

The LaSoMi Newsletter

Louisiana/Southern Mississippi Chapter

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President's Message

Greetings LaSoMi Members,

The 2004 SLA Annual Conference was held in Nashville, Tennessee June 5-10, and hosted 3,839 total participants. The conference was held all under one roof at the Opryland Hotel. The hotel is immense, with a nine-acre atrium including indoor gardens, fountains, restaurants, bars, and a river running through the middle that hosted boat rides. While it is amazing that this is all enclosed, after several days indoors, conference goers made references to feeling as though they had unwittingly checked into the Hotel California or a new Biosphere experiment.

The two main events that chapter presidents needed to attend were the Leadership Development Institute and the Chapter Cabinet meeting. The Leadership Development Institute was specifically designed so chapter and division chairs and presidents could meet and share ideas and advice for the upcoming year. Some of the highlights this year included the introduction of the SLA leaders, including the new President Ethel Solonen, breakout sessions with several different topics of concern to divisions and chapters, and "If I knew then what I knew now: Tips from outgoing presidents and chairs." For the breakout session, there were several interesting topics to choose from. I chose to sit at the table with the topic "Recruiting Leaders," where we all shared ideas on how best to get members more involved in their chapters and divisions.

At the Chapter Cabinet meeting, the newly chartered chapters in Australia and New Zealand were recognized, and the Alabama chapter was reinstated after being put on provisional status in 2003. An interim report in regard to the motion for a review of alternative dues structures that was passed by the Board of Directors at the January 2004 meeting was also discussed. The original proposal, brought forth by the Kentucky Chapter stated that the Finance Committee should explore options in dues structures that were revenue neutral to SLA. The



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& their Books!*

Message from the President (continued from page 1)

Finance Committee is comparing both library and non-library associations to come up with various dues structures, discounts and payment options, and will have recommendations for the Board at its October 2004 meeting.

In new business, the Boston Chapter's President Elizabeth Bibby brought forth a proposal for the Board of Directors of SLA to develop additional member statistics showing trends in regard to job movement and changing responsibilities of members to help SLA members prepare for changes in the workplace.

In regard to the Louisiana/Southern Mississippi Chapter, several issues are underway, and the LaSoMi Executive Board will meet in August to discuss plans for the upcoming year. Current plans include conducting an online survey of LaSoMi members to determine the best programming topics and venues for our members, as well as questions on how to get our membership more involved. An e-mail message will be posted to the LaSoMi listserv when that is available. Bill Armstrong (Past-President) and I are currently at work revising the Recommended Practices for Chapters, which is a reference for chapter officers and other chapter leaders in regard to their positions and how they relate to the Association. I am pleased to announce that the Louisiana State University SLIS program has recently reactivated its SLA Student Chapter and we hope to coordinate with them on future programming. Finally, for those of you who are interested in leadership positions within the Chapter, please feel free to contact me at kblessi@lsu.edu. At the time of this submission the President-Elect position is still open.

Kelly Blessinger

2004-2005 LaSoMi Officers

President

Kelly Blessinger
Librarian, GIS
Louisiana State University
Phone: 225-578-8538
Fax: 225-578-9432
kblessi@lsu.edu

Secretary

Angela R. Akinniyi
Director of Research & Information Services
Louisiana Assn. of Business and Industry
Phone: 225-928-5388
Fax: 225-929-6054
angelaa@labi.org

Membership Chair

Ferol Foos
Louisiana Recorder of Documents,
State Library of Louisiana
Phone: 225-342-4929
ffoos@pelican.state.lib.la.us

President-Elect

TBA

Past President

Bill Armstrong
Louisiana State University Chemistry Library
Phone: 225-578-2738
notwwa@lsu.edu

Treasurer

Stephen Pomes
Librarian, Mineral Management Service
Phone: 504-736-2521
Fax: 504-736-2610
stephen.pomes@mms.gov

Employment & Career Guidance Chair

Beth Paskoff, Dean
LSU School of Library and Info Science
Phone: 225-578-1480
Fax: 225-578-4581
bpaskoff@lsu.edu

LaSoMi Officers, 2004-2005 (continued from page 2)

Networking Chair

Bill Armstrong
Louisiana State University
Chemistry Library
Phone: 225-578-2738
notwwa@lsu.edu

