



# Michigan Bulletin

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## P resident's Letter

Hello all,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday; they sure seem to go by fast. Quite a few members came to the December social meeting held at the Hockeytown Café. The food was delicious and the company was great; it was a very nice start to my holiday season!

First off, I am happy to announce that mid-February Laura Mancini will be transitioning from Treasurer to President-Elect and Laura Strand has accepted the Treasurer position. I heartily thank Laura and Linda for supporting the Michigan Chapter by filling these positions.

I have just returned from the Leadership Summit held in Houston, TX, January 17 – 21, 2006. The most exciting Michigan Chapter announcement was that our very own Judy Field, has been awarded SLA's prestigious John Cotton Dana Award. I would like to thank Judy for all of the past years work and look forward to continuing to working with Judy and her wealth of historical information along with valuable mentoring. Congratulations Judy!!!!

Pam Rollo, President, announced a change in the Association's organization. "The Association Office Operations Committee (AOOC) believes the time has come to change the title of the top staff position from Executive

Director to Chief Executive Officer or CEO". This change makes the position title become more in line with other peer organizations top title; there is no governance change. Pam continued on to describe the task forces that she began in the fall. Each of the six task forces has formed a committee and is progressing with their charges. There will be final findings at the Annual Conference in June. There will be a variety of responses – we may be happy with some and may feel a "shake-up" with others.

The annual report "Performance Highlights" was given by Janice LaChance, CEO. This is the first year it is available online at [www.sla.org/05report](http://www.sla.org/05report). It describes what SLA has accomplished in 2005. A few items that stood out are:

Toronto Annual Conference had over 5,200 participants.

The association change in bylaws that allows for electronic voting on future amendments to its bylaws and Board of Directors elections.

SLA Board of Directors approved a special discount offer, whereby members may pay for three years' dues in advance with a 10 percent discount.

During SLA 2005, the Association's first Web log – or blog – was launched in order to share news and content from the events and activities taking

*continued on page 6*

## Michigan Chapter SLA schedules programs in February and March

The Michigan Chapter SLA has two exciting programs coming up shortly.

### February Meeting

On Tuesday, February 8, Jennifer Rosenzweig, Ph.D. will present techniques to identify your talents and build them into strengths for continued success for the job and beyond. Based on the book, *Now, Discover Your Strengths* by Marcus Buckingham, this meeting promises to have something for everyone.

Meet and mingle begins at 5:30 p.m. with a brief business meeting at 6:00 p.m. followed by the program. Refreshments include soups, sandwiches, and dessert.

The meeting will be held at the David Adamany Undergraduate Library, 5155 Gullen Mall on the Wayne State University Campus in the Community Room on the third floor. Maps and parking directions can be found on the WSU website at <http://www.wayne.edu/tourwsu/directions.html>.

Registrations are due by Friday, February 3, 2006. A registration form is available on the MI Chapter website at <http://www.sla.org./chapter/cmi/Programs/2005-2006/2006Feb08Flyer.pdf>.

### March Meeting

Mark your calendars for the March 8 meeting at the Arab American Museum. The program includes a presentation about the newly founded library and museum. A docent-led tour of the interactive museum will follow the program.

#### Inside this issue:

<b>President's Letter</b>	<b>Cover</b>
<b>MI Chapter SLA Programs</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Leadership Summit Blogs</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mark Your Calendars</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SLA@SI Update</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>New Members</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Awards</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Freelance Research</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SLA Board of Directors Election</b>	<b>7</b>

#### Mail for program announcements ceases

Please note that the postal mail of program announcements has ended in an effort to mitigate rising program costs. The MI Chapter publishes program announcements electronically, with email as the primary method of distribution. It is important to have your correct email address on record with the Association to ensure that you receive proper notification of upcoming programs. Instructions on how to update your records are included on the website at <http://www.sla.org/chapter/cmi/#email>.

## **Blogs capture the excitement of the 2006 SLA Leadership Summit**

The 2006 SLA Leadership Summit was held in Houston, Texas in mid-January. If you were unable to attend the Summit, you can still read about the event thanks to several leaders who attended and who have shared their thoughts on their blogs.

