



SLA MN Chapter Bulletin

Spring 2011

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Editor:

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Letter from the President

Rachel Wangerin, 2011 SLA Minnesota Chapter President

Happy spring Minnesota Chapter! The weather is finally getting warmer and our gardens are starting to show signs of life. It is only a couple of weeks until the SLA Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Dru Frykberg and I will be attending to represent the chapter. If you have comments you would like us to take to headquarters – please send them our way.

The year so far...

We have had a great year so far with a number of sessions! In February, members came together at the U of M to practice their presentation skills by presenting their “Top 5” - from cruises to favorite blogs to traveling. It was a fun evening! In March, we met at Thomson Reuters to hear Margaret Ostrander and Kat Jayne discuss the project that won them our Innovation in Action Award in 2010. They presented practical tips for implementing user-testing of websites. I will be keeping my notes for future use!

April brought a visit from SLA President Cindy Romaine who spoke about how we can contribute to the discussion of being “Future Ready”. Check out the blog where this discussion is taking place at <http://futureready365.sla.org>. The goal is to publish a post a day for the year. In early April we already had five chapter members posting. Hopefully, we will get more throughout the year. All are encouraged to participate. I submitted a post in March on the concept of owning our own professional development. Let me know if you want to know more about this!

SLA Loyalty Project

SLA has retained the services of loyalty expert James Kane to help us better gain (and earn) loyalty from our members and our professional clients. James will be working with at least one chapter. On April 28, Dru Frykberg (President-elect), Karen Mackey (Vice President), Molly Dinneen (Strategic Planning Director), and I put forth a proposal for the Minnesota Chapter to be that chapter. Headquarters sent out a survey at the end of April to all SLA members to help direct James' project. If we are selected, it will mean great opportunities to work with James and receive in-person training – open to the whole chapter. James will announce the chapter at the SLA Annual Conference.

SLA Annual Conference...

For those of you attending, I hope you have made all your arrangements and are looking over the sessions and planning what to attend! I am very excited about both the keynote speakers – Tom Friedman and James Kane. There will be a Midwest Chapters Open House 6-8 p.m. Monday, June 13 in the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown (headquarters hotel). I hope you will attend!

Upcoming attractions...

May 10 – Mark Lanterman will discuss the impact of digital evidence
June – SLA Annual Conference
July – Volunteer/service opportunity with a happy hour afterwards
August – Potential event
September – Professional development event
October – Hiring tips from those who do it
November – Night of Honors and membership meeting
December – Holiday event

Our salon series will also be starting up for the year with the first salon on May 9. Watch for more information about salons coming across the listserv and if you have an idea for a salon you would like to host, contact Jen Hahs (j.hahs@martinwilliams.com)

As we move towards the summer months, let me know if there are any topics you'd like to see covered at future chapter events.

Thank you!

Annual Conference Grant Winner Announcement

Deb Rash, Past President, SLA MN Chapter

Congratulations to Lynn Strand-Meyer, the winner of the 2011 SLA MN Chapter Annual Conference Grant. Lynn has recently started a new job and looks forward to the opportunity to jumpstart her education and networking with colleagues in her new field. She most recently served the MN Chapter as Professional Development Co-Chair in 2010 and is a member of the Annual Conference Advisory Committee for 2012. We look forward to learning about Lynn's conference experience. Again, congratulations, Lynn!

Future Ready Blog posts

There have been five Future Ready blog posts at <http://futureready365.sla.org/> from MN Chapter members so far. Check them out!

Does it pay to hire a law firm librarian? By Jill Strand posted on January 13
Future ready makes the job easier. By Maria Bagshaw posted on January 28
Future ready: a timeline. By Lynn Strand-Meyer posted on February 5
Pick up the remote. By Deborah Rash posted on February 8
Owning your own professional development. By Rachel Wangerin posted on March 7

St Kate's SLA Student Group Update

Carol Lynn O'Gara

On April 4, we hosted/welcomed SLA president Cindy Romaine to St. Kate's to speak on what it means to be "Future Ready". She first met with students and faculty before making a formal presentation to the larger group. We were pleased when Ms. Romaine joined us and other chapter members at Scusi after the presentation.

On April 11, the Student Group, led by Lynn Stang, held a panel discussion called "MLIS Outside the Box". Panel members included: Eileen Quam, Rachel Pennig, Margaret Ostrander, Mike Schatz and Terri Horseman. We learned about non-traditional librarian positions and where to find them.

Congratulations to Christine Simon who was awarded the Annual Conference Scholarship this year. She will be travelling to Philadelphia in June!

Additional congratulations to board member Christine Simon on her graduation this month and a hearty thank you for all the work she has done for the student chapter, including but not limited to our beautiful new website.