Member Recognition & Nominating Chair

Jill Arnold
Capitol City Press, Library
Phone: 225-388-0327
Fax: 225-388-0329
jarnold@theadvocate.com

Archivist

Amy Baptist
Catalog Librarian
Williams Research Center
Historic New Orleans Collection
Phone: 504-598-7158
Fax: 504-598-7168
amyb@hnoc.org

Newsletter Editor

Lisa H. Lewis
LSU School of Library & Info Science
Phone: 225-923-2233
lislewis1645@cox.net

Webmaster/Discussion List Manager

Cindy Ammons
Librarian
Jones Walker
Phone: 225-248-3435
cammons@joneswalker.com



The Student Chapter of SLA at LSU's SLIS Revitalized!

by Jami Bryan

The LSU Student Chapter of SLA, which had been inactive for several semesters, is experiencing revitalization at the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS). Dr. Lisl Zach, serving as faculty advisor, held a meeting early in the Spring 2004 semester to reactivate the chapter. At that meeting, officers were elected to serve until the completion of the Fall 2004 semester. Jami Bryan was elected President, Heather Monroe was elected Vice President, and Nan Moak was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

In order to determine the direction of the chapter and the needs of the community, the officers distributed a needs assessment to SLIS students in the Spring. The results of the assessment have been used in planning meetings and activities. On March 22, 2004, the Student Chapter of SLA held its first event. Nancy Faget, a SLIS alum, spoke to chapter members and attendees about her experiences as a military librarian. The chapter's second event was a field trip to the LSU Cartographic Information Center on May 17, 2004.

The Student Chapter is planning several events and activities for the Fall 2004 semester. A mentoring program, designed to connect SLIS students with professionals working in the field, is

Analysis of SLA LaSoMi Chapter Membership

by Ferol Foos

Our chapter had 65 members as of March 2004. Here is the breakdown by type of membership: one life member, one retired member, twenty student members, 43 professional members.

Geographically, the distribution is as follows:

Baton Rouge area	26
New Orleans area	22
'North' La	5
'Middle' La	3 (Lafayette, Alexandria, Hammond)
'South' La	2 (Chauvin, Franklin)
Mississippi	5
Outside La/Ms	2 (LexisNexis, Neutrogena)

Our very special life member is Becky Skau who was the primary founder of our chapter. Frances Fontenot is our retired member. Thanks for retaining your membership. Our newest member is Jessica Patterson, LSU Reference Dept. Welcome, Jessica! We are fortunate to have both LSU and University of Southern Mississippi students as members. We are particularly grateful to those student members who take on leadership rolls such as bulletin editor, webmaster and a great group who worked on our chapter archives.

As FYI, the SLA membership directory does not have email addresses for these members: Abadie, Conover, Jumonville, Kirby, Seltzer. You might want to update your profile.

Here is how we break down by institution. The numbers do not quite add up because the SLIS count includes faculty and some students (and Foos numbers never add up anyway).

Academic

LSU-BR 4
LSU SLIS 4
LSU Center for Energy Studies 1
LSU Health Science Center 2
LSU LUMCON 1
UL Monroe 1
Loyola 1
McNeese 1
Notre Dame Seminary 1
Gulf Coast Research Lab, U of So Ms 1
Tougaloo College, MS 1
Tulane 2
Tulane Law 1
University of MS Medical Library 1
UNO 1



**Analysis of SLA LaSoMi Chapter Membership
(continued from page 5)**

Government U.S.

Geological Survey 1
5th Circuit Court 3
Veterans Adm Medical Center 1
Army Corps of Engineers Waterways 2
Dept of Agriculture 1
Dept of Interior Minerals Mgt 1

Government State

Dept of Environmental Quality 1
Dept of Economic Development 1
Office of the Legislative Auditor 1
State Library of La 1
Law Library of La 1

Government Parish (public libraries)

East Baton Rouge 1
Jefferson Parish 1

Corporate

The Advocate 1
Albemarle 1
ExxonMobil 2
LexisNexis 1
Neutrogena 1
Women's Hospital 1
Jones Walker Law 1
McGlenchey Stafford 1

Non-Profit

LABI 1
Historic New Orleans Collection 2

Web Conferencing
by William Armstrong

Once a year, SLA holds its major Annual Conference, thereby providing its membership a chance to come together from all parts of the globe and participate in its many program offerings from the various divisions within SLA. Librarians from many different specialties are able to network and discuss problems, solutions, and concerns of importance to all.