The blogs are in reverse-chronological order, scroll down to January 17 and read backwards. These blogs are also open to comments from readers.

Marydee Ohala, editor of Online Magazine, blogged about the meeting via the Online Insider blog at <http://onlineinsider.net>.

The blogging section of the IT Division provides another perspective at <http://sla-divisions.typepad.com/itbloggingsection/>.

Laurel Kristick is blogging via the PAM blog at <http://sla-divisions.typepad.com/itbloggingsection/>.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

### **Annual Conference to be held in Baltimore**

SLA will hold its Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland on **June 11 through 14, 2006** at the Baltimore Convention Center. The conference is an excellent environment for networking, communication, learning and other developmental opportunities for information professionals.

Gwen Hill from The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer / Washington Week and Walt Mossberg from The Wall Street Journal are the keynote speakers.

Conference and Hotel Registration information is available on the SLA website at <http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2006/registration/index.cfm>.

*Baltimore 2006 - Where Tradition and Transformation Converge*



### **Great Lakes Regional Conference Hosted by Indiana Chapter**

The Indiana Chapter of SLA is hosting the 2006 Great Lakes Regional Conference. It will be held in Indianapolis **September 6 through 8**. Details about the event will be given at a later date.



## **SLA@SI: A Brief Update**

*by Tracey S. Hughes*

As always, the semester at the University of Michigan School of Information has gotten off to an amazingly fast start! The officers of SLA@SI are immersed in wide-ranging academic pursuits which include, but are not limited to:

- Working on collection development and innovative information visualization projects with the Internet Public Library (<http://www.ipl.org/> - check it out if you haven't already!)
- Search and retrieval in information systems
- Information economics and game theory
- GIS and Remote Sensing
- Research and analysis of initiatives bridging the Digital Divide
- Serving as graduate student instructors for information science and communication studies
- Digital library theory and development
- Professional library management

In addition to our coursework, SLA@SI has a number of events planned for our student members. Here are some brief details:

### **January 28, 2006**

We toured the UM's Matthaei Botanical Gardens Conservatory collection (<http://sitemaker.umich.edu/mbgna>) in conjunction with the SI ALA Student Chapter. The tour provided some much needed greenery to our winter-weary, computer-stressed eyes!

### **February 8, 2006**

SLA@SI, the SI Student Organization for Human-Computer Interaction (SOCHI - <https://www.si.umich.edu/SOCHI>), and SI Career Services are co-sponsoring a panel on how to create a top-notch online portfolio.

### **March, 2006**

We're going to DIA! As part of our Exploration series, SLA@SI will organize a Friday night out to DIA, taking advantage of this marvelous cultural resource. If any Michigan SLA members would like to meet us there, please email us at [sla.officers@umich.edu](mailto:sla.officers@umich.edu) so that we can provide you updated information as the details are determined.

## Welcome New Chapter Members

Please welcome the following new members of the Michigan Chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

**Marisa Conte**  
student

**Elizabeth Deal**

**Kristina Eden**  
student

**Mary Kenney**  
student

**Kerri Otto**

**Jennifer Spamer**  
student

**Donna DiPonio**  
Plante & Moran

**Anthony Lin**  
student

**Elaine Logan**  
Pfizer Global Research & Development

**Wendy Zieger**  
student

## Honors and Achievements

### SLA Michigan Chapter member receives award

Judy Field, faculty member of the Wayne State University Library and Information Science Program, was awarded the John Cotton Dana Award at the SLA Leadership Summit. This is one of the SLA's most prestigious awards. Judy has held numerous committees division, chapter and association level positions in the SLA. She served on the SLA Board of Directors 1977-79, 1986-89 and 1996-99 and served as the Association's president in 1997-98.

### Scholarship Winner Announced

Tracey Hughes, a student at the University of Michigan School of Information, was awarded a \$600.00 scholarship from the Michigan Chapter of the Special Libraries Association at the chapter meeting on December 6, 2005. This scholarship is awarded annually to a University of Michigan student upon the recommendation of the School of Information faculty.

