

The LaSoMi Newsletter

Louisiana/Southern Mississippi Chapter

President's Message

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Greetings LaSoMi Members,

Although it seems like a while ago now, this year's Leadership Summit was held from January 26-29 in Tampa, Florida. I attended the event along with President Elect, Dr. Lisl Zach. A different spin was put on the summit this year by the addition of "The Leadership Adventure," which included continuing education courses on leadership held on the last day of the conference.

Items discussed at the conference included two new membership dues proposals which, after much deliberation, were sent back for further evaluation. The two proposals for those who may be interested are available online at:

<http://www.sla.org/content/sla/pressroom/duesstruc.cfm>.

John Lowery from SLA presented the "SLA Online University," which is a professional development tool created in partnership with Elsevier. The University will provide access to online courses, workshops and continuing education opportunities through <http://www.learn.com>. For more information on this resource, a press release is available at the following URL: <http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/pressroom/pressrelease/2004pressrelease/pr2429.cfm>



SLA's governance year will now match the fiscal year (January to December instead of July to June). This will affect the term limits of the next round of officers that are elected and will be discussed at the next business meeting.

LaSoMi News-

I just want to take a moment to thank all of you who took a few moments out of your day to fill out our online survey. The results of this survey can be found in this newsletter. This will help us to plan future LaSoMi events.

The next LaSoMi meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 30th at the Law Library of Louisiana in the Louisiana Su-

preme Court Building: <http://www.lasc.org/index.asp>. The Law Library is located at 400 Royal Street in the French Quarter. Carol Billings, Director of the library will be on hand to give us a tour of the building and to speak on law librarianship. A brief business meeting will follow the tour, and that will be followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant for those are interested. EOS International (http://www.eosintl.com/htdocs/index_java.asp) has graciously offered to sponsor morning refreshments. Please contact me at kblessi@lsu.edu or 225-578-8538 if you would like to attend this event.

SLA News

The results for the 2005/06 Board of Directors' election are in and are available online at <http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/pressroom/pressrelease/2005prelease/pr2505.cfm>.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of the newsletter, and I look forward to meeting with many of you at the Spring meeting in New Orleans.

Kelly Blessinger

Some New "Kids" on the Block by Melissa Blickem and Joseph Greene

The SLA student chapter at Louisiana State University presents a new face -- *interface* that is! Their new web site is pleasant to use as it offers well-organized content that is easy to find within an interface that is easy to understand. For a peek at the latest officers and upcoming events, please visit their site at <http://slis.lsu.edu/student/orgs/SLA-ASIS&T/2005/main.html>. Be sure and take a moment to send your feedback to let them know about your user experience.

Welcome New Members

Our membership chairman, Ferol Foos, reports that we have several new student members in the LaSoMi chapter this quarter. For more information, see the bios section on page 4.

Keri R. Swaggart, Byram, MS
Natalie B. Roberts, Hattiesburg, MS
Jennifer L. Pino, BR, LA

LaGena Fantroy, Pascagoula, MS
G. K. Bridges-Tollison, BR, LA

Grant Food: A Dollop of History in Every Bite!
by Gerald Patout

The History Channel recently announced that it will award The Historic New Orleans Collection (THNOC) with an inaugural *Save Our History* Grant to partner with Elementary and High School students on a culinary history project. THNOC is one of 29 history organizations across the country that will receive *Save Our History* community preservation grants to fund innovative, educational projects designed to bring communities together and engage children in the preservation of their local history. Also, the Culinary Trust in Louisville, Kentucky has awarded the THNOC library a preservation grant to facilitate the complete restoration and preservation of their rare 1885 copy of the *Creole Cookery*, one of New Orleans most important Creole cooking manifestos.

For the History Channel grant, THNOC will engage approximately 420 students in a culinary history project that explores the evolution of Creole cookery in New Orleans. Using the archival, library and museum resources of the collection, students will design and conduct primary research that connects generations and actively involves the family in education. This project will test the old Creole proverb, *Toute se change, toute se reste* (The more things change, the more things stay the same). Students will learn what Creole cookery is, investigate how it evolved over 500 years, and explore how it has changed over the years as a result of invention, immigration and a cultural ethic that both resists and embraces experimentation and change for the pleasure of the palate.

The research materials generated by the study and students will be preserved at The Williams Research Center of THNOC and will enhance its current culinary and heritage collections. Ultimately, this research will result in a cookbook to be published with proceeds benefiting the participating schools. The library will also mount an exhibition on culinary research materials, opening on May 24, 2005, to support the influx of cooking enthusiasts, researchers, students and collection supporters.



