

The LaSoMi Newsletter

April, 2000

Volume 53, Number 4

President's Message

by John Anderson

As Spring is in full bloom and Summer is rapidly approaching here in Louisiana and Southern Mississippi, it is time to prepare for the Chapter's final program, the Chapter leadership transition, and the SLA Annual Conference. Please make plans to join your Chapter colleagues and meet some new faces at the May 13 meeting and tour of the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library in Biloxi, Mississippi. Gerald Patout has worked exceptionally hard to arrange the tour and with Barbara Kenaston's help, Gerald has invited students from the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg to also attend. This is a great opportunity to expand the Chapter's membership both numerically and geographically so let's do our best to welcome the USM students. Please use the Chapter discussion list to make car pool arrangements for the trip to Biloxi.

The May meeting will also include elections for Chapter officers and the transition to Gerald Patout's stewardship of the Chapter as President. If you are interested in running for elected office or being appointed to chair a Chapter committee, please contact Gerald Patout or John Anderson. Serving

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**Special Libraries
Association**

the profession by assisting colleagues.

The upcoming SLA Annual Conference in Philadelphia offers a great opportunity to both network with colleagues and to introduce new Chapter members to the SLA. If you are planning to attend the Annual conference, please contact fellow chapter members who are attending their first conference. If you are attending your first SLA Annual Conference, remember to ask for your "First Timer" ribbon for your badge. This will identify you to the SLA leadership so they can welcome you to SLA.

Finally, my thanks to Gerald Patout for his outstanding service as Chapter President-Elect and my best wishes to Gerald during the next year. As always, special thanks to David Landry for his work as Newsletter editor.

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SLA Winter Meeting Report

by John Anderson

The Winter Meeting in St. Louis provided the Louisiana-Southern Mississippi Chapter officers an opportunity to meet with the SLA national office staff and other chapter leaders. The Chapter officers also attended the Leadership Development Institute (LDI), the Chapter Cabinet meeting and the SLA Town Meeting as well as the wonderful reception at the city museum hosted by the St. Louis chapter.

An interesting and innovative touch to this year's Leadership Development Institute had the candidates for SLA office presenting the Institute sessions. This allowed the unit leaders to observe the candidates' presentation styles in addition to hearing their "campaign" speeches and talking with them at the Meet & Mingle sessions. The LDI sessions were conveniently identified for first time attendees and for those attending their second LDI. Topics covered during the LDI sessions included: Running a Successful Unit, Money Management, The Government Information Dilemma, and Strategic Planning.

The Chapter Cabinet meeting brought chapter leaders from around the world together to hear reports on the SLA Strategic Plan draft and the Virtual Association project. Remarks from Chapter Cabinet Chair Sandy Spurlock included highlights of chapter activities (Hopefully, the Louisiana-Southern Mississippi Chapter's recruiting efforts will be mentioned next January), the chapter president's role, and recruiting, motivating, and retaining members.

Watching the association Board Meeting was a great insight into how the SLA Board functions. In addition to the officer, conference planning, committee, and caucus reports, the Board heard a report on the progress of the 2001 Association Program Plan. However, the major Board discussion revolved around the suggestions made by legal counsel to reclassify many existing SLA policies as practices. These suggestions came as a result of the recent SLA Policy Review.

The Town Meeting allowed SLA unit leaders to raise

their concerns to the SLA national office staff and to hear updates on the Virtual Association Plan and the SLA Board's efforts to shape the future of the Association. Several members commented on the form and nature of the SLA website and the efforts to create a virtual association. The issues raised about the SLA website included the concern that it did not adequately represent the Association and that it did not provide easy navigation to the user. Concerns about the website design will be addressed now that the website oversight has been moved to the SLA Information Resources Center. Two major concerns about the virtual association were raised. First, since SLA is a truly global association and that members do not always work during the traditional hours of SLA national office, it was suggested that the online leadership chats also be conducted at times that will allow broader participation. Second, the Association must remember that not all of its members have online access. In other business, it was announced that the SLA Board will appoint task forces to examine the five strategic initiatives to shape the future of the Association. These initiatives are:

- 1) Membership - defining the membership through who we are and what we do, options for service, virtual membership, and customizing and personalizing services.
- 2) Branding - addressing the possibility of changing the name of the Association to better reflect the professional competencies and the member's abilities.
- 3) Simplification of Business and Governance - reduce the organizational structure and react better and faster while becoming proactive.
- 4) Conference Planning - to achieve broad industry appeal and perspectives.
- 5) Partnerships - strengthen existing partnerships and develop new collaborations.