St. Kate's/Dominican LIBS AND MLIS Grads & Students Summer Picnic

You are invited to a summer picnic of the LIBS and MLIS St. Kate's/Dominican graduates on Thursday, June 9th from 5-7 p.m. in the quad area in front of O'Shaughnessy Auditorium. The rain site is Coeur de Catherine. Catch up with friends, celebrate the recent accreditation, find out what's new, and play trivia! Thanks to the sponsorship by the Friends of the St. Kate's Libraries, this event is FREE. RSVP by June 7th to Stephanie at srklenk@stkate.edu.

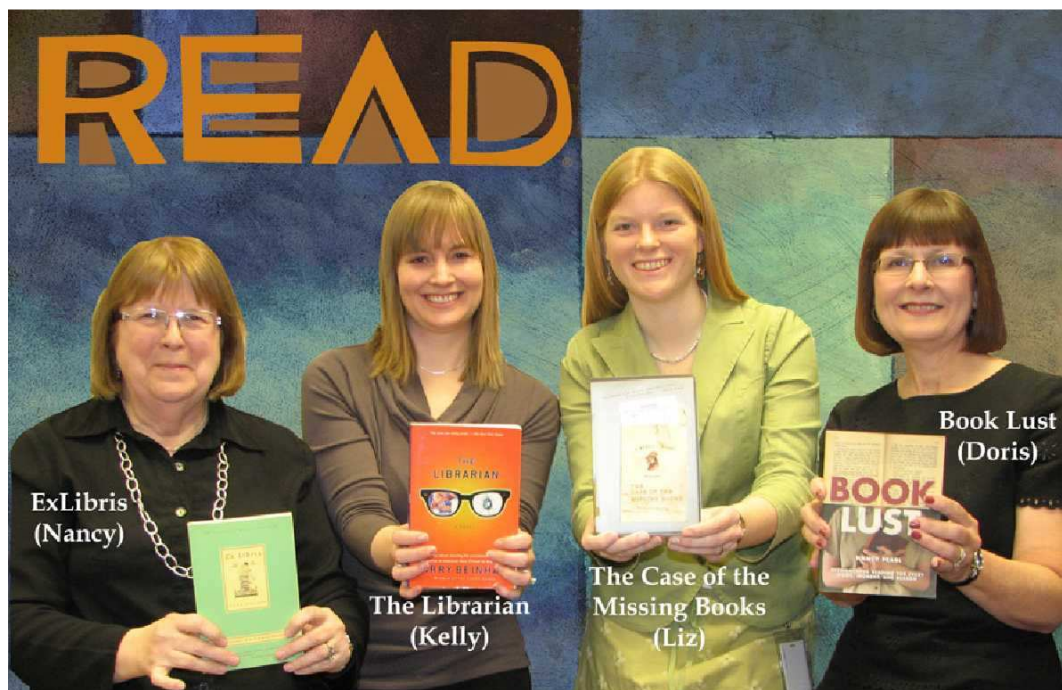
Special Libraries Can Celebrate National Library Week, Too

Elizabeth M.C. Scheibel

A law firm in downtown Minneapolis doesn't seem like exactly what the [American Library Association](#) has in mind when it puts together the theme and materials for National Library Week (April 10-16), but at [Lindquist & Vennum PLLP](#), we like to celebrate anyway and take advantage of the opportunity to show what we can do.

Every year, the Library (staff of four) hosts social hours for people to drop in, get a snack (we usually have breakfast pastries and coffee one day, and popcorn and cupcakes courtesy of Thomson Reuters on another), and chat with library staff and other colleagues. These events are open to the entire firm, which means that we get to say "welcome" to dozens of people in one day, in all position levels and departments, and our visitors are reminded that we support the entire firm (over 350 people in Minneapolis and Denver). We also usually schedule several training sessions, and our main topic this year, using the legal research databases Westlaw and WestlawNext on a mobile device, was especially successful. The lure of learning something entirely new in a short session brought in many senior attorneys who are not our usual customers.

Each year, we also try to create a game or activity that gives information on Library staff and services, or sometimes just gives a laugh. This year, we created a mad lib. When it came time to view the final product, participants were surprised to find that they'd just written their own "My Mad Last Will and Testament Lib". While we tend to only minimally use the theme and materials provided by ALA, we do regularly use one of its promotional products: The [READ posters](#), featuring our own in-house celebrities, are always a hit. We had 25 attorneys and staff participate and we compiled a list of the favorite books. The lovely models below still grace one of our Library's entrances (left to right: Nancy Lynn, Library Assistant; Kelly Hess, Research Librarian; Liz Scheibel, Librarian; Doris Dingley, Director of Library and Research Services).



Mn/DOT Library Implements Commissioner's Reading Corner to Encourage Servant Leadership, Transparency

Qin Tang

Tom Sorel became Mn/DOT's Commissioner in April 2008, eight months after the Saint Anthony Falls Bridge on Interstate 35W in Minneapolis collapsed. It was a time of low morale among Mn/DOT employees and high skepticism and mistrust from the public. In the three years since his appointment as commissioner, Sorel has proven to be an excellent leader who has helped turn things around.

