



# The Confluence

Newsletter of the Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter

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## President's Message - Ryan Splenda

Hello SLA Pittsburgh Chapter members! I wanted to give you a brief update on some things that are going on with our Chapter and the organization as a whole.

First, SLA Headquarters is requiring all Chapters and Units to switch to a new website platform starting in September/October. The two main reasons for the switch are: 1. To ensure a more secure platform that will prevent future hacking activities like the one that occurred earlier in the year that affected several SLA websites, and 2. To give Chapters increased access to tools that allow for greater functionality within websites. We are currently in the process of transitioning to this new platform and the hope is to have it complete later in the year.

Additionally, our Chapter has successfully co-hosted another webinar event with our friends at the SLA Philly Chapter. Thank you for all that attended the Introduction to Data Visu-

alization webinar on October 4. Our hope is to continue offering virtual events for members who cannot attend in-person events.

Lastly, our Chapter is currently in the process of planning our Annual Business Meeting. The meeting will be held on Sunday, December 9. Thanks again for being a part of our Chapter, and for everything that you do within our profession.

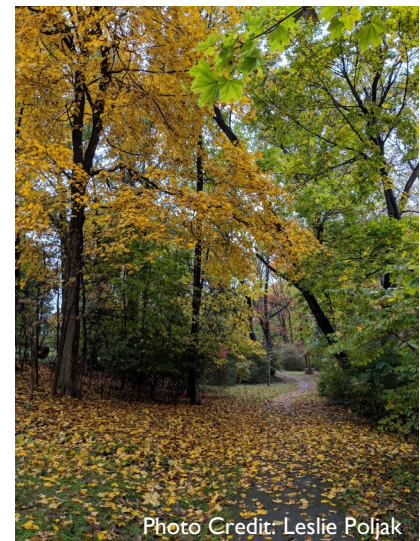


Photo Credit: Leslie Poljak

The SLA membership directory is available online. You will need to log in and select Pittsburgh chapter as the unit.

## Welcome New Chapter Members!

Jill Konieczko

Theresa Walker

Karen Stephanites

## Congratulations, Lynn Berard!

### By: Denise Callihan

Lynn Berard represents what a Librarian can and should be. Along with many of you, I have striven to follow in Lynn's footsteps. She is the coolest of the cool.

Lynn Berard has been a steady and strong presence within our chapter. Even a brief scroll through our history pages will reveal this. Lynn joined SLA in 1985 and was an active leader throughout her entire professional career, having served our association at the chapter, division and international levels. You may have even noticed that Lynn has recently accepted the nomination of the Pittsburgh Chapter Director...again! Lynn continues to teach and guide students and professionals alike, sharing knowledge and advice and all while remaining an active participant. Now that is a sign of a true leader—leading by example!

That's Lynn!

Lynn recently celebrated retirement on July 1, 2018 after 33 years at Carnegie Mellon University. Lynn got her start in 1985 as a Computer Science Librarian, and transitioned into other roles throughout her career, holding such titles as CivilE and MechE Librarian; Head, Engineering & Science Library; Head, Science Libraries; Principal Librarian; Director of Research Curation.

During her storied career, Lynn was recognized for her exceptional contributions to our Chapter, the Engineering Division and by SLA itself, the international organization.

For me—and from the moment that I met Lynn in 1993 at the start of my own career—Lynn immediately represented a librarian Hero. Lynn presented the image, the ideal and the example of what I had hoped to become. In 1993, Lynn wore high heels, mini skirts and demolished every stereotype I had seen portrayed about librarians.



SLA Annual Conference, 2006, Baltimore (with Kim Gregory and other friends)



SLA Annual Conference, 2015, Boston with Denise Callihan & Margarete Bower at the IT Dance Party

Photo Credits: Denise Callihan

From the moment I had the pleasure of really getting to know Lynn, I knew her as smart and direct—sometimes speaking her mind LOUDLY when it was necessary—and even swearing occasionally. Very early on into our friendship, I viewed Lynn as my mentor and teacher and she encouraged me to continuously learn and to pay it forward...while enjoying life and having the best time that you can.

Continues on page 3

## Congratulations, Lynn Berard! (contn'd)

By: Denise Callihan

Recently, I was able to ask her a few questions to reflect on her career:

### **What's your best or most fond memory?**

Most cool thing was getting to meet Star Wars actor, Anthony Daniels (C-3PO) and receive a signed poster from him; best memory was serving on two Presidential Search Committees and for the 2nd one, I was in charge of the search process and I hired a team of librarians from Pgh to assist with the search lists and record keeping :).