The St. Louis Chapter hosted a magnificent reception at the City Museum. Chapter President Stephanie Tolson recommended that everyone dress casual to experience the museum's "Three floors of fun where adults can be a kid." A great time was had by all who enjoyed the food and climbing through the extremely interactive exhibits.

Library Profile

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District Technical Library

by Donna Braquet

Library on the Levee

Ever wonder why New Orleans, being several feet below sea level, is habitable? Ever wonder why the Mississippi River does not take its preferred route to the Atchafalaya River Basin? The reason is the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

What Does the New Orleans District Do?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' involvement in New Orleans dates back to 1803, when an Army engineer was sent to the newly acquired city to study its defenses. The Corps' early work in the area was of a military nature, but soon expanded to include navigation and flood control, which have been New Orleans District's primary missions ever since.

The New Orleans District's mission is to plan, design, construct, operate and maintain the federally sponsored navigation, flood control, hurricane protection, environmental enhancement, and water resource development projects in 30,000 square miles of southern Louisiana. The district's jurisdiction includes more than 2,800 miles of navigable waterways, 950 miles of levees and floodwalls, 12 navigation locks, six major flood control structures, one freshwater diversion structure, and other projects to protect and enhance the coastal and inland wetlands of Louisiana. The district regulates activities in navigation channels and wetlands, and provides real estate and engineering consultant support for other government agencies. The New Orleans District is located on the Mississippi River levee in Uptown New Orleans.

The New Orleans District Technical Library

The New Orleans District Technical Library is one of several Corps libraries across the United States. Corps libraries are under the jurisdiction of Army libraries, which are part of the Department of Defense. At the New Orleans District, the library is



managed by the Information Management Section of the Information Support Services Branch. The library consists of two librarians, one library technician, and one library co-op student. Daniel Bates, library director since 1995, manages the library and acts as library systems administrator. The cataloger, Sandra Brown joined the library last December and is busy cataloging new materials as well as historical unique documents published by the N.O. District. Eddie Betbeze, the library technician has been at the N.O.D. Technical Library since 1982 and he handles acquisitions and record keeping for the library. I am the current library co-op student. I manage interlibrary loan and work on various special projects. All members of the library staff provide reference service to users utilizing the collection, standards, Dialog®, the Internet and interlibrary loan. The N.O.D. Technical Library motto is: "Our Job Is To Make Your Job Easier."

The N.O.D. Technical Library had a humble beginning, as many special libraries do. Recollections of long-time Corps employees reveal that the library began as a one-person office. Records indicate that ordering of materials for the New Orleans District began in 1962. In the mid-1970's

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an actual library was created. The library has come a long way since then. In 1985, the library moved to its present location in what is called the modern building, which replaced the reservation style army buildings that were built in the 1920's. The library now has about 15,000 items, which include monographs, technical reports, maps, government documents, CD-ROMs, standards, videos and audio tapes. The New Orleans District employs 1,200 people including Accountants, Anthropologists, Engineers, Real Estate Specialists, Computer Scientists, Biologists, Economists, Lawyers, and others. The collection reflects this broad range of users at the New Orleans District. The collection is heavily concentrated in engineering, but has growing sections for natural sciences, anthropology, history, and management. The collection is constantly evolving as library staff evaluate possible sources and purchase on-demand choices of their users.

The New Orleans District Library has provided a Co-op position for a LSU School of Library and Information Science student since 1990. Five SLIS students have been able to partake of this wonderful opportunity in the past decade. Students in this position are able to incorporate what they learn in school into a real-world library setting. Unlike some internships, Co-op Students at the N.O.D. Library are able to participate in all aspects of the special library. During my year and a half at the N.O.D. library, I have gained experience with providing reference services, serials management, web page creation, catalog maintenance, and interlibrary loan. As I look toward graduation, I know that I will use the knowledge and skills that I gained at the N.O.D. Library well into my career. I am grateful for this opportunity and I look forward to passing it on to another deserving SLIS student.

