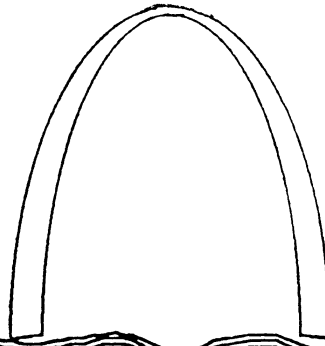

THE
SLATE



SLA

ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER
Special Libraries Association

Volume 61 Number 3

April 2002

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, colleagues!

I hope you are enjoying the great weather and turning of the seasons. Spring is especially welcome this year!

Our last meeting on April 1 was remarkable in many ways. Not only did Bryan do an amazing job of rolling with the punches when we had to change our venue from Schneithorst's, but our speaker, Joel Berger, also coped admirably with challenging conditions to give us a generous and informative analysis of trends in the library world. We need to be creative in encouraging folks with good technical and personal skills to join us in varied information settings. It used to be a buyer's market, but the imperatives have changed and we must change with them. Many thanks to Joel for sharing his observations with us. As a side note, I hope you noticed Post-Dispatch article about Schneithorst's closing at the end of April! I'm very grateful to Cardwell's for taking us in on short notice and giving us a fine meal and meeting place.

Invitations will be out shortly for our annual business meeting on the evening of Thursday, May 9 at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. I am looking forward to showing our beautiful building to you, and to Regina Klein's discussion of competitive intelligence and her segue into that arena. From personal experience, I want to recommend our fine chef to you, too! Bryan is planning a great finish to the program year.

One of our tasks on May 9 will be to elect Chapter officers for next year. Many thanks to the Nominating committee - Doug Holland, Alison Verbeck and Mary Anne Walton - for assembling a fine slate of candidates for us, which I am including below. Thanks also to Kay Shehan, who contributed her experience on earlier Nominating committees to serve as a resource person.

Thanks to each of the candidates for their willingness to contribute to the Chapter! I'd like to remind you that Bryan will be requesting other members to serve in appointed positions. If asked, please consider contributing, and if there's a position you are interested in, take the bull by the horns and talk to Bryan!

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Officers

President	Maribeth Slebodnik
President-elect	Bryan Young
Past President	Larry Walton
Treasurer	Ellen Eliceiri
Secretary	Marcia Stoklosa
Director-at-large	Chris Tighe
Member-at-large	Doug Holland

Committee Chairs

Archives	Maribeth Slebodnik
Awards	Chris Tighe
Business Manager	Leah Holler
Discussion list	Gail Hoef
Diversity	Stephanie Tolson
Employment	Linda Recklein
Government Relations	Barbara Rehkop
Hospitality	Erin Lanham
Information Technology/Webmaster	Patrick Hendershot
Membership	Ann Lauenstein
Programs	Bryan Young
Public Relations	Katharine Hayes
Slate Editor	Joel Shedlofsky
Strategic Planning	Karen Chapman

Established: 1941

Web Address: <http://www.sla.org/chapter/cstl>

Subscription Address: listproc@mail.wustl.edu

List Address: SLA_ARCH@mail.wustl.edu

FROM THE EDITOR

This is my last issue as the editor of the SLATE. I have enjoyed being the editor for the last several years, but the time has come for me to step down. The ride was long, interesting, and fulfilling.

When I took over the editorship of the SLATE, I was informed of the difficulties of putting together the SLATE using a word processor such as WordPerfect or MS Word. One of my very first steps was purchasing MS Publisher, a publishing layout software program. Whoever takes over, I would recommend s/he has access to either MS Publisher or something similar. Many of the features you see in the SLATE are easy to create in Publisher, but would be

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difficult to impossible using a word processor.

Last year, I began sending the SLATE electronically. To do this, I converted the MS Publisher file to a PDF document using Adobe's Acrobat. This is the full version, not the Reader. The conversion is necessary so everyone can read the document.

My first attempt last year to send the SLATE electronically was not good. The file was huge and tied up many connections.