New Member Biographies

Wendy McLain is Records Manager for LDEQ. What's that, you ask? Her team is responsible for providing access to LDEQ's public records via the Electronic Document Management System (containing 28 million images) and in the Public Records Center. They also ensure compliance with Louisiana Public Records Law, LDEQ regulations, policies, and procedures and determine appropriate retention periods for LDEQ records. They manage the Agency's archives collection and build awareness of services offered through outreach activities, and policy and procedure development. She also teaches Records Management as an adjunct faculty member at LSU. Before joining LDEQ, she worked as a special librarian for ExxonMobil Chemical for ten years. She has a B.A. from the University of Nevada-Reno (in Psychology) and a Masters of Library and Information Science degree from LSU. In 1999, she earned the Certified Records Manager credential from the Institute of Certified Records Managers (ICRM). And, as if that wasn't punishment enough, she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Information Science at Nova Southeastern University. Her dissertation topic is "Managing e-mail messages as public records."

G. K. Bridges-Tollison is a graduate student at LSU. He has worked in public, private, special and government libraries. He is currently studying archives with Dr. Elizabeth Dow. He holds advanced degrees in literature and writing and has studied at Arkansas State University, George Mason University, and the University of Louisiana, Lafayette.

thanks to Ferol Foos for membership information

A RECORD BREAKER

According to Guinness World Records, the largest library in the world is the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. It houses over one hundred million items on approximately 530 miles of bookshelves. It has approximately 4600 employees. It was founded on April 24, 1800.

For more world records, see the Guinness World Records website at www.guinnessworldrecords.com/ or check out one of their famous books.

LSU Chemistry Library Closing

by William W. Armstrong

The LSU Chemistry Library, one of the oldest continuing branch libraries on the Baton Rouge campus, will be closing its doors permanently at the end of the Spring 2005 Semester. Its extensive collection of journals and books is currently in the process of being relocated to Middleton Library, the main library on campus. The reference collection and reserves will be removed immediately following the end of final exams, with the doors finally being closed to patrons at the end of the day, May 14, 2005.

The decision to close the Chemistry Library came about as the result of a couple of factors: 1) an acute shortage of chemistry lab space, and 2) the planned conversion of the second floor of Williams Hall, which lies right below the Chemistry Library, into organic chemistry labs. The contractors responsible for the upcoming conversion of the second floor of Williams (due to begin May 23) announced that they would need to close the whole building, including the Chemistry Library, for all or most of the construction time. This left the library with few options: it could either close down for the two to three month construction period, leaving the materials completely inaccessible; it could relocate its collection to Middleton temporarily; or finally, it could relocate its collection permanently, allowing the Chemistry Department to convert the third floor into organic chemistry labs as well. The last course was decided as the only sensible one to take under the circumstances.

The Chemistry Library staff, as well as the collection, will be absorbed by the main library, but will no longer function as a unit or in the same capacity. However, the Chemistry Librarian, William Armstrong, will retain his duties and responsibilities in this subject area and will continue to assist the Chemistry faculty and students with their information needs.

Details of the move, as well as finding aids and locations of materials can be found on the Chemistry Library web site at <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/sci/chem>. Like the chemistry collection and the chemistry librarian, the Chemistry Library web site will continue to serve its constituency, but will be renamed Chemistry Resources. The address will remain the same.



Louisiana/Southern Mississippi Chapter Survey Results

by Kelly Blessinger

A survey was sent at the beginning of March to all SLA members listed as being in the Louisiana/Southern Mississippi Chapter within the past two years, as well as to the LaSoMi listserv. Of the eighty-four members that the survey was sent to, twenty-two replied, constituting a 26% response rate. The survey officially closed on the 30th of March, and the questions and responses follow. Since some questions allowed for those being surveyed to select more than one box, not all percentages add up to 100. Comments were left exactly as they were entered, and some contain grammatical errors. Percentages were rounded to the nearest whole percentage point.

In summary, the majority of those who responded listed themselves as either general members who usually didn't attend meetings or former officers. Most had not been to any SLA annual meetings in the last three years, and were not planning on attending the upcoming meeting in Toronto. The majority of respondents stated that their top two choices for meeting places were in Baton Rouge and New Orleans (in that order, followed by Lafayette). One member suggested North Louisiana as a meeting place, and another flexible member stated that anywhere was fine. The best date for most members to meet was Saturday, followed by a tie between Monday and Friday. The day that the least amount of members wanted to meet was Sunday. Mornings, afternoons, and weekends were listed as the best times for meetings. Most responding members read the newsletter and check the webpage on a continuous basis, and a large majority (86%) said they would be interested in organized neighborhood dinners. All of the questions asked, including those not summarized follow.

