

GOLD AND SILVER GAZETTE

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION • SIERRA NEVADA CHAPTER

Fall 2008

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President's Message Ruth Gustafson, President

Fall is in the air, literally. Some of you may have missed it, but it actually rained in the Sacramento area in the afternoon of September 16!

The temps are down, the wind is up, and the light seems softer. The wonderful SLA conference in Seattle seems far off. This issue of the newsletter will bring conference memories back (for the record number of Sierra Nevada chapter members who attended) and will serve as an update for those who did not get a chance to go. SLA utilized technology in new ways for the Seattle conference. As a session planner, I was pleased to offer speakers the option to upload their presentations to the SLA conference handouts website. The benefit to those of you who could not attend: you can view some speaker Powerpoints and handouts

online! Go to the 2008 conference website at <http://tinyurl.com/6rxj8g>. On the top left is a list of "Conference Links". You can see a link for "Contributed Papers" and for "Conference Handouts". This is a new process so SLA is still loading speaker files, but you can see the promise of this for those of us who can't make the annual conference.

A big thank-you to SNC members who contributed the articles that follow about the SLA Seattle 2008 conference.

The fall program is here, and I look forward to seeing many of you at Frasinetti's Winery on Thursday, September 18, for a talk by SLA CEO Janice Lachance on the topic of "Defending Libraries in a Time of Budget Uncertainties". As our own California

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Publication Schedule and Gazette Subscriptions:

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Deadlines:

Editorial material, including advertising material in electronic form, must be received by the first of the month of publication. The *Gazette* is posted to the chapter website around the fifteenth of the month of publication.

The New Look Buzz Haughton, Editor

Readers may notice that the *Gold and Silver Gazette* looks a little different. I've made some redesign decisions to try to bring the *Gazette* into a slightly more modern format. I would especially love to hear from readers as to how you think the redesign looks! Does it make the newsletter a little easier to read, and to find things in? Please email me at: bxhaughton@ucdavis.edu. (In addition, many thanks to Kelly Freitas, our talented secretary, who supplied me with a couple of photographs typical of Seattle to add to this issue of the *Gazette*, and to Alba Scott, Webmaster, for her photograph of last Thursday's dinner meeting.)

President's Message, Continued Ruth Gustafson, President

budget is still up in the air, this topic is very pertinent. Jane Talbot, SNC President-Elect, has planned not only this program but is busy planning a program in November with Cindy Hill. Cindy is heavily involved with the SLA Innovation Lab.

So—are you a lab rat yet? Those of you who attended the conference will know that there was a big push in Seattle for members to explore new technologies. At the SLA Innovation Lab, you can jump into the “sandbox” and try out a variety of resources including Atomic Learning Software Tutorials. Pop over to the lab at: <http://tinyurl.com/2vzgvd>.

There is a series of programs to help you learn about 23 things. See the SLA “23 things” wiki to join: <http://tinyurl.com/3hsy8g>

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You've probably seen notices about the SLA Centennial celebration at the 2009 conference in Washington, DC. As you start making your plans for next year's conference, keep in mind that you'll want to arrive early to enjoy the various Centennial activities that will occur on Sunday, June 14, 2009. A few of the activities on Sunday include:

- INFO-EXPO Opening with cake and champagne/sparkling cider
- Opening Centennial Reception with light food, drinks and entertainment

The Centennial committee is very happy to receive member suggestions at the e-mail address of 100@sla.org.

And last but not least, don't forget to vote for the new SLA Board of Directors! The election is open through October 1, 2008 at 5p.m. EDT. Go to: <http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/governance/2009bodelect/index.cfm>.

Impressions from a First Timer

Kelly Freitas, SNC Secretary

I attended my first SLA annual conference in Seattle this past June. Wow! What an experience! So many people, so many sessions, so many new things to learn, so many things to see in Seattle. It was a busy, jam-packed week.