### **Any stories you'd like to share?**

Mentoring colleagues was my top priority and happily CMU allowed reference units to hire library science students to serve with us on our desks and in the classrooms. (we called them Information Assistants(IA's). I learned so much from them – each new recruit opened my eyes to unique ways of conducting outreach to our community. They inspired me and together we provided great service with our mix of knowledge and talents. Many of our former IA's now hold key positions in their own workplaces.

If I learned anything it certainly was the power of giving back, having been mentored as a graduate student by 3 amazing engineering librarians at the University of Michigan. What goes around, comes around.

### **Any thoughts or reflections on your career .. what you've experienced in the digital age?**

In my first position serving as the CMU Computer Science Librarian, I was at the heart of the amazing growth of the Internet and all things digital.... upon reflection it seems surreal that I was in the right place at the right time – I still today am awed by having had that opportunity. I loved that job!

Lynn plans to remain active within our chapter during her retirement. Thank you Lynn for everything you've given us and for everything that you have shared with us, and for each and everything you gift to us in the future.

**Congratulations on a hard-earned and much deserved retirement!**



From left to right: Lynn's signed poster from Anthony Daniels, SLA Annual Conference 2016, Philadelphia with Leslie Poljak, Carrie Wardzinski, and Ryan Splenda, and SLA Annual Conference, 2015, Boston

Photo Credits: Lynn Berard and Denise Callihan

## Q&A with 2018 Chapter Archivist and Member Bryan Brown

**Favorite Part of your job:**

Working with primary documents, knowing that researchers will be using them for their work or for genealogical purposes.

**Goal for the coming year:**

Continue riding my bike to work.

**First Library Job:**

My first archivist position was as an Electronic Processing Archivist at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

**Last Book Read:**

A Game of Thrones by George R. R. Martin

**What made you want to become a Librarian?**

I wanted to be an archivist when I was in my undergraduate career, after I realized that teaching history wasn't for me. I had a professor who advised me on graduate programs and possible careers based on my interests. I liked working with primary documents that are used for research purposes, so it was a natural choice to consider becoming an archivist.

**Anything else you would like to share:**

I am an avid Pittsburgh sports fan, the three professional teams and Pitt to be specific. I bike to work and recreationally whenever I get the chance. My wife and I have two boys, twins, Oliver and Wyatt. They just turned one in August. So, if I'm not working I'm busy with two little ones.

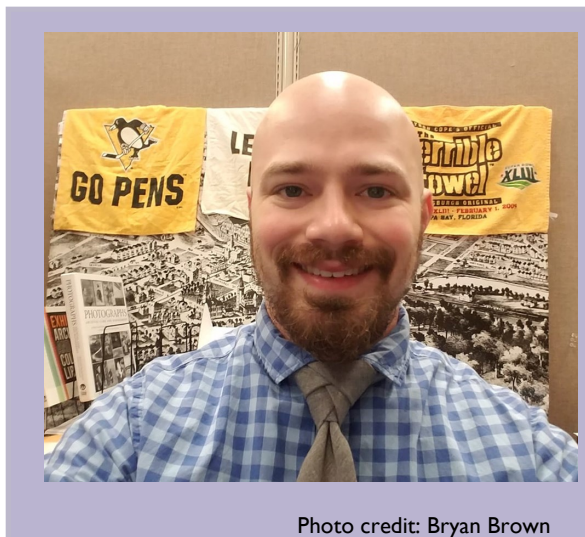


Photo credit: Bryan Brown

### SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Annual Business and Awards Meeting

**Sunday, December 9, 2018 from 12-2pm**

This year's meeting will be brunch pot-luck and will be held at the home of Mary Callison in the [Allegheny West](#) area of Pittsburgh's North Side. We are very grateful to Mary Callison for hosting us!

Please [RSVP](#) by Monday, December 3. If you have any questions, please contact [Margarete Bower](#) or [Rachel Callison](#).

## 2019 SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Officers

Congratulations to the incoming officers for our 2019 Executive Board:

### **Stefanie Maclin-Hurd, President-Elect**

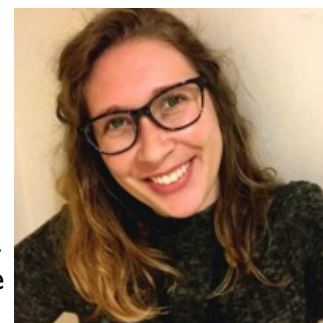


Stefanie Maclin-Hurd started a new job as Information Product Specialist at Black Box in September 2018. Previously, she worked as the Librarian at Cabot Oil and Gas. She is a former President of the New England SLA chapter, and has also been in charge of the Pittsburgh social media. She graduated from Simmons College with an MLIS (Archives specialization), and also completed a Certificate in Digital Services and Emerging Technologies from SJSU.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and infant son, knitting, and reading. She also has over 30 covers of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah (and original), and is always looking for more.