(continued on next page)

Make Plans to Attend the LaSoMi Spring Meeting!

by Lisa H. Lewis

The Spring meeting of the Louisiana/Southern Mississippi Chapter of SLA will be held on Saturday, April 30th at the Law Library of Louisiana in the Louisiana Supreme Court Building: <http://www.lasc.org/index.asp>. The Law Library is located at 400 Royal Street in the French Quarter. Its mission is to serve the legal information needs of the judiciary, the bar and the general public. It was officially created by the 1855 legislature as the "State Library." This library had been located since 1958 on Loyola Avenue near City Hall, but moved to its current location in May 2004. A brochure detailing the interesting history of this building, which was completed in 1910, will be distributed to attendees at the April meeting. The brochure also includes a brief history
continued on next page....

of the Louisiana Supreme Court. The building originally housed the Supreme Court and the law library, along with New Orleans' civil courts and some municipal offices. Later, the State Department of Wildlife and Fisheries occupied the building.

Carol Billings, Director of the library will give us a tour of the library and speak on law librarianship. Ms. Billings is a native of Maryland who graduated from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and earned her M.A. in Library Science at Northern Illinois University in 1965. She worked at Northern Illinois and UNO, where her husband is a history professor. She joined the law library staff in 1976 as a cataloger, then became reference librarian. In 1981 she became the director, upon the retirement of Harriet Lemann. She has learned law librarianship on the job, and she also credits institutes, workshops, and annual meetings of the American Association of Law Libraries for helpful assistance. She has served as president of the local chapter of AALL, known as NOALL, president of the Southeastern Chapter, Chair of the State, Court and County Law Libraries Section, and national president of AALL. She has also been president of the Louisiana Library Association. She is presently primarily involved in administrative activities, and she particularly enjoys writing about Louisiana legal history.

This tour will begin at 10:30 a.m. and it promises to be very interesting and informative.

Question 1: What is your current level of participation within the Louisiana/Southern Mississippi (LaSoMi) Chapter? [check all that apply]

46% Former Officers
32% Contributor to Newsletter
18% Past Meeting Hosts
5% Willing Volunteer
18% General Member who usually attends meetings
55% General Member who usually does not attend meetings

Question 2: Would you consider taking on a leadership role within LaSoMi? Leadership positions are listed at www.sla.org/chapter/cla/officers.html.

29% Yes; 71% No
(Thank you to those who are willing to volunteer, I have noted your contact information).

Question 3: If you are not as involved in the Chapter as you would like to be, why not?
[check all that apply]

38% I am as involved as I want to be
38% Competing work priorities
29% Competing family priorities
14% Transportation challenges
14% I am not aware of opportunities
14% I cannot take time off during the workweek
14% No one in the chapter has contacted me
14% My employer doesn't encourage involvement
24% Other

Responses for other-

- Meetings really need to be held during the work week. Family priorities hold me back on weekends. My job is more than willing to cover my expenses during the work week and I am most available to attend mtgs. during the work week. WHY ARE THERE MTGS. ON THE WEEKENDS AND WHY ISN'T THE GROUP INVOLVED IN SETTING THE TIMES & DATES ?
- Work priorities are not focused on library duties at this time.
- I am waiting to be done with my MLIS and to also get settled in my new position.
- Distance to meeting
- Often work on Saturdays

Question 4: Would any of the following facilitate your future involvement?

69% Improve publicity about committees or other opportunities to participate
62% Offer more short-term participation
15% Personal contacts from Chapter Officers/Committee Chairs
15% Job sharing of chapter positions
15% A mentoring program that allowed me to work with a more experienced member
15% Other

Responses for other-

- 1) Should consider online group mtgs. during work hours.
- 2) Mississippi activities

Question 5: How many SLA annual conferences have you attended in the last three years?

77% Zero; 9% One; 0% Two; 14% Three

Question 6: Are you planning on attending the 2005 Annual Conference in Toronto?

14% Yes
86% No

Question 7: Which geographic locations would you be willing to meet at? (check all that apply)

77% Baton Rouge
55% Lafayette
64% New Orleans
36% Southern Mississippi
14% Other

Responses for other-

- North Louisiana
- Hawaii?? (just kidding)
- Any location is fine

Question 8: Place in order (1 being best, 7 being worst) days for meetings.