I started my conference experience with a full weekend of instruction from the competitive intelligence certificate program that is a part of SLA's Click University. If you haven't checked out any of the Click University programs offered by SLA, be sure to. I was impressed with the competitive intelligence courses I attended, and I've already used several of the strategies I learned about during that intense weekend for the research projects I work on in my professional life. I also discussed many of the other Click University courses with my classmates and heard nothing but wonderful feedback on the past courses they had attended.

My official conference experience started with the Opening Session featuring Charlie Rose interviewing Vint Cerf, "Father of the Internet." Sitting in the audience listening to Vint talk about the beginning days and the possible futures of the Internet was a bit mind-boggling for my MLIS student head. Thank goodness the daily sessions beyond that didn't boggle my mind too much. I learned everything from how to use blogs to keep an eye on the marketplace to the latest strategies for knowledge sharing and so many other things too.

Beyond the certificate programs and conference sessions, there were other things that impressed me about the conference. Despite the fact that I went to the conference alone, I never felt alone while I was there. Attendees in every session were quick to start up a conversation, and when I mentioned I was a library-school student and this was my first conference, there was never a shortage of advice. My fellow Sierra Nevada Chapter attendees were so helpful too. It was great to see everyone at Monday's networking lunch, and so many of you let me tag along with you to various sessions. Thanks for your support!

My first conference experience was a great one! I plan to attend as many conferences as I can in the future for the education, the idea gathering and the camaraderie.



Sierra Nevada Chapter Members Gather Twice!

Ruth Gustafson, President

Sierra Nevada Chapter members enjoyed tasty local food treats and a stellar view of Mount Rainier (yes, it could be seen) on Sunday evening at the West Coast Chapter Reception. My favorite snacks were the delicious herb-flavored olives. A big thank you to the Pacific Northwest Chapter for hosting this event. Judging by the crowds at this height, the reception was very well received. I was pleased to meet some of our newest members at this event and hope to see them at SNC programs.

A new activity provided at the SLA Annual conference in Seattle was the INFO-EXPO Networking Lunch with a free boxed lunch to all conference registrants. At least 12 SNC members met at a table in the cafeteria area of the exhibits to enjoy lunch and conversation with each other. This was a rare opportunity for many SNC members to spend time with each other in Seattle since members attend programs from a variety of divisions on many different topics. Rather than just a hallway hello, we had the time to chat with each other, meet the very newest members, and just sit down and relax. We hope that SLA will continue this activity!

If anyone has pictures of either of these events they'd like to share, please send them to our SNC web managers for possible loading on our chapter website. See our chapter Board listing for contact information at <http://units.sla.org/chapter/csrn/officers.html>.

Janice Lachance Discusses EPA Library Rescue

Buzz Haughton, Editor

About twenty Sierra Nevada Chapter members attended an enjoyable evening with Janice Lachance, SLA's CEO, on Thursday, September 18, at the Frasinetti Winery, 7395 Frasinetti Road in South Sacramento.

We began by savoring Frasinetti's outstanding wines and delectable food. Jane Talbot, SNC's Vice President/President-Elect, arranged for three outstanding dinner choices. Following the meal, Janice Lachance went into some detail regarding the efforts of SLA, ALA, MLA and other library organizations to reverse the decision of the Bush Administration to close the network of Environmental Protection Agency libraries. The administration maintained that most or all of the materials contained in the libraries was available on the internet: not true!. Janice explained that librarians and library organizations need to cultivate allies in high places; in this instance, our champion was our own California senator, Barbara Boxer. With her assistance, constantly putting forth the loss to the public that closure of these libraries would inevitably entail, the end result was that the administration reversed its decision and restored funding to the EPA libraries.

Janice outlined a four-point program to accomplish change:

- Anticipate
- Collaborate
- Verify
- Persevere

Here are some of Janice's words gathered direct from the SLA website:

"After months of wrangling with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over plans to slash services at its network of regional specialty libraries, the matter was front and center February 6 when the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee took up the matter with EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson at a public hearing.