These annual events are wonderful opportunities for librarians, but there's just one problem – not everyone is lucky enough to be able to attend in person. This can be for various reasons, but it usually boils down to time and money; that is, not enough of one or the other or both. Some information professionals do not have employers who are either willing or able to support attendance at these functions, and travel and accommodations are not cheap. Others may simply be too overworked to be able to take the time to attend.

So what do we do about these members? The Chemistry Division of SLA has begun experimenting with web conferencing in an attempt to bring some part of the conference experience to its membership and anyone else interested. Throughout the month of July, it ran its first web conference featuring 13 of the 14 posters presented live at the Annual Conference in Nashville during June 2004. Each week, the Division presented a group of three to four posters on the web conference site for viewers to read. In addition, discussion forums were set up for each presentation where conference participants could post questions and comments pertaining to the presentations. The moderators of these discussion forums were the authors themselves.

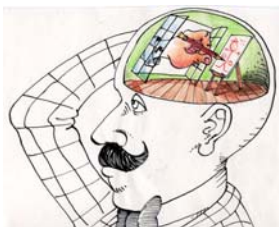
The advantage of the asynchronous form of presentation and participation that the Chemistry Division chose is one of time. Because participation is asynchronous, a participant (and this can be presenter or viewer) does not have

This Issue's Library Joke

....from www.ifla.org (original source unknown)

Q: What happens when you cross a librarian and a lawyer?

A: You get all the information you want, but you can't understand it.



to commit to being 100% available at any given time. In the case of this particular conference, he/she needed simply to be able to log on to the conference at times convenient to them during the specified length of the session. And with the web being open 24 hours a day, the question of “convenient” is really decided by the participant. You don’t have to take a week off from your job.

Money was also taken out of the picture with this conference. The Chemistry Division made registration free (though registration was mandatory for participation), while travel and accommodations became non-issues. We hope this method of bringing content and the capability for open discussion to the Division will provide members worldwide extra value for their membership.

The web conferencing system is housed on the LSU Libraries’ web server and is maintained by the author. Though July’s conference will be closed by the time you see this, it will be reopened as an archived system shortly after its conclusion, so a permanent record of the conference will always be available. The conference will no longer be open for posting, but it will be open for viewing. For those of you who are interested in seeing the system, its address is <http://forum.lib.lsu.edu/slachem>.

My Trip to Nashville

by David Duggar

The 2004 SLA annual conference was held in Nashville, Tennessee, June 5-10 at the Gaylord Opryland Convention Center. Every member of SLA should attend a SLA annual conference at least once. The Nashville conference ended my term as Past Chair of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division. Running for office and being elected allowed me the support from work to attend the conference over the last four years, each in a different geographic location and each with different hot topic programs, timely work-related programs, and personal interest programs. I learned a great deal about the planning of Division programs at conference, fundraising to help pay for these programs and the workings of SLA’s Division Cabinet and staff. I hope that a few brief notes from some of the activities in Nashville will spur others in the Louisiana/Southern Mississippi Chapter to attend the conference and get involved at the Division level.



Saturday, June 5th for me was a day of travel ending at the Gaylord Opryland Convention Center in time to pick up my final program and bag from the Registration desks and attend the Outgoing Board Meeting of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division. Besides reports on committee work over the year and action items for decisions to be made by the Division’s officers and committee chairs, new information is learned.

A permanent column in Biofeedback, the Division’s newsletter, will report on what the Medical Library Association is doing.

The American Society of Information Science (ASIST) held its Information Architecture Summit in February in Austin, Texas, and will hold their annual meeting November in Providence, Rhode Island. Keynote speakers are Tim Berners-Lee and J.C. Herz, author of “Joystick Nation”.

The International Association for Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) will have its 2004 conference in Hobart, Tasmania while their 2005 conference will be at FAO Fisheries in Rome, Italy.

My Trip to Nashville (continued from page 7)

This is one year in which everything at the SLA annual conference was under one roof. Opryland is like being in a biodome. There are fountains, waterfalls, store buildings, gazebos, amphitheaters, rivers, and plenty of plants, and more walkways with 'street' signs to take you any level of the multi-sectional complex. There were no worries about traffic or weather since a large dome covers the entire convention center. You have the feeling of being outside but are not. If you enjoyed walking you had nothing to complain about location-wise.

