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# SLA MN CHAPTER BULLETIN

## WINTER 2007

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### Table of Contents

Leadership Update.....	2
Member News.....	3
New Faces.....	3
The SLA Holiday Party: Where Else Can You Buy Art, Wine, and a Student?.....	4
Nonprofit Solos Panel Event Recap.....	5
A Look Inside MAGIC 27 with Jennifer Witt.....	6
Student Group Scoop.....	6
Spring CE Program: Getting What You Want from Your Vendor .....	7
Legal Research Institute.....	8
Calendar .....	9

## Leadership Update

*By Karen Stauber, Chapter President*

Welcome to 2007, another great year of Minnesota chapter events and networking opportunities. I just returned from the SLA Leadership Summit in Reno, where chapter and divisional leaders along with the association leaders gather to learn more about leadership skills and what's ahead for the Association this year.

AMS (Association Management System) is something you'll be hearing a lot about this year. It's an exciting new system that will be tailored for our chapter to help manage everything from registration to our annual report. It also will be a one-stop place to register for events, which should make it a lot easier for all members. Look for it to go live in August.

Another exciting endeavor on the horizon is the SLA Centennial in 2009. Planning is underway for a big celebration, so if you have any suggestions, thoughts and/or stories, please submit them to [100@sla.com](mailto:100@sla.com).

In conjunction with the centennial celebration, the Association will roll out a strategic realignment. Okay, it sounds scary, but I promise that it's not. The idea is to move SLA forward by honoring the past, explaining the present, and informing the future. The Association wants to align with those people who influence us and give us all some points of distinction. That will involve work on branding and positioning us to move forward toward the next 100 years.

There will be some new programs at the Annual Conference in Denver June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. The first is *Synergy Sessions*, where we'll share knowledge and learn from each other. After one of these sessions, you can continue discussions in the Exhibit Hall. On Tuesday, there will be a free box lunch provided.

*Wow Programs* are the other new addition to the Denver Annual Conference. Each division will designate one of their programs as an opportunity to experiment and explore a topic in depth.

Another new opportunity at the conference will be a *Poster Session*, where we as a chapter will be able to display our programs and accomplishments. If anyone is interested in helping with this, please let me know.

Lastly but most importantly, I would like to thank all the board members who have committed to volunteering for 18 months while we transition over to a calendar year. We have a wonderful chapter and I am looking forward to another great year of local programming and many networking opportunities!

## Member News

- **Eva Shipley**, local librarian at Boston Scientific, was mentioned on 1/28/07 in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. Find the article, "Health care expected to lead in job growth," at <http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/business/16556494.htm> (see last section entitled, "Librarian has seen a lot of changes").
- **Chelsy Shoger** recently took on a new role as a research analyst at Reden & Anders, a health care consulting firm located in Eden Prairie.
- **Eileen H. Stanley** has accepted a four year appointment to the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine. This is a volunteer advisory position involving a number of trips to Washington each year. She will attend her first meeting in early February. Stanley is the former Director of Library and Media Services at Allina Hospitals & Clinics. Congratulations to Eileen on this great honor!
- **Emily Waitz** started a new position in January at Capella University, headquartered in downtown Minneapolis. The Capella University Library now offers library services to learners in place of the contracted services that were previously available. As the new Electronic Resources Librarian, Emily will be managing database contracts, vendor relations, and contributing to reference services.

## New Faces

**Laura Clarke** graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, earning a BA in Geography/City Planning and Computer Sciences. She works in the Information Tech field as a Support Representative for a company that hosts online systems for Multiple Listing Services for several Real Estate boards around the country. She installs and supports hardware (mainframe, not PC) and software (Internet-application). In 1999, she earned her MLS through the Distance Learning program from Emporia State University in Kansas. Though she's never worked in a corporate library, that's her career goal. Her hobbies include a love of the game of hockey, and her dream job is to work for the Minnesota Wild.

**Margaret Ostrander** expects to earn her MLIS from the College of St. Catherine/Dominican University in May 2008. She works at the University of Minnesota's Wilson Library in periodicals and course reserve and is also an intern at the Center for Transportation Studies library. Margaret volunteers as an archivist for the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra, the nation's first GLBT orchestra, and was inspired to join the profession as a library volunteer at the Resource Center of the Americas. In 2001, she earned a BA in Women's Studies & Chicano Studies from the U of M. Before finding her LIS path, Margaret worked in the non-profit sector as a community resource development coordinator, social services provider, communications and public policy associate, and grant writer.

**Erin Perry** is currently an MLIS student at St. Kate's with an anticipated graduation date of May 2009. She has a BA in Business Management from Central College in Iowa. Erin currently works at Target Corp. Her position keeps her busy partnering with merchandising, vendors and distribution centers to get products into the stores efficiently and smoothly. In the spirit of searching for her perfect job, she has also been a Senior Business Analyst in merchandising at Target and a Marketing Event Planner at a computer software company. Erin loves traveling, reading and spending time with friends and family.

Welcome to Laura, Margaret, and Erin!