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Special Libraries Association

(Continued from page 2 Editor)

I now send the file Patrick Hendersho for uploading to our website. I e-mail the majority of our members indicating the new SLATE is/will be available on our website. The next challenge, for the new editor and for the chapter is how to handle the approximate 20 members who either do not have an email or will not provide an email address.

One lesson I learned from sending out the first PDF file is to convert color photos into black & white. Whoever takes over I would further recommend they have photo-editing software, and if possible a scanner so color photos are converted into black and white, enhance the brightness and contrast, crop the image and lastly adjust the size of the image. The resulted file size will be smaller, contributing to a smaller file size for the PDF document. Instead of images, in many cases I was sent a photograph which had to be scanned.

So, why do I wish to turn over the editorship to someone else? Several years ago, I joined the Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis and became very active.

Little bit of over a year ago, I volunteered to be their webmaster and put together, with a team a website. Today the website can be found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-stlouis>. The site continues to evolve. I am working on a timeline of Jewish history and activity in St. Louis. I find researching the history of Jewish activity in St. Louis very interesting, yet time consuming. Once you get to the website, visit the *Timelines* page.

Last year, one board member of JGS kept insisting that the By-Laws didn't cover or did cover an action. So, I asked to see the By-Laws. Three months later I finally was given a dated version of the By-Laws that everyone agreed was the most current. During the three months several other copies

were distributed. Because I nit picked, I was asked to be the By-Laws Revision Committee Chairperson in November 2001.

If you attended the April 1 meeting you would have heard SLA National is trying to establish a set of By-Laws that would be applicable for National AND all chapters. I can honestly say I question this goal. I have learned that the needs of a national or an international organization are similar and yet, are different from the needs of a local chapter. It is in my humble opinion that the majority of the National SLA By-Laws would be applicable to our chapter, but not all. This is one thing I have learned working on JGS of St. Louis's By-Laws — the needs of a small local chapter are similar and different from a national organization. I really do hope that more individuals would be aware of these differences. Perhaps, a set of Standing Rules or Guidelines will address the differences and similarities between the national organization and the local chapter.

In closing, I have made my choice to become very active in JGS and my genealogy. I will continue to be a member of this SLA chapter. Should Bryan or anyone else needs a volunteer, I more than willing to help. However, I do hope we can get more volunteers to serve. If you are not too active in another organization and have not volunteered at all or in a long time, contact Bryan Young either for the SLATE editor or for another position. I also hope that if you elect to serve as an officer or a committee chairperson, you would write articles.

I thank you for allowing me to be your editor. I appreciate the support given me by many individuals.

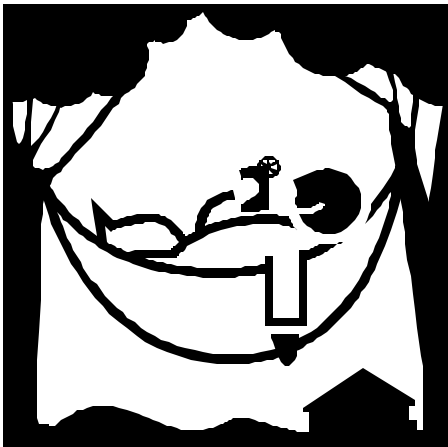
Take care. I will be seeing you.

Joel Shedlofsky
Editor, soon to be Ex-Editor of the SLATE

ART TAYLOR RETIRES

Art Taylor recently retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where he had worked since 1988. He was in charge of the Corps' technical library from 1988 to 1990 and again from 1997 to 2001. During the interim, he was associated with the St. Louis Cooperative Administrative Support Unit (CASU), a government-wide program which encouraged agencies to share the labor and expenses of similar administrative services. Unlike other CASU's in the nation, which traditionally focused on such functions as mail operations and photocopying, the St. Louis unit was the only one to include a library serving multiple agency clients. Although the CASU concept is no longer in existence, Art was able to market his services in the Robert A. Young Federal Building, boosting his client count to four agencies.

Prior to his work with the federal government, Art served as the administrator of the St. Louis Regional Library Network from 1983 to 1987 and previous to that he was the director of the Thomas More College Learning Resource Center in Kentucky from 1978 to 1983.