### **Kiera Mudry, Secretary**

Kiera Mudry is a self-proclaimed philomath and research enthusiast. She is currently working as a Research Librarian for the RAND Corporation in Pittsburgh's neighborhood of Oakland. She joined RAND with a background in academic librarianship and has worked primarily in the areas of research, reference, outreach, and instruction. Prior to working for RAND, she held positions in the reference departments for the libraries at Duquesne University, Chatham University, and the University of Pittsburgh. Kiera is currently active within the Nominations Committee and acts as the Webmaster for the Pittsburgh chapter of SLA.



In her spare time, Kiera enjoys going to the movies, binge-watching TV series, collecting vinyl records, and spending time with her fiancé.

### **Lynn Berard, Director**

Former Principal Librarian, Engineering and Director of Research Curation; Carnegie Mellon University Libraries, Pittsburgh, PA; retired July 2018.



Highly accomplished information professional with 34+ years of experience in a wide variety of library and information management projects and operations in the engineering & science disciplines with expertise in searching resources in the sciences and applied arts. I have worked internationally in France and Qatar, and taught library sciences courses for 14 years as an adjunct faculty for Clarion University, in the physical classroom as well as online teaching.

Photo Credits: LinkedIn

Thank you for answering the call to serve our wonderful Chapter!

## Summer/Fall 2018 Pittsburgh Chapter Events:

### Data Visualization Webinar Recap– Eve Wider

On October 4<sup>th</sup> the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia Chapter's co-hosted the webinar "Introduction to Data Visualization" the presenter was Emma Slayton, CLIR Fellow for Data Visualization & Curation, Carnegie Mellon University.

Dr. Slayton graciously allowed us to post a recording of her talk and the power point slides which are available in [Connect](#).

Below are insights shared during the session that were particularly thought provoking.:

- Humans are 320% better at remembering tasks if they are explained visually and retain 60% of information shown with images but only 6% of information told verbally.
- When creating a visualization it's important to think about what question you are trying to answer and which aspect of your data set fits that answer.
- It might be helpful to remember the six W's (Who was involved? What happened? Where did it take place? When did it take place? Why did that happen? How did it happen?) Answering all six isn't the goal but figuring out what question is the focus of your visualization is valuable.
- Dr. Slayton discussed how with the growth of the internet we are expecting a greater degree of interactivity with our visualizations. We even expect to have control over how the visualizations progress and what data is included. It's also good to know your audience and what they are used to seeing and analyzing.
- Think of colors you are using and preconceptions of the color in the context is important. For example currently with political visualizations red and blue indicate specific political meanings.
- Additionally you should take into account color blindness. Websites that can provide tips on finding the right colors schemes all can read include: [Color Brewer 2.0](#), [Color Oracle](#), and [HCL Wizard](#)

**Coffee Chat**  
**August 8, Staghorn Café**

**Apple Picking**  
**September 22, Triple B Farms**



Photo credit: Jennie Crowley

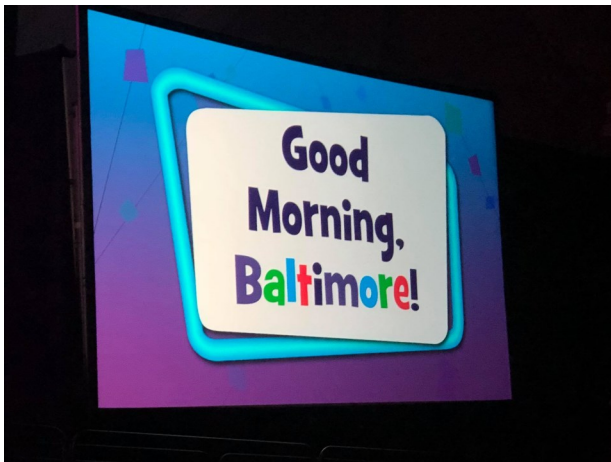
## SLA 2018 Annual Conference Photos



Clockwise from top left: Ryan Splenda and Kiera Mudry, Dr. Carla Hayden, Baltimore welcome, 2018 Info-Expo



Photo credits: Kiera Mudry



## Stay Connected! Pittsburgh Chapter Social

Connect with chapter news and events by joining the [SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Facebook Group](#) and by following the chapter on Twitter [@slapittsburgh](#)

For more ways to stay up-to-date with the chapter, be sure to use [SLA Connect](#) for chapter conversations and visit the [SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Website](#) for information including issues of the [Confluence](#) and [chapter meeting minutes](#).