*Are you a new member, or do you know someone we should introduce? Contact Karen Wood at [kwood@mail.donaldson.com](mailto:kwood@mail.donaldson.com) for details on including a bio in the next bulletin.*

## **The SLA Holiday Party: Where Else Can You Buy Art, Wine, and a Student?**

*By Chelsy Shoger*

The annual SLA holiday party, co-sponsored this year by the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL), was held on the fourth of December at the enchantingly transformed Hill Library in St. Paul. Amidst the twinkle lights and stacks of books, approximately 90 enjoyed delicious food, eclectic shopping, and good company. Attendees represented a variety of library associations and library vendors, including SLA, MALL, ASIS&T, and SCIP.

The evening began with the opening of the silent auction. As always, the auction was well coordinated by the student group and featured donations such as knitting and quilting gift certificates, gift cards for Petco and Barnes & Noble, and several of Jim Tchobanoff's beautiful prints. In addition to the tangible items, servitude was also offered to the highest bidder: several students generously donated their time to assist others with library related projects. When all was said and done, the students managed to raise \$854 toward their conference scholarship fund and activity fees.

Between bids, partygoers could be found milling about the food table. This year's spread was truly fantastic: fruit; roasted vegetables; bread; chicken, beef, and shrimp skewers; and a lavish variety of desserts. This author's personal favorites were the beef and chicken skewers—as evidenced by the worn track left by repeated trips to the buffet and enough kindling stacked on the table to start a bonfire. While many were sad to see the much celebrated "wine guy" absent from the event, wine and other adult beverages were still available for a nominal fee.

In addition to the enthusiastic shopping and fine dining, one of the greatest benefits of the holiday party was the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, former colleagues, and classmates. With so many attendees coming from a variety of professional backgrounds and associations, it was also a great time to meet new people and do some networking. The typically solemn Hill Library was filled with the

sounds of animated conversation and peals of laughter, which could be heard throughout the night.

Eventually the last bid was placed and the evening came to a close. As attendees gathered up their coats and began the long process of the Minnesota goodbye, it became clear that the party was a huge success and a good time was had by all.

Many thanks to the Hill Library for hosting this year's gathering, and also to Prenax for their generous sponsorship. Special thanks to Kristine Spanier for doing a fabulous job organizing the event, and also to Julie Fleischhacker for her work on the silent auction.

## **Nonprofit Solos Panel Event Recap**

*By Jean Curtis-Neitz*

A discussion panel of solo special librarians from the nonprofit sector was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2006. Jean Curtis-Neitz was host and moderator. The panel included Nancy Disch, from Twin Cities United Way; Elizabeth Ihrig, from The Bakken; Heather Johnson, from Wilder Research; Nikki Marchand, from the James J. Hill Reference Library; and Melissa Yauk, from the Northwest Area Foundation.

The panel presented information on the following:

- o Each panelist's background, educational and professional
- o How each panelist came to be in their current position
- o Information about each panelist's library: community served, library services
- o Brief discussion about the biggest challenges faced by panelists in their nonprofit libraries

The panel agreed that the nonprofit special librarian can face different issues than librarians in the for-profit sector. It was agreed that the group would meet again in March, 2007. Among the topics identified for future meetings were:

- o Using the Nonprofit group as a "sounding board" for challenges such as help with policy development, keeping up with technology, sharing of information resources
- o Continuing discussion of biggest challenges faced by nonprofit solo librarians
- o How to market and emphasize the importance of a special library internally and externally
- o Technology discussion: which technologies and programs are being used by participants for circulation, information management
- o How to innovate on a limited budget
- o Interlibrary loan: how to take advantage of other resources in the Twin City area for the benefit of our users
- o Useful data: measuring the library's impact on its users and community

The panel discussion was open to the wider library community and publicized via email to the Minnesota Special Library Association listserv and other area library listservs. One library science student was able to attend this first gathering.

Thank you all for your participation!

## **A Look Inside MAGIC 27 with Jennifer Witt**

*By Kristine Spanier*

“MAGIC 27.” The name alone fills the mind with wild ideas of what this mysterious library at Target Corp. holds inside. Jennifer Witt, the Senior Corporate Librarian of MAGIC 27, can only divulge that the name stands for *Marketing Guest Insight Center* on the 27<sup>th</sup> floor. Beyond that, Jennifer is held by a strict confidentiality agreement and she can not reveal too many details of her library. She does relay that MAGIC 27 is what she calls a “boutique” library – a small, specialized assortment of resources tailored to the specific needs of marketing team members.

Jennifer has been a research librarian at Target Corp for nine years. She says the culture is fast, fun and friendly. A typical day includes lots of online reference requests, plus what she calls “old-school” librarianship: buying books, cataloging, shelving, helping people find the books they’re interested in, magazine shelving and reference. She likes the fact that she gets to work with “very fun, outgoing folks that make the job invigorating.”

Although Target has more than one library, Jennifer’s is the one that services the Marketing department. To keep customers coming back, the library maintains a website on the intranet and another librarian does an overview of the library’s services during new employee orientation. Training for employees is offered one on one upon request. Unique questions are answered frequently at MAGIC 27. A personal favorite of Jennifer’s was whether or not Johnny Cash actually did time in Folsom Prison. (The answer is no.)