To see more of what the New Orleans District does, see the website at <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil>. The USACE Library Program has a site at <http://www.usace.army.mil/library/index.html>. Also, look for the newly revised N.O.D. Library site at http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/imo/Iss/mgt_info_sec/library/library.htm

SLA Honors 22 for Contributions to Special Librarianship

Twenty-two individuals have been selected by the Special Libraries Association (SLA) to be honored for their contributions to the Association and the information profession. Each will be honored and receive special recognition during SLA's Annual Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA, on 10-15 June 2000.

Most notable of the award recipients is Bill Gates, Chairman and Co-Founder of Microsoft Corporation, who was selected as an Honorary Member of the Association. Mr. Gates is recognized for his longstanding commitment to libraries and information professionals who serve in all sectors of society. Mr. Gates delivered the keynote address at the 89th SLA Conference in Seattle, Washington USA.

Entrance into the SLA Hall of Fame is granted to members of the Association at or near the end of an active professional career for an extended and sustained period of distinguished service to the Association in all spheres. This year's winners are: Dorothy McGarry of Los Angeles, who is retired from the University of California, Los Angeles; Edwina "Didi" Pancake, who is retired from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville; and Anne Galler, who was selected posthumously after a long career in library studies at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec Canada. Galler, McGarry and Pancake were selected for their longtime service to their profession and commitment to SLA.

The John Cotton Dana Award, named for the founder of SLA, is conferred upon an SLA member for exceptional service to special librarianship. This year's recipient is Jane I. Dysart, who is a partner in the library consulting firm Dysart and Jones of Toronto, Ontario Canada. Dysart has been recognized most notably for her achievements in leading the development of SLA's Virtual Association and educating her professional peers for greater success.

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The SLA President's Award is given annually to an SLA member who displays an ongoing commitment to the development of the Association as the premier organization for information professionals. This year, the award is conferred upon Marjorie M.K. Hlava, President and Chairman of the Board of Access Innovations, Inc. of Albuquerque, New Mexico USA. Hlava is recognized for her longstanding involvement as a volunteer and elected leader with SLA, and for the continued setting of standards that her colleagues in the profession have followed.

The Dow Jones Leadership Award is intended for an SLA member who exemplifies leadership as a special librarian through examples of personal and professional competencies. This year's award goes to Janice F. Chindlund, manager of the Business Research Information Center at McDonald's Corporation in Oak Brook, Illinois USA. Jan is recognized for her expert knowledge of information resources; her skills in communicating with senior management; her commitment to lifelong learning and professional networking; and her flexible and positive work ethic in times of change. The award is based on the acclaimed "Competencies for Special Librarians of the 21st Century," which can be found on the Internet at www.sla.org/professional/comp.html.

Fellows of the Special Libraries Association are called upon and expected to advise the Association's Board of Directors, alert the membership to issues and trends warranting action, and are recognized as active SLA members with future leadership potential for the Association. The 1999 Fellows are: Elizabeth A. Bibby, Director of Business Information Services at the Harvard Business School, Cambridge, Massachusetts USA; Jo Anne Boorkman, Head of the Health Sciences Library at the University of California at Davis USA; Richard P. Hulser, Content Management Product Marketing Manager for IBM Corporation, New Haven, Connecticut USA; Sylvia E. Piggott, Deputy Division Chief for Joint Library Administration at the International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC USA; Daniel B. Trefethen, a librarian with Boeing Company in Seattle, Washington USA.

The SLA Professional Award is presented to an individual or group who may or may not hold membership in the Association, in recognition of major achievements in, or a specific significant contribution to, the field of librarianship or information science. This year's award is presented posthumously to Sue Ruggie, Founder and President of Information on Demand in Oakland, California USA. Ruggie achieved success in the information profession with little formal education beyond high school, and she became a very well-respected information professional due to her spirit, drive, and determination.

The Rose L. Vormelker Award is given to an SLA member recognized for exceptional services to the profession of special librarianship in the area of mentoring students and/or practicing professionals in the field. This year's award recipients are: Barbara P. Semonche, Library Director for the University of North Carolina School of Journalism in Chapel Hill, North Carolina USA; and Elizabeth W. Stone, Dean Emerita of the School of Library and Information Science at The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC USA. Both were recognized for their unwavering commitment to the development of students in library science programs into professionals who have learned inside and outside the classroom.

