



Michigan Bulletin

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P resident's Letter

Dear SLA Michigan Chapter Members:

Well, 2007 has almost come and gone. It has been a year of change and experimentation for the chapter. This year has been the first one under the new governance structure for the association as a whole. Officers and committee chairs took over their new positions in January. Before, this had happened in May and the new officers and chairs had the summer to learn the ropes before the fall program season began in September. This year, the new leaders had to hit the ground running from the get go so to speak. The chapter kicked off its program year by bringing in famed information consultant, Mary Ellen Bates, who spoke about how members could prove their value to their organizations.

Throughout 2006, the chapter received feedback from the membership about ideas for programming. The 2007 Program Committee worked hard to implement many of those suggestions. In April, the chapter held its first daytime meeting in several years and members had the opportunity to tour the EPA library in Ann Arbor.

It goes without saying, that the biggest news of

2007 was the official merger of the Michigan and Western Michigan and Upper Peninsulas chapters. In an attempt to hold a meeting where many of the former Western Michigan members could attend, the chapter had its first program in many years at Michigan State University in Lansing. It was great to see many of the Western Michigan folks in attendance at this event. We hope to see more of you in the future.

Some members had suggested that the chapter veer away from its traditional professional development topics and offer a program that was on the lighter side. For its September, the chapter proposed holding a stress and health management program. This idea did not capture the overall membership's attention and interest, so in November the chapter returned to its traditional format and held a program on negotiating with vendors at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

The chapter held its first program geared towards its student members in Ypsilanti in mid-November. Students had the opportunity to hear

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representatives from both library schools in the state. Afterwards, students were treated to four speakers who detailed their varied careers as special librarians.

The chapter's annual program also featured many firsts. Online registration was implemented for the first time. The chapter also held a silent auction. Proceeds raised from the event will be awarded to a student member to help defray the costs of attending the association's annual conference this June in Seattle.

As you can see, the chapter has had a very active 2007. Now it is time to start thinking about 2008. On that note, I would like to announce the slate of candidates for the chapter's new officers.

President:	Paula Storm- Eastern Michigan University
President-Elect:	Sophia Guevara
Secretary:	Kerri Otto- General Motors
Director:	Kathleen Gamache- Clark Hill PLC

The officer election will take place at the chapter's annual business meeting in January 2008.

The chapter is also recruiting committee chairs for 2008 and there are currently two vacancies. The chapter is looking for a Co-Bulletin Editor and a Diversity chair. The Co-Bulletin Editor will work with Pamela Repp, the chapter's other Co-Bulletin Editor, to work to produce the chapter's quarterly newsletter. The Diversity chair will work in the aid of the recruitment and development of diverse members into the chapter. They also work to promote the awareness of careers in special librarianship. If you are interested in serving in either of these capacities, please contact Paula Storm or myself. The chapter is always interested in getting its members more involved. If you are thinking about ways that you could become more active, these positions could be a great place to start.

Finally, this will be my last column as the chapter's president. It has been an interesting and exciting year for me to be able to serve in this role. I would like to thank the officers, committee chairs and members of the program committee for all of their hard work this year. It has been a genuine pleasure to work with you all. I think the Michigan Chapter of SLA is blessed with some wonderfully talented members. I wish you all the best for 2008!

Laura Mancini
Michigan Chapter President

SLA Annual Conference 2008

The annual conference is being held in Seattle, Washington June 15-18, 2008. Keynote speakers include Vinton G. Cerf, Vice-President at Google, and Seth Godin, best-selling author. The conference provides an opportunity for attendees to attend sessions and workshops, network with peers, and visit the exhibit hall.

Conference registration will open in January 2008.

Visit the SLA Web site at www.sla.org for more information about the conference.



SCIP Revives Michigan Chapter

The Society for Competitive Intelligence Professionals (SCIP) is restarting the Michigan-based chapter, the Great Lakes chapter. Meetings are open to everyone and the price is reasonable for non-members, around \$35. The next meeting is on December 12 with a presentation on the “Two Sides of Due Diligence.” Contact the chapter coordinator, Mark Stevens at ChemTrend by e-mail at mstevens@chemtrend.com or by phone at 517-545-7981 for more information.



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In Memoriam: Patricia L. Parker

Patricia L. Parker, former president of the West Michigan Chapter of the SLA, died at home on October 31, 2007 after a long battle with cancer. Over the course of her career as a librarian, Pat held numerous positions in college, engineering, and corporate libraries. She most recently served as a librarian at Grand Valley State University and was active in library organizations at the local, state, and national level.

Solo Librarian Serves Comerica Library's Patrons Far and Wide

The special library that is featured this month is one that has been in existence since 1934. The Comerica Library has seen some changes as its parent company has evolved. At one time, the corporate library at Comerica was staffed by eight employees. Today, Beth Stanton is the solo librarian. She is assisted by a part-time staff member, Patrick Dermidoff, who is library science student from Wayne State University and a student member of the Michigan Chapter SLA.

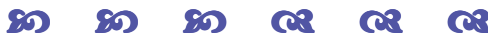
Comerica Incorporated is a financial services company with 11,000 employees in Michigan, California, Texas, Florida and Arizona. Select businesses operate in several states as well as Canada, Mexico and China. It is strategically aligned by the Business Bank, the Retail Bank, and Wealth & Institutional Management. The library is part of the corporation's Marketing and Communications Department.

Beth has worked in a variety of capacities at the library for 26 years and is currently the company's Senior Librarian/Vice President. She provides library and information services to all of Comerica's employees. That includes company and industry research, prospect information, trends, and business information. She uses a variety of databases as well as the Internet for her research.

According to Beth, the best thing about being a librarian at Comerica is the opportunity to "learn something new every day" and get paid for it! There are some challenges associated with her position such as keeping up with the changes in technology as well as collecting data and information in a cost effective manner.

In addition to providing research services, Beth is responsible for the library portal which contains a wealth of information. The library's catalog is available online providing not only information about items in the collection, but also links to URLs that contain pertinent and timely information. In addition, the library maintains ready reference databases of information of value to colleagues. The library itself has about 8,500 titles in its collection and approximately 150 journals. While there are offices located across North America and in China, the only physical library is located in the Detroit office. With technology and e-mail, Beth is able to serve the library's patrons regardless of their location.

In terms of marketing the library, word of mouth seems to work the best and keeps Beth and her assistant very busy. Often Comerica employees will share Beth's contact information with new staff members in need of research and information services. Satisfied customers reinforce the vitality of Comerica Library and ensure its future.



2007 Officers and Committee Chairs

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Thank you to this issue's contributors, Laura Mancini and Pam Repp.

To submit ideas, articles, information to the newsletter, contact Pam Repp at parepp@ameritech.net.

SLA- Michigan Web site:
www.sla.org/chapter/cmi/

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