Jennifer possesses both an MLS from Madison and an MBA from the University of St. Thomas. She received her BA from the U of M. She started her MBA in 1998 and took it slow for a while. In 2004 she decided to power through the end of it and completed it by 2005.

## **Student Group Scoop**

*By Cody Hanson, Student Group Co-Chair*

The St Kate’s SLA Student Group has been busy thus far this school year. There seems to be a new spirit of community in the St. Kate’s MLIS program that owes much to the steps the department is taking toward ALA accreditation. As a result, we

have had some opportunities to communicate with students that weren't available in previous years.

In August, we attended a meeting of the St. Kate's Management of Libraries and Information Centers course to talk about special libraries and professional associations. In September, we presented at an all-student meeting, where we extolled the benefits of membership in the student group and in SLA. All told, we added almost 40 new people to our student group listserv at the beginning of the school year.

Being students, after all, we are always eager to temper edification with libation. In October, we offered a potent pair of activities. On Saturday the 21st, nearly 30 people attended our tour of the new Minneapolis Public Library, beginning with their impressive archival collection. Librarian Natalie Hart graciously came in on a Saturday to speak to us about INFORM, the Minneapolis Public Library's fee-based reference service. We had a similar turnout the following Monday for happy hour at the Chatterbox Pub, a recent addition to the Highland Park area.

Thanks to the generous donations and bids of many SLA chapter members, our silent auction at the SLA/MALL holiday party was a great success. We raised over \$850 that will be used for scholarships and events.

We've started the new year off with an interesting tour of the Minnesota State Legislative Reference Library, led by librarian Elizabeth Lincoln. A dozen attendees learned about the fascinating and arcane collection, which sees heavy use by legislators, their staff, caucus staff, attorneys, and the general public.

We'll be addressing a new crop of St. Kate's students at this semester's all-student meeting later in the month. Look for another happy hour and another tour or two this spring. As always, all SLA members are welcome at any of our events. We look forward to seeing you!

## **Spring CE Program: Getting What You Want from Your Vendor**

*By Margie Grilley, Professional Development Co-Chair*

Don't miss this exciting opportunity! Save the date of Friday, April 20 from 12:30 to 4:00 pm for the Spring Continuing Education program entitled, "Getting What You Want from Your Vendor: Negotiating with Publishers, Vendors and other Library Service Providers," presented by Rick Anderson of the University of Nevada, Reno Libraries. Rick will talk about the general principles of negotiation and about how they apply to various library-vendor situations -- setting up new services, negotiating prices, negotiating license agreements, and more. The program will be generously hosted by Thomson. Thomson has also agreed to give a tour of the facilities following the program for anyone interested.

Rick Anderson earned his BS and MLIS degrees at Brigham Young University. Before assuming his current position as Director of Resource Acquisition at the University of

Nevada, Reno, he worked as a bibliographer for Yankee Book Peddler, Inc., as Head Acquisitions Librarian for the University of North Carolina, Greensboro and as Electronic Resources and Serials Coordinator at Nevada. He serves on the editorial boards of ACQNET, Serials and Library Collections, Acquisitions and Technical Services and edits the Sound Recording Reviews column for *Notes* (the quarterly journal of the Music Library Association). He writes a regular op-ed column for *Against the Grain* entitled "In My Humble (But Correct) Opinion," and his book, *Buying and Contracting for Resources and Services: A How-to-Do-It Manual for Librarians*, was published in 2004 by Neal-Schuman. In 2005, Rick was identified by *Library Journal* as a "Mover & Shaker" - one of the "50 people shaping the future of libraries."

Attendees can expect an informative and entertaining presentation on a topic near and dear to all our hearts: negotiating with vendors. Add this event to your calendar today and watch for details regarding registration to come soon.

Event: Spring CE Program on Vendor Negotiation & Thomson Tour

Speaker: Rick Anderson

Date: April 20

Time: 12:30 – 4:00 pm; optional tour follows the program

Location: Thomson West, 610 Opperman Drive, Eagan

## Legal Research Institute

*By Janice Leichter*

The Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL) periodically sponsors the Legal Research Institute to provide an opportunity for librarians, lawyers, paralegals and other professionals to update their legal research skills and to provide continuing education in legal research methodology. The 9-part program begins March 6, at the Hamline University School of Law in Room 4. Each session runs from 6:30 – 8:45 pm Tuesday evenings through May 8. (Specific dates are: March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 10, 17, 24, and May 1 and 8.)

Each session costs \$50 with a discount for those attending 5 or more sessions.

Please check the MALL web site for a view of the brochure at:

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall/>, or contact Janice Leichter by telephone (612-672-8235) or e-mail ([janice.leichter@maslon.com](mailto:janice.leichter@maslon.com)).

## Calendar

3/6/07 MALL's Legal Research Institute begins  
4/20/07 Spring CE Program on Vendor Negotiation, and Thomson Tour

For more details and listings, see the Event Calendar at  
<http://www.sla.org/chapter/cmn/programs/calendar.html>.

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