SLA's Diversity Leadership Development Awards recognize individuals with strong leadership abilities and expected development as role models for the profession. This year's winners are: Jannie R. Cobb, Librarian at the George Meany Archives Library of the AFL-CIO in Silver Spring, Maryland USA; Alvetta Pindell, Head of the Information Research Services Branch of the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland, USA; Lilleth Newby, Director of the HIV Research Library for the New York City Department of Health in New York, New York USA. Each of these outstanding professionals will receive a \$1,000 stipend for use in attending the SLA Annual Conference and will be mentored by a longstanding SLA member who has been selected based on his or her experience in the profession.

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The Innovations in Technology Award recognizes information professionals for their innovative use and application of technology in a special library setting. This year's winners are Deborah Kegel and Katherine Whitley, who developed an leading-edge electronic article archive at the University of California at San Diego USA. Kegel is Head of Public Services at the UCSD Science and Engineering Library. Whitley is now Corporate Librarian for Bausch and Lomb Pharmaceuticals in Tampa, Florida USA. The H.W. Wilson Company Award is presented to authors of outstanding articles published in Information Outlook, SLA's monthly magazine. This year's winner is Stuart Basefsky for his article "The Library as an Agent of Change: Pushing the Client Institution Forward," which appeared in the August 1999 issue of Information Outlook (Vol.3, No.8, August 1999, pp. 37-40). Basefsky will receive a \$500 cash award for this excellent article.

The Public Relations Media Award recognizes journalists who have published outstanding features on the profession of special librarianship. This year's award goes to Valerie Gray Francois, who authored "Librarians Take the Spotlight," which appeared in the September 26-October 2, 1999 edition of the National Business Employment Weekly. The article highlighted the fact that librarians and information professionals are hot employment prospects, given their tendency to cross-train into other professional areas.

The Member Achievement Award is presented to a member of SLA for raising visibility and public awareness of, and appreciation for, the profession and/or the Association. This year's award goes to Stephen Abram, Vice President of Micromedia, Ltd. of Toronto, Ontario Canada. Abram initiated a public relations campaign in response to an advertisement for the Toronto Argonauts football team that depicted librarians as quiet and boring. His efforts led to an apology from Argonauts management, and an invitation for 100 members of the SLA Toronto Chapter to attend a key Canadian Football League game at SkyDome free of charge. Due to Abram's efforts, the Argonauts recognized and thanked the SLA contingent during the game, and the profession's visibility was raised in a high-profile setting.

The winners of this year's SLA Awards and Honors were selected by the SLA Awards and Honors Committee, which is chaired by SLA Past President Judith J. Field of Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan USA. The winners were announced by SLA President Susan S. DiMattia of Cahners Business Information, New York, New York USA, at the Winter Meeting of the SLA Board of Directors, held 20-22 January 2000 in St. Louis, Missouri USA. The awards will be presented at SLA's 91st Annual Conference, to be held June 10-15, 2000, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA. To learn more about the conference on the Internet, go to www.slaconference2000.org.

Library Voices

This is the inaugural column of a feature presenting the lighter side of librarianship. This column will present brief stories involving out of the ordinary happenings in and around libraries along with anecdotes that illustrate the public's perception of libraries, librarians, and librarianship. This first anecdote suggested the column's title.

At the 2000 SLA Winter Meeting in St. Louis, I was able to free up my schedule enough to walk to the famous Gateway Arch and ride the tram to the observation deck. My fellow tram passengers included a young mother and three children about five or six years old. The children were very excited about riding to the top of the arch and expressed their excitement by running everywhere and shouting. Of course, their shouts were echoed and amplified inside of the stainless steel structure. In attempting to shepherd and quiet the children, the young mother kept admonishing the children with "Library voices, everyone, library voices!"

Contributed by John Anderson

Mark Your Calendars Chapter Meeting - May 13, 2000

The LaSoMi Chapter Spring meeting will be at Beauvoir and the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library in Biloxi, Mississippi on May 13, 2000.

Join us in touring the historic mansion and recently opened presidential library. Plan on having lunch and strolling the grounds of one the South's finest historical treasures and repositories.

The complimentary tour of Beauvoir will begin at 10:30 a.m. Beauvoir is located at 2244 W. Beach Boulevard in Biloxi, MS. From Louisiana, take I-10 West into Biloxi, then take US 49 South. Proceed approximately 4.5 miles, then turn left onto US 90 East (a.k.a Beach Blvd.) and proceed approximately 7.6 miles. For additional information, you may visit <http://www.beauvoir.org>.

