.jhu.edu/collections/specialcollections/rarebooks/peabody/>

Map thief Gilbert Bland started his cartographic crimes by slicing out atlases in rare books from John Hopkins Peabody Library and, after having his crime exposed in a newspaper piece in 1995, Miles Harvey became obsessed with this mysterious thief. Harvey's *Island of The Lost Maps: A True Story of Cartographic Crime* is his personal expose on Bland's crimes as well as an exciting journey through centuries and continents of unknown lands and maps. Miles Harvey told his story with great depth and emotion and set within the magnificent columns and arches of the Peabody Library, his narrative truly did come to life for the overflowing crowd of SLA attendees.

Major event sponsor SpaceSaver was instrumental in getting Miles Harvey to Baltimore to tell his story that is so important for Special Librarians.

MONDAY MAHDNESS settles the score at Sports Legends!

<http://www.baberuthmuseum.com/>

Monday MAHDNESS in Baltimore 2006 was all about networking and socializing this year. Through the gracious and generous support of Minisis, division membership enjoyed themselves in a unique sports museum setting, surrounded by historic Baltimore sports memorabilia of all kinds, while nibbling on spectacular crudités from one of Baltimore's most noted catering companies. In the shadows of Camden Yards, the opportunity to network and talk shop was certainly prevalent and a good time was had by all. By the way, the catering was done by Sacha's and MAHD Treasurer Joyce Weaver did an outstanding job in making this event quite special and lots of fun.



Submitted by:

Gerald Patout, Head Librarian

The Historic New Orleans Collection

Chair, Museum, Arts and Humanities Division

SLA Power Point Presentation by History Factory: The presentation can be viewed at:

<http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2006/conference/06confpres.cfm>

Rotary Awards Katrina Grant to Southern Miss Marine Library

by Linda Skupien

The marine library at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) in Ocean Springs, Mississippi is taking another step toward recovery from Hurricane Katrina with the help of a \$35,000 grant from Rotary International.

The grant to the Gunter Library was received last week from the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund established by the Rotary Zones 29-30 that include Mississippi, Alabama and 10 other states.

Joyce M. Shaw, head librarian at GCRL, said the funds will help replace library equipment and furniture destroyed by more than a foot of storm surge from Hurricane Katrina. In spite of the loss of filing cabinets, computers, study tables, desks, chairs, photocopier machine and reference materials, the library reopened to provide basic services when classes resumed on the GCRL campus three weeks after the storm.

"Gunter Library is one of the few special libraries for marine sciences in the entire nation, and it is an asset to Southern Miss," said Edward G. McCormack, interim Southern Miss librarian. "We are determined to preserve and maintain the materials in it and are very grateful for this grant."



Local sponsor for the recovery project is the Rotary Club of Ocean Springs where Shaw is a member and on the club's board of directors. The grant is part of more than \$3 million that the Rotary fund has provided to libraries, schools, not-for-profits and charitable organizations for Katrina recovery in the disaster area.

The GCRL is part of the university's School of Ocean Sciences within the College of Science and Technology.