Response: (Listed in order of Preference)

Saturday

“Tie Between Monday and Friday”

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Sunday

Question 9: What is your preference for chapter meeting times? [check all that apply]

55% Mornings; 55% Afternoons; 23% Evenings; 32% Weekdays; 18% Weeknights
55% Weekends

Question 10: Are there any particular topics you would like to see covered at chapter meetings?

- I would like to know more about all of the special libraries in the area.
- More general informational meetings like the Web Searching seminar with Rita Vine.

- Solo librarianship knowledge management in organizations
- News and events from other libraries
- Digitization of collections, grants for special libraries, how to get interns and volunteers working in a special library
- Electronic publishing in the Sciences: electronic archiving vs. print archiving. Who will assure the continued existence of print copies of journals when so many academic institutions are scrambling to dump their copies? Who will assure the existence of electronic copies?

Question 11: Is there a particular library/venue you would like to see a meeting held?

- I think that there should be a regular meeting spot that is in a central location (meaning a place that most people are familiar with), such as the LSU Library, Lafayette Univ., or State Library. Tours are not all that necessary and should be an optional occasion.
- Baton Rouge Advocate library
- Any venue or library with lots of natural lighting would be most desirable. Is there any meeting space at the new Shaw Center that we could use? That would be an attractive meeting place.
- I enjoy going to any special library in the area - I like the hands on experience of seeing other libraries and meeting special librarians who might not necessarily come to our meetings. I don't think we've ever been to a medical library (at least not that I can remember).
- Dinner meetings would be good - don't have to meet at a library...
- State Library
- Law Library of Louisiana
- Supreme Court Library

Question 12: Would you be willing to sponsor a LaSoMi event at your library?

44% Yes; 56% No

(Thank you to those who are willing to host a meeting; I have noted your contact information).

Question 13: Is there something that would encourage you to attend chapter meetings?

- I would like to attend chapter meetings, but I am very busy going to school part time and working full time.
- Only if they were held during work hours only. NO EVENINGS NOR WEEKENDS (some of us have family priorities to attend to).
- Meetings held in Baton Rouge are most convenient.

- Location
- Yes, better communication
- Knowing when and where they are held.
- Topics of interest convenient time/location
- Nickel beer
- Have meetings on different days, not always (or nearly always) on Saturdays
- A good speaker . . . an interesting library like the Picayune!

Question 14: What determines if you will attend a LaSoMi function?

- Time and place.
- Potential benefit of function: will I learn something that can make help me in my daily work.
- If I have extra time on the weekends.
- To attend during WORK HOURS, like all other meetings are normally held. WHY WAS THERE EVER AN EVENING AND WEEKEND MTGS.?
- Location and availability.
- Timing and scheduling.
- Location
- If it doesn't conflict with my schedule (and I can ride with someone to out of town meetings), I usually attend.
- Type of library and time.
- I never know where the meetings are or when. I don't recall receiving a newsletter.

Question 15: Do you read the Chapter's newsletter?

Response:

40% Always

30% Usually

20% Sometimes

10% Never

Question 16: How often do you check the LaSoMi website?

36% Less than once a month

5% Greater than once a month

41% Several times a year

18% Never

Question 17: Is there anything that you would like to see added to the Chapter Website or Newsletter?

- Maybe news of it's members and past members, such as new projects, new jobs/transfers, etc... In addition, news of neighboring states Chapter progress.
- There is a chapter website?
- I'd have to think about that, but for now I think these are fine.
- Access on the website to chapter documents, guidelines, procedures, historical list of officers.

Question 18: If the Chapter organized neighborhood dinners for socializing/networking would you be likely to attend?

86% Yes

14% No

Question 19: Other Comments/Suggestions

- I really do not like the idea of neighborhood dinners, I am not in the group to socialize (maybe networking but not to socialize); I have a social life outside of librarianship. Again, I do not have the time after work hours to meet anyways. At least one online meeting a year should be implemented. Lastly, Are the results of the survey going to be posted?
- Would like to say "maybe" to #18. Depends on the tone of the dinner. Is it a family event or a stuffy business thing, etc.
- However there are not that many SLA members in North Louisiana. And I do not make 4-8 hour drives each way for one-day meetings anymore.
- How do I get a newsletter? I would read it if I got one. What is the URL for the website?
- The networking dinners would be nice but not held very often. Some chapters that do this have a person in charge of the event and often a topic for discussion. Several years ago, we had a chapter meeting without a speaker program. Everyone reported news, recent successes, problems, challenges, concerns. It was not nearly as interesting or successful as I had hoped it would be. Perhaps it needed a stronger leader.