Many continuing education courses are held Saturday and Sunday. The SLA Board of Directors also held their Board Meeting Saturday. Much of the SLA Board's meeting is open to the membership and on occasion the membership is asked to speak regarding proposals. Approval was given for the formation of the Australian/New Zealand Chapter and the Competitive Intelligence Division.

The Academic Librarians Roundtable is settling into a Sunday traditional breakfast program. This year the room was so packed with librarians that the breakfast buffet had to be set up in a separate room. Each table was devoted to one of three topics: open access and scholarly publishing, information literacy, and recruitment into academic librarianship. Each table had a facilitator who kept the table's discussion on track and presented the key points from that table's discussion. Bibliographies on all three topics were in the back.



Several Divisions sponsor Vendor Roundtables for presentations about new products and services specific to the field(s) the Divisions cover. The Biomedical and Life Sciences Division, Chemistry Division, and Environment and Resource Management Division cosponsored a Vendor Roundtable immediately after the Academic Librarians Roundtable. For companies had representatives speaking at this.

This was in the same room as the Academic Roundtable. The room was reset with fewer round tables and several rows of chairs (theater style) in the back and there was space to put the breakfast foods and drinks in the back of the room. Around 50+ people attended. Susan Kendall, chair of the DBIO Vendor Relations Committee introduced the speakers. Jeff Holtmeier, Director, ASM Press gave a presentation on EcoSal, the new web version of the book *Escherichia Coli and Salmonella*. Ray Colon, Elsevier Bibliographic Databases, gave a presentation on EMBASE. Gillian Harrison gave a presentation on netLibrary, a part of OCLC. Patricia Neenan, Market Development Manager, CABI Publishing gave a presentation about CABI as it related to the health sciences, as most people think agriculture and applied life sciences when they think of CABI. Incoming Division Chairs need not panic. Many Divisions pass knowledge to new officers in different ways. The Biomedical and Life Sciences Division holds a Past Chair luncheon where the incoming chair and newly elected chair-elect can pick the brains of the past officers. [Note that this is a wonderful thing to do at the Chapter level and may encourage more people to serve as Chapter officers.]

SLA's conference is noted for its large number and diversity of exhibitors. The exhibits opened at 11 a.m. Sunday. I spent much of the afternoon doing a thorough walk through the exhibits. SLA provides an electronic card that can be swiped in exhibitors' machines to quickly provide them with your business contact information. But not every exhibitor has one of these card readers, so it is a good idea to bring along your business cards.

You can also meet colleagues and friends you haven't seen in years. One Chapter member I saw was Judy Jumonville. She is now Director of the Advocate Library, the newspaper in Baton Rouge. She has been at The Advocate for ten years now. This was her first SLA conference.

My Trip to Nashville (continued from page 8)

Receptions and Open Houses are a great way to network and meet new and old associates. The CAS/ACS dessert reception is always great. The Information Technology Division's open houses are different every night. Sunday night was mystery writers and participants played a variation on the game of Clue, meeting several other librarians in the process and being able to purchase and have signed a few mysteries. Most Division Open Houses are open to anyone, whether you belong to that Division or not. You may find after attending one that the hosting Division is one you want to join.

Most Divisions hold their annual business meetings as breakfasts on Monday or Tuesday of the conference. While you may know everything going on through their newsletter and website, it is a great time to meet the officers and volunteer to be on a committee. You may even be asked to run for an office by eager Nomination committee chairs. If you belong to more than one Division, it can sometimes be difficult to choose between conflicting business meetings. At the Environment and Resource Management Division's business meeting I learned that Heidi Porth, Chair of the Career Guidance/Mentor Program Committee for ERM Division, has created a website of graduate education programs (for her Chapter I think) and is looking at doing something similar for DERM. Thirty of the DERM members are students, which is roughly 10% of the membership.

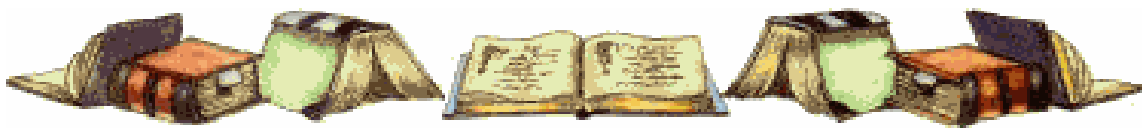
The conference officially opens with the President's welcome and Conference Program Chair's welcome followed by the keynote speaker. This year the keynote speaker was Dr. Carl S. Ledbetter who spoke on security and accessibility to information.