Under Sorel's leadership, Mn/DOT started several initiatives to advance the department's vision, mission and values; among these initiatives is the Commissioner's Reading Corner (CRC). As an avid reader and admired leader, Sorel is often asked what he reads. He likes to share and recommend books at staff meetings. As a result, the idea of sharing his love of books and reading to encourage leadership development was born.

In July 2009, Mn/DOT Library staff approached Sorel with a proposal to start the Commissioner's Reading Corner, which includes both a physical space in the library where people can read books recommended by Sorel and a monthly book discussion based on a leadership book.

Several benefits were listed in the initial email from the library to Sorel:

- For the commissioner—Providing a forum to share your love of reading and your thoughts and knowledge with employees. This kind of sharing and communication better connects you with employees.
- For employees—Having a role model to encourage them to read more and develop a commitment to lifelong learning.
- For the library—Helping promote library materials and services, and increase library usage.
- For Mn/DOT—Promoting a learning environment that will foster creativity and innovation.

Sorel was pleased with the idea and very supportive of the initiative. His purpose for the CRC was to encourage Mn/DOT managers to get involved and engaged in the discussion. The CRC is a collaborative effort of the Mn/DOT Library, commissioner's assistant, Communications Office and technical staff. The library's responsibilities include purchasing the books, interviewing book discussion leaders, helping facilitate monthly book discussions and hosting the event the first Wednesday of every month.

The monthly book discussion is held in the library. People can participate live or remotely via Adobe Connect. Starting with the first book discussion in April 2010, there have been 12 discussions as of May 2011.

The CRC has been a success in every way and the intended goals have been achieved:

- The CRC has greatly increased library use and circulation. We have never seen a higher demand for books before. People who had never used the library have become users.
- The CRC benefits everyone who participates. It helps sharpen employees' leadership skills, communication skills, interpersonal and relationship skills, social skills and critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Through the CRC, employees have face time to engage in direct discussions with upper-level management. It has helped build trust and transparency among participants.
- The CRC created a forum for upper-level management to step out - for some, maybe out of their comfort zone- and engage in conversations with employees and share their thoughts and ideas.

Mn/DOT is fortunate to have a commissioner who believes in and supports continued learning through reading. The library is looking forward to the continuing success of Commissioner's Reading Corner.

To see a list of the Commissioner's Reading Corner books, visit www.goodreads.com/review/list/2944786. To read interviews with the book discussion leaders, visit onmymind.areavoices.com/category/crc-book-interview/.



Mn/DOT Commissioner Sorel being interviewed for the book "The M-factor: How the Millennial Generation is Rocking the Workplace."



Mn/DOT Commissioner Sorel leads a book discussion in the library.

SLA Announces Candidates for 2012 Board of Directors

Alexandria, Virginia, March 1, 2011 - The SLA Nominating Committee has identified 10 candidates to stand for election to five positions on the 2012 SLA Board of Directors.

The committee is responsible for soliciting names of potential candidates from the membership and compiling a group that has exceptional talent, is professionally diverse, and provides regionally balanced representation to the international association. The 10 candidates, who hail from three countries, will serve three-year terms on the board if elected.

SLA members will have several opportunities to get to know the candidates at SLA 2011 Annual Conference & INFO-EXPO in Philadelphia. The candidates will be making speeches and taking part in networking sessions to meet members personally. The election will be held electronically in mid-September 2011.

The 10 candidates running for election to the 2012 SLA Board of Directors are:

For President-Elect:

- **David Cappoli**, *University of California-Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Ca.*
- **Deb Hunt**, *Information Edge, San Leandro, Ca.*

For Chapter Cabinet Chair-Elect

- **Constance Ard**, *Answer Maven, Louisville, Ky.*
- **Debbie Schachter**, *Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver, Canada*

For Division Cabinet Chair-Elect

- **Ann Koopman**, *Thomas Jefferson University, Broomall, Pa.*
- **Catherine Lavallée Welch**, *University of South Florida Polytechnic, Lakeland, Fl.*

For Director (two positions)

- **Marilyn Bromley**, *Bureau of National Affairs, Inc., Alexandria, Va.*
- **Hal Kirkwood**, *Purdue University, West Lafayette, In.*
- **Jane Macoustra**, *Tai-Pan Research, Surrey, United Kingdom*
- **Chris Zammarelli**, *ATSG, Arlington, Va.*

For more information about SLA's governance practices and leadership, please visit the *Board of Directors* section of our Web site at: <http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/governance/bodsection/index.cfm>

Here is the link to the release on SLA's website if you'd like to pass it along:
<http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/pressroom/pressrelease/11pr/2011-02PR.cfm>