



July 2009

SLA PRESIDENT-ELECT ANNE CAPUTO ADDRESSES NC CHAPTER

On May 19th, SLA President-Elect Anne Caputo visited UNC Greensboro and addressed members of NCSLA. Anne acknowledged the difficult economic climate that special librarians are working in and spoke to the need for planning. She emphasized the value that librarians bring to the table in a "time of information explosion" and encouraged members to work to improve communication and preparation skills to adapt to change, including changing "our terminology based on what the world calls it". She stated that special librarians need to be more in tune to the perceptions of those outside the profession and work to "align ourselves with the needs of the world"; studies have shown a disconnect between what those within the profession believe is important versus what others feel is important. In closing, Anne encouraged NCSLA members to "be positive, flexible, confident and willing to learn." Members of the NCSLA board attended a potluck dinner on May 18th held in Anne's honor in Greensboro (see photo below).



NCSLA MAKES IMPRESSION AT SLA CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

The NC Chapter was well represented at the SLA National Conference held June 14-17th in Washington, D.C.:

- **Dav Robertson** chaired the Centennial Committee whose displays and celebrations were everywhere.
- **Barbara Semonche** was inducted into the SLA Hall of Fame in honor of her contributions to the profession, UNC's School of Journalism, and SLA.
- **Rebecca B. Vargha** presented a talk on "Building Your Green Library," in addition to organizing a dinner for SLA Past Presidents.
- The Chapter won \$500, a copy of the centennial book, and a certificate from the IT Division for Best Tech Program in 2008. **Mary Schwartz** and **Jamal Cromity** accepted on behalf of the Web 2.0 Roundtable discussion leaders **Sheila Devaney, Erin Iannacchione, Tamika Barnes McCollough, Karin Shank, Marie Tretiakova, Rebecca Vargha, and Josh Wilson**.
- **Eliza Robertson** served a Chair-Elect of the Museums, Arts and Humanities Division. She also organized and moderated a MAHD session called Collaboration for Digital Preservation about a joint effort among the National Humanities Center, UNC Libraries, and RENCI to digitize and create transcripts for the radio program SOUNDINGS. Eliza introduced the Book and Author Luncheon speaker Guy St. Clair, who presented his history of the association, "SLA at 100: From Putting Knowledge to Work to Building the Knowledge Culture".
- **Tamika Barnes McCollough** served as 3rd Year Director on the SLA Board and a member of the Centennial Committee
- **Mary Schwartz** spoke at Leadership and Management breakfast on the self-managing team at the Center for Creative Leadership.
- **Joanie Olivier's** company Iconitel had a vendor booth in the Exhibition Hall.

- **Dr. Deborah Barreau** presented a contributed paper: "The Changing Terrain of Special Librarianship: A Report from the Workforce Issues in Library and Information Science (WILIS) Study by Deborah Barreau, Joanne Marshall, and Susan Rathbun-Grubb of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- **Debbie Balsamo** spoke on the impact of digital collections in government libraries.
- **Dr. Jose-Marie Griffiths** presented the UNC-SILS research on the "Future of Librarians in the Workforce."
- **Zahra Kamarei**, UNC Math-Physics Librarian, served as chair of the Physics, Astronomy, Math Division.
- **Deb Knox's** company, W.T. Cox Subscriptions had a booth in the exhibition hall.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SLA!
THOUGHTS ON SLA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY FROM CENTENNIAL COMMISSION CHAIR (AND NCSLA CHAPTER MEMBER) DAV ROBERTSON

July 2nd marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of SLA. On that day in 1909, some 20 attendees at the ALA annual conference met separately on the verandah of the Mt. Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, N.H., USA, to form SLA and adopt a constitution that defined the "Object" as follows:

"The object of this Association is to promote the interests of the commercial, industrial, technical, civic, municipal and legislative reference libraries, the special departments of public libraries, universities, welfare associations, and business organizations."

(For more on the founding of SLA, see Guy St. Clair's book *SLA at 100*, published by SLA for the Centennial.)

What were the founders thinking when they chose to use the word "Special" in the name of SLA? From John Cotton Dana's comments we know that the name was casually chosen in that the members were all "doing some special work in libraries." We also know that the founders wanted the new association to be inclusive, and in fact, the association grew rapidly as information pioneers in a variety of settings signed up.

Now that we are 100, we are reconsidering the name of our association and the direction to take in recruiting new members. We have the evidence provided to us by the Alignment Project research, which shows that "special" does not resonate with those we serve. We have the evidence which

shows that we can recruit information professionals who work outside of "special libraries."

Upon the occasion of our centennial, this is precisely the time when we should be acting on these issues. Urge your colleagues to discuss the findings of the Alignment Project and what steps SLA should take to promote the interests of information professionals in the 21st Century. Be prepared to vote on a name change later this Centennial Year. Align in '09.

UPCOMING EVENTS
ADDITIONAL DETAILS TO COME

- Summer Roast – July/August
- Government Documents Seminar – September

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>