“In a letter to the committee chair, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, the day before the committee hearing, I shared with her **your** concern that the closure of EPA libraries and a dramatic reduction in services could have devastating long-term impacts on public health and safety.

“We are particularly concerned about the effects the proposed closures will have, and are having, on the public’s ability to access data and information necessary to scientists, policy makers and corporate entities to operate in the public good. We have heard from many SLA members in the scientific and medical community who have told us the closure of the EPA libraries will impact their work directly,” I wrote.

“I also suggested several questions to Senator Boxer for use during the hearing. These questions focused primarily on whether EPA had assessed the full economic and environmental consequences of its plan to cut \$2 million from its library budget in 2006 and whether the Agency had consulted with information professionals on best practices for securing and digitizing its library collection. Further, I recommended Senator Boxer ask the Administrator who exactly uses the Agency’s library services and if EPA can develop a system to serve these various constituencies effectively.

“Not only did Senator Boxer reflect our concerns in her questioning of Administrator Johnson, she acknowledged SLA several times during the hearing for its commitment and leadership on this important issue.

“It pleases me the Senator recognizes the effort many of you have made to bring this matter to light and to do something about it. As you know, SLA was the first library association to raise this issue publicly, and you should be proud of the good work you’ve done to address it.”

For the complete text of Ms. Lachance’s talk, go to: <http://units.sla.org/chapter/csrn/Janice.pdf>.

The evening concluded with members’ renewing old networking efforts and finding out what everyone was doing with their lives, professionally and personally. I think that this dinner was a perfect start to the fall/winter/spring dinner schedule. Many thanks to Jane Talbot, our Vice President/President-Elect, for putting together a wonderful evening; you can see a photograph taken by Alba Scott, Webmaster, at the dinner below.



Ruth Gustafson, SNC President, Janice Lachance, SLA CEO and Cindy Hill, SLA Past President

Reflections on the State of the Sierra Nevada Chapter

Buzz Haughton, Editor

The Nominations and Elections Committee has completed its work, and a slate of SNC officers and advisory council members will be in place before the end of the calendar year. You will see nominees' names in the December 2008 issue of the *Gazette*.

Longtime members will probably remember that the future of our (by SLA standards very small) chapter has often been dicey. A headquarters committee not long ago made the recommendation that we amalgamate with the San Francisco Bay Chapter, from which we sprang about thirty years ago. Chapter officers believed, and I think continue to believe, that our chapter deserves to remain on its own. Attrition has reduced our ranks considerably from a maximum of over one hundred members in the early 1990s to approximately sixty-five today. In the past two years there has been a modest upswing in membership, and I am very happy to say that most, if not all, of these new members are (by my standards!) youngsters, which gives me cause to hope that we can continue to exist as a chapter. The crucial issue is whether we can summon up members willing to serve in leadership capacities in future years. Especially difficult to recruit volunteers for is the position of Vice President/President-Elect, which, according to chapter rules, entails a two-year commitment, first as VP/PE (entailing planning and executing the dinner meetings of the chapter) and then as President.

I invite all of our readers to take a look at the list of chapter officers and advisory council members on page two of the *Gazette*. Please decide if any of these offices are fields of endeavor you might be interested in, and put your name forward as a candidate. Our Nominations and Elections Committee consists of Gabe McAuliffe, Karen Andrews and myself; our email addresses are on page two of this *Gazette*. I can assure you that the time and effort commitment for any of these tasks is modest, and that your colleagues in the chapter will give you any and all assistance you might require. Our chapter is small, but the spirit of mutual endeavor is strong. In all of my years as a librarian, I have never encountered a group of fellow librarians so committed to helping one another (and having fun!) as I have with my colleagues on the SNC Board.

Please come aboard! We need you and welcome you!