**Congratulations, Tracey!**

***President's Letter*** (continued)

place in Toronto. The Association will also support members who wish to create a blog at no cost.

The launch of Click University – coupled with the growth of the Virtual Learning Series – gives promise for a strong performance in SLA learning services.

Leadership has more of an international and political stance than in the past.

A note was made that the June conference opening session will be held Sunday evening. There also will be other changes that weren't finalized yet. So, we need to double check the program web site for latest information.

Next was the Chapter Cabinet session – the major announcement is that Annual Reports are due to HQ in May. These must be in on time for the Chapter to receive it allotment. Guidelines will be presented at the June conference for the changes in deadlines for the 2007 fiscal year change over.

The Endowment Fund Grant Opportunity is still available. If anyone wishes to submit a proposal for a Chapter project the deadline is August 1.

The Leadership Summit keynote address by Doug Lipp “Even Monkeys fall from Trees” It was an energized session suggesting we think about the role we play in our organization. Your strengths, your weaknesses and always be thinking about creating strategies for leadership, teamwork and services. How in this day and age we have to be willing to change to remain the same. “If you don't continuously change you will be changed.” More detail is available in Mr. Lipp's book “The Changing Faces of Today's Customer” and also on his web site [www.DougLipp.com](http://www.DougLipp.com).

The Great Lake Regional Conference will be held in September 2006, dates still being set, and will be hosted by the Indiana Chapter. Most likely they will be asking for volunteers from the Michigan Chapter.

So, in conclusion, (this article is a lot longer than I intended) we are in the full swing of many things and continual change. We can look forward to attending the Annual Conference being held in Baltimore this coming June to help us find ways adjust to these changes.

Respectfully submitted,

***Charlene Stachnik***  
***President Michigan Chapter***

## Freelance Research -Is it for you?

by Lois Duerk

Thinking about going out on your own? Do you want to control your work life balance? Do you want to be able to select your projects? Do you enjoy both sales and accounting to follow-up on your receivables? Then freelance research or becoming an information broker may be for you!

One way to start is with your current employer. This approach could give your business the boost that will make start-up easier. As you negotiate your contract, consider your value to the organization, without benefits, since you will be covering those yourself. You can expect to be asked to sign a non-compete. Read the agreement carefully so that it protects your first and most important client, but ensure that it allows room for you to grow your business in other areas. Most non-compete agreements will allow you a great deal of room to grow, but not all of them, so check the wording carefully. You may hire an attorney as you start your business and it is highly recommended.

Since research is our business, don't forget to research your own potential market and develop your business plan. In my case, I developed my business plan but found that some of my best business was actually coming from a different market segment than I had originally targeted. Be prepared to "tweak" your business plan as you move forward; you can make mid-course corrections as you progress.

Consider the peaks and valleys of demand. Sometimes you may have multiple projects underway that consume you. Will you want to add staff or will you want to stay a solo researcher? Ideally you won't ever turn away any research project of the caliber you want to do, so develop a plan to address these peak periods.

Most importantly, don't forget to keep marketing. Even when you are extremely busy make several business development calls a week, attend networking meetings, and stay in touch with past and potential clients so you can minimize those slow periods.

It's the start of a new year, plan ahead and be prosperous!!



## 2006 SLA Board of Directors Election

SLA eVoting for the 2006 Board of Directors Election is now open. All members in good standing as of January 9, 2006 are eligible to vote. Voters can cast their online ballots through 5:00 p.m. ET on March 3, 2006. Visit [www.sla.org/evote2006](http://www.sla.org/evote2006) to vote. Your SLA UserID and PIN are needed to vote online. Detailed instructions for voting online are available on the website.

Members who have not provided an e-mail address will receive a printed ballot on or about January 23, 2006.

For questions or more information about the election, telephone the eVote Information Center at 703-647-4950 or email [evote@sla.org](mailto:evote@sla.org).



## 2005-2006 Officers and Committee Chairs

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[www.sla.org/chapter/cmi/](http://www.sla.org/chapter/cmi/)

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