

April 2009

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKING

Once again, the Neighborhood Networking dinners were well-attended and provided chapter members with the opportunity to become better acquainted and discuss issues impacting special libraries.

- **Durham Networking Dinner** –Thursday February 19, 2009, hosted by Barbara and Jack Semonche.
- **Western North Carolina** - Tuesday, February 24th, 2009 at Carraba's. Hosted by Susan Tarbell.
- **Raleigh Networking Dinner** – Wednesday February 25th at Bella Monica. Hosted by Karin Shank and Susan Forbes.



- **Triad Area Potluck Dinner** – Saturday March 7, 2009, hosted by Mary Lane and husband Rick.



LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING

On February 5, 2009 the NCSLA Leadership Board met at the N.C. Biotechnology Center. Major topics covered included 2009 programs, budget and membership initiatives. Ideas were presented for upcoming programs and for strategies for utilizing social networking media in engaging professional and student chapter members.

“COPYWRONG TO COPYRIGHT”

On Friday April 3, 2009 NCSLA, in partnership with Iconitel, hosted an educational seminar titled “Copywrong to Copyright”. The event was attended by 16 people from a broad cross-section of local corporate libraries. Presenter Eileen McQuilken, a Senior Consultant with Iconitel, used a true or false format to address ambiguities in interpretation of copyright law with attention paid to the challenges posed by emerging technologies. The eye-opening discussion prompted audience members to takeaway a “proceed with caution” mentality when it comes to the use and redistribution of content.



“LEVERAGE YOUR CAREER”

On Thursday April 8th NCSLA, along with corporate sponsor InMagic, hosted a well-attended seminar called “Leverage Your Career”. Drawing both experienced SLA members and guests, as well as area students, the seminar provided an overview on special librarianship along with winning job search strategies and tips for approaching resumes and interviews. Presenters also offered suggestions for staying current in the profession and for making effective career choices. After a networking break, the second half of the program featured career stations where local professionals working in diverse settings offered commentary and guidance along with resume review services. The event was well-received and noted for its timeliness as students and professionals alike work to navigate a treacherous job market. A theme that ran throughout the program was the importance of leveraging professional contacts throughout one’s career and undoubtedly membership in associations such as SLA is a critical first step in building relationships that can foster a successful and fulfilling career in special librarianship.



UPCOMING EVENTS

A Talk with SLA President-Elect Anne Caputo:

We are pleased to welcome SLA President-Elect Anne Caputo to UNCG for a morning lecture followed by lunch and an opportunity for students to talk informally with Anne after lunch. A chapter meeting will be held prior to Anne’s lecture. More details will be announced on the NCSLA discussion list and website. *Tuesday May 19, 2009*

SLA Annual Conference: SLA will celebrate its centennial anniversary at this year’s conference in Washington, D.C. from June 14-17. For additional details on the conference, go to <http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2009/index.cfm>; for more information on SLA’s Centennial celebration, go to <http://www.sla.org/centennial/>

CONGRATULATIONS BARBARA!

The SLA North Carolina Chapter congratulates Barbara P. Semonche upon her retirement. As SLA’s most outstanding cheerleader for the past 30 years, Barbara has contributed time, talent, and her positive, passionate voice to serve the Association at all levels. The information professionals who have been influenced by Barbara over the years number more than the entire 11,000 members of SLA due to her important contributions to the entire profession.

Barbara is well-known throughout SLA primarily as a mentor, a role for which she was recognized with the Rose Vormelker Award in 2000. In endorsing her for that award, the NC Chapter Board wrote, “It seems...we could count on it [every year], Barbara standing up, proudly announcing [another] student who would be attending the annual conference [after] winning a paper competition.” For a lifetime of outstanding contributions to special librarianship, Barbara was awarded the John Cotton Dana Award in 2004.

Back in 1995, after having served as Chair of the News Division (1983), Chair of the 1992 Annual Conference Planning Committee, and President of the NC Chapter (1993), she was recognized as an SLA Fellow with the potential for more contributions. She met this expectation by running for Division Cabinet Chair-elect in 1998, a position she had previously been nominated for in 1990. Then, she was nominated for President-elect in 1999. During this time she was invited to speak at many chapter meetings across the country, something she has done innumerable times during her career. In 2002, she chaired the Nominating Committee, and she received the President’s Award for chairing the Membership Task Force. In thinking of her

dedication to students, one might imagine that Barbara received greatest satisfaction as chair of the Student and Academic Affairs Committee in 1998.

The NC Chapter is particularly proud to call Barbara our own, for it is in North Carolina that Barbara has worked in her professional career. First, she established the library at the *Durham Herald-Sun* newspaper. Then she transformed the library at UNC's School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Having once served as an intern herself, she made a point to hire student interns, for whom she was the model special librarian. The perseverance and creativity she showed in managing those libraries was admired and emulated by NC Chapter members with whom she freely shared her ideas.

Barbara served in practically all the offices of the Chapter, making perhaps her biggest impact by establishing and managing the discussion list and Website for many years. In fact, Barbara—an early adopter of computer technology—routinely sent emails to the Chapter discussion list reporting on whatever was happening at the Internet Librarian Conference, SLA Conference, or other meeting she was attending—she was blogging before there was such a thing! Another activity Barbara was (and is) known for was opening up her beautiful home to entertain SLA VIPs visiting the Chapter. For all of these contributions—and more—the Chapter conferred on her our highest award, the Meritorious Achievement Award in 1996. In 2000, the Chapter presented our Information Management Award to Barbara's organization, the UNC School of Journalism & Mass Communication, which recognized the immense effect Barbara has had on students and faculty in the subject field. In 1998, the UNC School of Information and Library Science noted the widespread impact that Barbara had on others in the information profession by bestowing on her its Distinguished Alumna Award.

SLA's News Division also recognizes Barbara's dedicated service to our profession, particularly the importance of the book she edited in 1993, *News Media Libraries: A Management Handbook*. This book influenced many information professionals in other fields, not just news libraries.

A mentor to students and professionals alike, an advisor to SLA Presidents, a personality recognized throughout SLA as someone who gets things done, and a pioneer in the technological world of the modern information professional, Barbara Semonche has been a true leader of SLA. You feel her presence when she walks into the room and gives that cheery smile. She tosses "verbal bouquets" to the deserving and she gives every

ounce of strength to be supportive of her colleagues. As she retires, we can only hope that we will continue to hear her well-known closings of "More, anon," and "Signing off" well into the future.

NCSLA ON TWITTER

The North Carolina SLA recently signed up for a Twitter account. Twitter is a social networking and microblogging site that allows users to send short messages to friends. Users sign up to "follow" their friends and receive their updates to their email or mobile phones.

We'll be using the Twitter account to make announcements about upcoming NCSLA events. Feel free to check us out at http://twitter.com/NC_SLA.

WHY JOIN SLA? MEMBER BENEFITS!

- CLICK University continuing education – many courses are free
- Local and national networking
- Leadership opportunities in chapters and divisions
- Leadership library with 990 e-books
- Factiva newsfeeds
- Web 2.0 tools free to members
- Job postings

Check out the NCSLA Chapter website at <http://units.sla.org/chapter/cnc/home.cfm>