Despite the fact that one Division I belong to was cosponsoring the program, the Book/Author luncheon held by the Museums, Arts, and Humanities Division this year was a personal interest item. Richard Rhodes, a Pulitzer prizewinner, spoke about his upcoming book, due out in September or October 2004 entitled "Audubon: The Making of an American." I expect a lot of Louisiana libraries will be getting this book. A purely fun program afterwards was by Bill Stiner, author of "Audubon Art Prints: A Collector's Guide to Every Edition", who showed several of the prints in his collection and discussed the differences in the editions. Mr. Gregory Jecmen, assistant curator in the Department of Old Masters Prints at the National Gallery of Art, told how these are displayed and one looks at them when doing research at the National Gallery of Art.

There are always opportunities to see parts of the conference city. The Medical Section held a reception at the Meharry Medical College. It is the largest private, comprehensive historically black institution for educating health care professionals and scientists in the U.S. It is comprised of the School of Medicine, School of Graduate Studies, School of Dentistry, and School of Allied Health Professions. The college was founded in 1876 and has a current enrollment of 800+ students. Tours were given of the three floors of the library after SLA members of the Medical Section networked with each other, local MLA Chapter members and Library Staff while eating cheese, crackers, meatballs, vegetables, cookies, and drinking punch, coffee, and wine.

Monday night was also alumni reunion night. Lisl Zach, Assistant Professor, LSU SLIS, was the host for the LSU SLIS table at the SLA Library School Alumni Reunion. At least four other alumni had been there before me. SLIS has a new faculty member as Michelynn McKnight, Ph.D., formerly of Norman, Oklahoma, will start teaching this fall.

My term as Past Chair of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division ended at the Tuesday morning breakfast business meeting of the Division. However, I've already been snagged to serve on the Division's Nominating



My Trip to Nashville (continued from page 9)

Committee. [If you are a BIO member and want to run for an office, let me know!]

The big surprise was the overflowing crowd at 'Stress Management: Laugh for the Health of It.' People were lined up outside the door and filled every seat, sat in the aisle, stood two rows deep against the walls, and still spilled out the door into the hall. Elaine Lundberg was the speaker and she was very entertaining and educational.

Another full program, but in a larger room with enough chairs, was 'Open Access Publishing'. Carolyn Mills, the moderator, had created a handout on 'Basic Open Access Web Sites'. This was a panel presentation. Three of the four panelists had been able to attend. These were really interesting presentations and the audience had a lot of questions. It added more depth to the subject after the initial table-talk Sunday morning.

Many Divisions host poster sessions or contributed papers at the annual conference. The Biomedical and Life Sciences Division's this year was 'Beyond Information Literacy: Teaching Old Dogs New Tricks.' Two papers had been accepted and were very different. One was from the academic side and one from the corporate side. Copies of the Proceedings can be downloaded from the Division's website. Proposals for next year's contributed papers are now being accepted. Check the Divisions' websites to see what the themes are for their poster and papers sessions next year. Apply to present next year. Get a co-worker to go in with you. It can be a great opportunity.

My last program at the conference was the Medical Section's trip to Vanderbilt for a presentation on recent advances in brain sciences, Section business meeting, reception and tour of the Eskind Biomedical Library, and participation in the MLA Focus Group regarding a study regarding Information Specialist in Context (aka informationist).

Wednesday morning was an early flight back home.

David Duggar, Associate Professor, Dept of Medical Library, LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport



Do You Think Special Librarians Like to March to the Beat of their Own Drummers? Well, that's probably a good thing because....

Two hundred and twenty six soldiers lost their lives way back in 1850 when they crossed a suspension bridge that spanned the Maine at Angers, France. It turns out that they were all marching in step and had caused an increased resonance (vibration) to the bridge. Ever since, troops are ordered to *rout step* (march out of step) when crossing a bridge.

Source: *Why Some Shoes Squeak* by George W. Stimpson, 1984, p. 115

Taken from http://home.nycap.rr.com/useless/fast_facts/index.html on August 9, 2004.