If you plan to attend, please complete and return the registration form on page 11.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Medical Library Association Conference
May 5 - 11, 2000
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

National Online Meeting & IOLS 2000
May 16 - 18, 2000
New York, NY

ACM Digital Libraries 2000
June 2 - 7, 2000
San Antonio, TX

SLA's 91st Annual Conference
June 10 - 15, 2000
Philadelphia, PA

American Library Association
July 6 - 13, 2000
Chicago, IL

Member News

Barbara Biggs retired on April 1, 2000. She was the LSU Chemistry Librarian before moving to Exxon Research & Development Lab where she has been the head librarian for about 18 years. A fun fact: Barbara's two sisters are also librarians. We hope she will continue her SLA membership and especially that she will continue to come to our meetings. She has been a respected and valued colleague. Here is the nomination which led to her receiving the Role of Honor Award - SLA La/SoMs Chapter a few years ago.

Barbara has been an active member of our chapter for more than 14 years. She served as co-membership chair in 1982-3 and was treasurer for four terms, from 1983/4-1986/7. Barbara was a director twice, 1987/8 and 1988/9. She participated on the budget committee in 1988/9 and was the Consultation Chair in 1991/2.

Barbara has been probably THE most faithful in attending chapter meetings and workshops, continuously supporting the Chapter. Barbara always exhibits the highest professionalism, serving as a role model for many of us. Her wide scope of interests and experience enrich her contributions to our activities and personal networking.

Through field experiences, lectures, tours, etc., Barbara has been one of the strongest advocates for special librarianship with LSU GSLIS students and faculty.

Barbara's home email address as of April 1, 2000 is brbiggs@home.com.



Two chapter members have volunteered to serve as chapter officers for the upcoming new term. **Kelly Blessinger** is a candidate for Chapter Secretary to replace Judys Buys at the end of her term. **Abby Holt** will be appointed the Public Relations Committee Chair.

Kelly D. Blessinger serves as the Geographic Information Systems librarian with Louisiana State University Libraries. She received her Bachelor's degree in Earth Science from Eastern Michigan University in 1998 and a Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina in 1999. As the GIS Librarian, Kelly is the liaison to the Geography, Geology and Anthropology departments, and assists patrons in Middleton Library with GIS software.

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Abby Holt is currently employed by Louisiana State University and serves as a Reference/Instruction Librarian and also a liaison to the Psychology Department. She received her B.A. degree in Psychology at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1996, and her Master's of Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1998. She worked at Tulane University Libraries as an interim Reference Librarian from 1998-1999.

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There are a number of positions which have yet to be filled.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for one of these positions, please contact John Anderson.

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SLA Louisiana / Southern Mississippi Chapter May Meeting

Join us for a tour of Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis' retirement estate, and a visit to the recently opened Jefferson Davis Presidential Library in Biloxi, MS.

10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday May 13, 2000
Beauvoir, 2244 W. Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS

For additional information please see:

<http://www.beauvoir.org>

Box Lunch Selections:

Sandwich:

- Ham
- Turkey
- Roast Beef
- Ham Salad
- Turkey Salad
- Tuna Salad
- Chicken Salad
- Veggie

Side Dish:

- Chips (Plain, BBQ, Doritos, or Pretzels)
- Potato Salad
- Pasta Salad
- Cole Slaw
- Fruit Cup

Bread:

- Croissant
- Multi-Grain
- French
- Honey Wheat
- Sourdough
- Rye

Cookie:

- Oatmeal Raisin
- Chocolate Chip
- Peanut Butter
- Heath Bar Crunch
- Chocolate Macadamia
- Substitute an Apple

Condiments:

All sandwiches are topped with lettuce, tomato, and Havarti cheese. Gourmet honey mustard, mayonnaise and pickle are served on the side. Veggie sandwiches are served with lemon dill spread on the side.

Beverage:

- Coke
- Diet Coke
- Sprite
- Diet Sprite
- Root Beer
- Dr. Pepper
- Spring Water
- Hawaiian Punch
- Lipton Brisk Iced Tea
- Country Time Lemonade

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Registration Fee:

Members, students, and non-members \$6.00

Mail checks and this form by May 1 to:

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Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of the Special Libraries Association. Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product by the Special Libraries Association.

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