His education credentials include the following degrees: Ed. D., (Instructional Systems Technology) Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (1977); Ed. S. (Instructional Systems) Indiana University (1971); M.A.L.S., School of Library and Information Science, Rosary College, River Forest, IL (1969); A.B. (Classics), Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO (1965). While at Rosary College, he was elected to Beta Phi Mu, the Library Science Honor Society.

Art has been a member of SLA since 1984 serving in various capacities, most notably as president for the 1994-1995 term. His committee assignments have included publicity chair, government relations chair, program committee, planning committee and local chapter communications. In addition to his activity with SLA, Art has been active in local computer associations and other library organizations.

I guess Art must be having fun in retirement because it took him weeks (even months) to respond to my request for his bio. He tells me he is taking classes at COCA, exploring the contemporary "Printing" world --combining computer technology with traditional printing techniques for possible part-time employment and he plans on taking graphic arts classes in the future.

Art, Best wishes on a long, healthy and happy retirement from all your friends in SLA.

— Katherine Hayes

Employment Committee

Did you know that your chapter has an Employment Committee? Over the years, I have worked with whoever was in this position to fill various openings at my library. I decided it was time to 'pay my dues' for the good leads I got from this service so I volunteered and now serve as a one-person committee.

My responsibilities include keeping records of job openings, both professional and paraprofessional for locally available positions. These files include openings from the last three months and include copies of the help-wanted ads from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Leads may come from employers, placement officers, SLA Chapter members, employment search firms and others. I also keep resumes from interested job seekers to notify them of positions. Applicants are the ones that forward their resume to the prospective employer.

While anyone can post an opening to the SLA listserv, I provide that function also.

My tenure in this position has been interesting and rewarding. In addition to the above, I have conferred with interested job seekers to convey resume tips, consult on job-finding strategies and provide any information helpful to the entire job-finding process. Sometimes through our discussions, I have encouraged people to consider staying in their current position.

If you are looking for a job or would like to discuss any job-finding related matter, do contact me. This function is only as good as those of you willing to provide input that would help someone else land a position. Remember how it felt the last time you were pounding the pavement?

Linda S. Recklein, Manager
Library and Information Services
Nestle Purina PetCare Company
Checkerboard Square, 2S
St. Louis, MO 63164
314-982-2056 phone
314-982-3259 fax
lrecklein@purina.com



St. Louis Metropolitan Chapter
Special Libraries Association
Chapter Board Meeting
January 19, 2002
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Danforth Center

Present

Karen Chapman	Strategic Planning
Ellen Eliceiri	Treasurer
Katharine Hayes	Public Relations
Doug Holland	Member at Large
Erin Lanham	Hospitality
Linda Recklein	Employment
Maribeth Slebodnik	President
Marcia Stoklosa	Secretary
Chris Tighe	Directory at Large, Awards
Larry Walton	Past President
Bryan Young	President-elect/Programs

Agenda

1. Approve minutes of last Board meeting, October 20, 2001
2. Committee reports: treasurer's report, membership report
3. Technology Team: current status of virtualization
4. Strategic plan documents
5. Meeting planning – spring meetings
6. Other business

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. by Maribeth Slebodnik.

The minutes of the Board meeting on October 20, 2001 at the Richmond Heights Community Center were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report

Ellen Eliceiri presented the year-end financials and balance sheet, as of January 18, 2002. The Chapter has a total of \$5619.81 in cash and bank accounts. Ellen had not yet received invoices for the Holiday meet-

ing at Annheuser-Busch. She reminded everyone to please send her any outstanding invoices for payment. Ellen reported on her progress with the investigation of a Chapter credit card. She contacted Scott Smiley at SLA Headquarters and was told that a Chapter cannot secure a loan. A credit card would be considered having a loan and therefore, Chapters may not have a chapter credit card. A discussion on the acceptability of a debit card followed. Ellen will check on the debit card. Katharine Hayes volunteered to check with other chapters. Bryan Young volunteered to investigate the question at the upcoming SLA meeting in Chicago. Larry Walton suggested contacting the SLA Finance office.