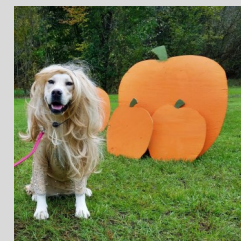


Photo credit: Brooke Hyatt

## In Memoriam: Helen Pollis

### By: Denise Callihan

Helen Pollis, beloved sister of Ange, passed away peacefully on May 31, 2018. To those of you who know Ange, you also knew Helen. She was an adopted member of our Pittsburgh Chapter, having attended many of our programs over the years as well as attending annual conferences when she was able. Earl Mounts always said that Helen needed to provide a class on how to network and walk the Expo Hall because of how she interacted with vendors and members. This was one of her many gifts and how she lived her life.

She truly was someone who everyone knew, but not just because of her smile or gift of gab, but because she genuinely cared and listened. Large companies not necessarily known for individual customer attention, paid that personal attention to Helen.

I enjoyed her Italian cooking, benefitted from her gardening skills, and was even drawn into the beading craze because of her (I bought so many beads thinking I could come close to designing something as striking as Helen's creations, but always fell short). I was honored to be her friend, and more than that, she was family. The Pittsburgh Chapter misses her dearly.



Ange and Helen at the 2004 Nashville Conference



Helen and Ange working at a conference booth, with Mary Lee Richner



Celebrating our 95<sup>th</sup> Chapter Anniversary event in September 2017. (Table right Helen, Ange Pollis, Kim Gregory, left, Denise Callihan, Brian Steinmetz, Nancy Carlson, Alan Kennedy)

Photo Credit: Alyssa Troyan of Loveplace Photography



Happy times with Mary Lee Richner, Ange Pollis, Unknown Manager of Nashville Restaurant who insisted on giving us Limocello because of the Pollis sisters, Helen Pollis, Mary, Lynn Berard

Photo Credits: Denise Callihan

## News and Links from SLA:

Unit Highlights Video: Pittsburgh Chapter highlights begin around 2:55

SLA Awards nominations open until Thursday, February 14

Information Outlook: SLA's bimonthly magazine

2019 SLA Leadership Symposium,  
January 20-22, 2019, Cleveland, OH

[pittsburgh.sla.org](http://pittsburgh.sla.org)

**The Confluence** is the newsletter of the *Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter*. The next issue will be published in **Winter 2018**. Article submission deadline is TBA. Please contact Brooke Hyatt ([brookehyatt@gmail.com](mailto:brookehyatt@gmail.com)) and Leslie Poljak ([lesliepoljak@gmail.com](mailto:lesliepoljak@gmail.com)) co-editors, with any submissions, issues or concerns relating to the newsletter.

## What's Trending at SLA:



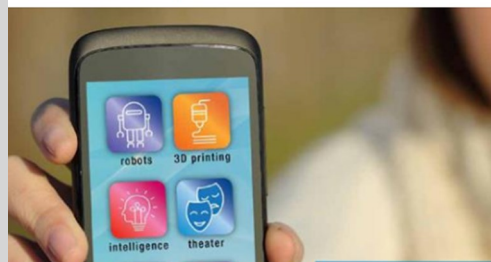
Click the Pictures for More  
Information



Special Libraries Association (SLA)

July 23 · 🌐

Remember when Steve Jobs said the Apple iPod would put 1,000 songs in your pocket? Angela McKane did—and she used a variation of that pitch to convince executives at BP to let her team create an app that would ultimately replace the company's physical library. Read her article in the May-June issue of Information Outlook: [https://www.sla.org/putting-a-thousand-articles-in-your-po...](https://www.sla.org/putting-a-thousand-articles-in-your-po.../)



SLA.ORG

Putting a Thousand Articles in Your Pocket - Special Libraries Association



SLA 🌐 @SLAhq · Sep 20

Congratulations to the 2019 SLA Board of Directors! Thank you to all of the candidates for their dedication to the association and desire to serve SLA at the board level. #SLAers #SLABOD #Vote



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