Membership report

(submitted by Ann Lauenstein, reported by Maribeth Slebodnik) The Chapter gained one new member, Paul Steensland at the St. Louis County Library on Lindbergh.

There were no other committee reports.

Technology Team

Bryan reported that the Technology Team (consisting of Gail Hoef, Joel Shedlofsky, Patrick Hendershot and Bryan) had not yet had an opportunity to meet. He felt there were a few things that needed to be done before the Team could begin to implement the suggestions made in the Brain Blurts session. In particular, Bryan pointed out that the Chapter Web site needed updating. While the latest edition of the SLATE could be found, there were no meeting minutes or latest version of the strategic plan. A discussion followed on how best to update, and keep current, the information on the Chapter Web site. As Webmaster, only Patrick Hendershot can make changes to the site. However, it is the responsibility of all Chapter members to alert Patrick to any

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(Continued from page 6 Meeting)

necessary changes.

Bryan also reported that the experiment of using the telephone and e-mail to invite other professional organizations to Chapter meetings was a success. The contact information used for the Holiday meeting will be used for future invitations.

The action items for the Technology Team are to update the Chapter Web site and implement Brain Blurts suggestions. There followed a discussion of an electronic newsletter as one of the Brain Blurts suggested improvements. The first attempt using an electronic newsletter showed that there are still some "bugs" to be worked out, in particular, file sizes, fire walls and advertisements.

Strategic Plan

Discussion of the Strategic Plan documents was postponed until the next Board meeting.

Meeting planning

The update on future Chapter meetings began with a discussion of the SLA Distance Learning programs. No new programs have been posted on the SLA site. Maribeth volunteered to check at the Chicago meeting. Maribeth also asked if there were any other facilities with satellite and video-conferencing capabilities other than Washington University. Although exact specifications are needed, other possible venues include Ameren UE, Solutia, UMSL, Monsanto and UMSL Community Relations Center. Larry will forward the specifications to Katharine. Other planned Chapter meetings will be scheduled around any appropriate distance programs.

Bryan reminded everyone of the upcoming St. Louis County Career Fair. The Chapter has always participated in this 2-day event

for St. Louis County eighth graders. The Fair provides good exposure for our profession. Bryan noted that the SLA display should be updated. There was some discussion on what to include. Bryan volunteered to work on the update, using Chapter resources if necessary. He also volunteered to check for any new promotional materials at the Chicago meeting.

Bryan noted that both Regina Klein (Pharmacia) and Joel Berger (C. Berger) were committed for programs this spring. Maribeth suggested the Danforth Center as the location for the Chapter Annual Business Meeting.

Other business

Katharine updated the Board on the progress of the Chapter banner. The logo will need to be re-created. The banner vendor could not use the electronic file used for the Anniversary Dinner programs. Doug Holland volunteered to try and create the logo with publishing software. If needed, Maribeth suggested paying for the re-creation.

Maribeth noted that no one had volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee. She will ask people personally and would like the Board to send her any suggestions for committee members.

Maribeth asked if there were any other questions she and Bryan should investigate at the Chicago meeting. Everyone agreed with Larry's suggestion of an update on the SLA reorganization.

Maribeth reminded everyone of the upcoming SLATE deadline (February 8) and that chapter officer reports are due by April 15. She also noted that the Chapter history has not been updated as planned. Maribeth will investigate further.

(Continued on page 8 Meeting)

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

New: Donna Simonic
AG Edwards Corp Fin
One North Jefferson
St. Louis MO 63103-2287

Sheila Young
UMSL Ward E Barnes Library
8001 Natural Bridge Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63121-4401
(joined SLA but not our chapter)

Possible: Betsy Richie
8816 Paragon Circle
St. Louis, MO 63123

Karen Becker
12807 Mariners Point Ct
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

(Continued from page 7 Meeting)

For future meeting notices, Ellen asked that only her e-mail address be included. Her phone system does not include voice mail and there is no way to record any meeting acceptances. Ellen also asked about updating the Quicken software that is required by SLA for the Treasurer's reports. Larry suggested checking with Headquarters. The original software was sent by them and should include any updates. Maribeth and Bryan agreed to check in Chicago.

Katharine asked if the Board was interested in advertising the Chapter meetings in the Post-Dispatch and the St. Louis Business Journal. Everyone thought it would be worthwhile. Katharine will try it for future meetings.

Doug announced that the American Libraries Association has an electronic tutorial on licensing. Bryan volunteered to forward the information to the Chapter.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia L. Stoklosa, Chapter Secretary

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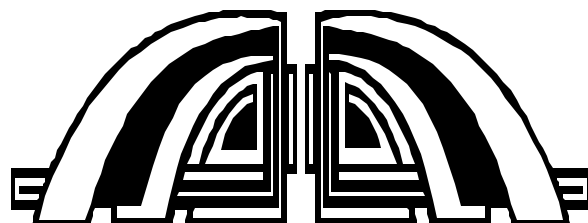
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OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR ST. LOUIS CHAPTER OF SLA

The Nomination Committee is pleased to nominate the following individuals for office for the forthcoming year:

President	Byran Young
President-Elect	Erin Lanham
Secretary	Marcia Stoklosa
Treasurer	Ellen Eliceiri
Director-at-Large	Christine Tighe
Member-at-Large	Doug Holland

Voting on accepting these individuals as the new officers will be soon.

(Continued from page 1 Hello)

Another annual meeting is coming up - SLA's national meeting in Los Angeles on June 8-13. If you plan to attend, please mention it to Bryan, Stephanie or me. We don't currently have plans to host a reception with another group, but it's always helpful to know who is representing the Chapter and who we might try to see at a meeting or a meal. It's such a busy meeting that it's great to see a familiar face! I will organize a post-Annual Meeting happy hour in mid-June so those who are able to attend can share what we learn with the rest of the membership on an informal basis. Especially with many changes under discussion at the organizational level, it will be a pleasant way to pool our individual impressions and keep in touch with those changes as they are discussed and enacted.

I want to thank every one of you for the grand opportunity to serve the St. Louis Metropolitan Area Chapter as your President. I have seen and learned a lot, met and worked with great people, and thoroughly enjoyed myself. There is still much I would like to have accomplished, but I plan to

remain active in the Chapter and keep my hand in the pot! I would especially like to recognize and thank the leadership team for their hard work and dedication and all the assistance they have generously contributed this year.

Since my official focus for this year has been networking with other information groups, I'd also like to thank the Chapter members who have been liaisons to those groups. I recently attended the ARLIS/VRA conference at Union Station, and enjoyed attending a PhotoShop class and volunteering at the hospitality desk. I just returned from a meeting in San Francisco of the Council of Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, and also enjoyed the commonalities and different perspectives of that group. Even if our libraries serve different clients, we always have a lot to share with each other.

As we continue to work towards the appropriate level of virtualization for the Chapter, I hope you will keep telling the leadership what you want! We want to make sure the SLATE and the Chapter website are doing what you would like them to do for you.

Please remember to thank Joel Shedlofsky for faithfully putting out this excellent publication for us. It is not an easy task, and he does it beautifully! Thanks so much, Joel, you are one of the Chapter's most unsung heroes and your hard work is very much appreciated. *(Editor's note: You are welcome, Meribeth.)*

Hoping to see many of you on May 9, and in Los Angeles!

Maribeth

CAROL THAXTON RETIRES

Carol Thaxton will officially retire from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Research Libray on May 1, 2002, but her last day at the Library was Monday, April 15. Carol worked at the bank for over 31 years, and held every position in the Library. Carol succeeded Connie Pfaff, longtime Fed Librarian, as Manager of the Library in 1975. She has held that position for the last 27 years. Carol was honored by her co-workers with a party on Friday, April 12.

Carol became a member of SLA in 1975 , and has been very active in the Chapter ever since. She held various Chapter positions, including President in 1997-1998. We wish Carol the best and most wonderful of retirements. She has promised to remain active in SLA and we look forward to enjoying her smiling face and rapier wit!

- Kathy E. Cosgrove
- Maribeth Slebodnik

