



Newsletter of the Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter

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Spring 2015

2015 President's Message – Leslie Eibl

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Winter. With Spring now in full bloom, I'm happy to say goodbye to record setting low temperatures and am welcoming the change in scenery to blooming flowers and sunshine. This past Winter has been eventful for our Chapter with this year's first board meeting in February and an event at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in March. I'm looking forward to working with our board and members this year towards the initiatives outlined in our [strategic plan](#) to increase member engagement and outreach.

Despite the cold this past January, I was excited to be able to attend my first SLA Leadership Summit in Baltimore, MD. The summit lasted two days, from January 22-23, and I spent my time there attending sessions ranging from "SLA 101" to "Strategic Thinking". Of significant importance was a "Moving SLA Forward" meeting highlighting information relating to SLA's change



Think Spring! Credit: Brooke Hyatt

consultants and the 8 tasks with which they have been appointed to help lead the association forward in the future. More information about the consultants and their initiatives can be found on the [Key Board Initiatives](#) page by viewing the Change Consultants' updates and SLA Board of Director meeting minutes. (Continued on page 7)

Welcome, New Chapter Members!

January

February

March

April

Lorraine Gess
Larissa Dean

Rachel Shaw

Nicholas Clements

Samantha Cabo

The SLA membership directory is available online. To access this, [login](#) and select [Pittsburgh Chapter](#) as the unit.

Barbour Library Tour- Carrie Wardzinski

Our chapter's first program of the 2015 year was held on March 16 at the Barbour Library of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Darlene Veghts, interim director the library, graciously agreed to host us for the evening. We had a total of twenty members and guests in attendance. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). While the seminary can trace its roots back to 1794, the current campus - which is located on the border of East Liberty and Highland Park - was established in 1959. The library quickly outgrew its original space on the campus and the Clifford E. Barbour Library opened in 1964.

The evening started with a tour of the library. During this tour, we were able to see the general collection, which boasts about 300,000 physical volumes and over 800 periodical subscriptions. This collection is considered to be one of the best and most comprehensive collections of its kind in the Tri-State area. We were also afforded the opportunity to see some of the special collections and rare items that the library houses. These included the Warrington Collection which consists of British and Early American hymnals, and also a rare book written by and signed by John Adams that had just been uncovered by the archivist that very day!



A great turnout of students and members for the event.

Credit: Leslie Eibl



A look at Special Collections. *Credit: Leslie Eibl*

We then went upstairs for a brief video presentation about the history of the seminary. The director also discussed the future of the library, which includes an extensive renovation project. The renovation will cost approximately \$11,000,000. It is tentatively slated to begin in the fall of 2015, and will take approximately 16 to 18 months to complete. The entire inside of the building will be updated, including the mechanical and electrical systems, the plumbing, windows, floors, stacks, and furnishings. However, this renovation, while needed, presents a unique challenge to the library staff. All of the collections – the circulating collection, the reference collection, the special collections, the periodicals, and the rare books – will need to be packed up and moved to off-site storage for the duration of the

renovation. This is because there is no place on campus large enough to hold everything for the interim. This also means that the collections may not be accessible during this time. The staff plan to rely heavily on other collections in the area and Interlibrary Loan to provide resources to the students and faculty. *(continued on page 7)*

Promising Professional – Chris Heil

Congratulations to Carrie Wardzinski, the recipient of the Chapter's 2015 Promising Professional Award. Carrie was nominated for a variety of reasons. "Carrie has shown great dedication as our current employment chair, and her willingness to retain that role as she begins her president-elect year shows her commitment to the chapter" and "She has done an exemplary job compiling and distributing job listings to members via the list serv..." "She has been an active participant during Board meetings, offering suggestions and representing the views of the recent graduates and new library professionals..."

Carrie is employed as an Information Specialist with PPG Industries, working with the Specialty Coatings and Materials, Glass, Fiberglass, and Architectural Coatings groups. Carrie completed her MLIS at the University of Pittsburgh, and in 2012 she joined the Special Libraries Association, the Pittsburgh chapter and served as the president of the Pitt student group (SLA-PSG) in the Fall semester. She volunteered to serve as the Pittsburgh Chapter's employment chair when Karen Liljequist moved to Rochester, NY in 2013. Carrie presently serves as the President-Elect of our Chapter, responsible for program and event planning (and she still compiles and distributes the employment info!) Carrie attended the SLA Annual Conference in Chicago as a student.



Her prophetic words in the Summer/Fall 2012 issue of the CONFLUENCE article "First-timer's thoughts" include these: "... I plan to continue attending SLA in the future and can't wait to return as a practicing member of the profession." The Promising Professional Award will help her do just that.

Have a great time in Boston, Carrie!

Upcoming Event: An Evening with Courtney Young



Courtney Young, 2015-2014 ALA President
Credit: Penn State Directory

Please join the Pittsburgh Chapter and the Pitt Student Group of SLA on Thursday, May 28 for an evening with Courtney Young. Courtney will be talking about the state of libraries in the United States, and also how special librarians fit into the larger librarian and information professional picture. The event will be held in the meeting space of the third floor at the University of Pittsburgh's iSchool. There will be a dine-around before the program. Please **RSVP** for this event by May 26, 2015 if you are interested in attending.

Courtney is Head Librarian and Professor of Women's Studies at Pennsylvania State University, Greater Allegheny Campus located in McKeesport. She has been involved in numerous activities with ALA, including the Executive Board, the Awards Committee, and the ALA-APA Fundraising Committee. She was also named a Mover and Shaker in 2011 by Library Journal. Courtney holds a B.A. in English from the College of Wooster in Ohio and an MLS from Simmons College.

Make Boston Your next SLA Destination—Donna Beck & Lynn Berard

Are you planning to attend SLA 2015, June 14 to 16? We hope so, but if you are uncertain, let us tease you into making that plane reservation (tip: JetBlue is very inexpensive), and before you know it you will be networking with fellow professionals while enjoying all that the exciting city of Boston has to offer!

The pictures below were taken by Donna and her daughter Brandy (a Boston area resident), and they have graciously shared them with us. While there are many activities and sights to see while visiting the city and its surroundings, we've chosen just a few to get you going, with descriptions and details provided. Enjoy...got questions, just give us a jingle and we'll help you out in making that smart decision to join us in this amazing city.

For all kinds of awesome information links, please refer to SLA's website. <http://boston2015.sla.org> Our SLA New England Chapter colleagues have done a marvelous job of introducing us to the exciting city of Boston and the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the other Commonwealth).



Swans in Common(s)

Established in 1837 with the funding of philanthropist Horace Gray, Boston Park became the first botanical garden in the US. The 24 acres were once a salt marsh. Construction began in 1860 on the property, with the lake being finished that year and the wrought iron fence surrounding the perimeter erected in 1862. Today the garden lake has a small island on its north side and is laden with flower gardens, statues, fountains and many paths to wander.

<http://swanboats.com/take-a-ride>

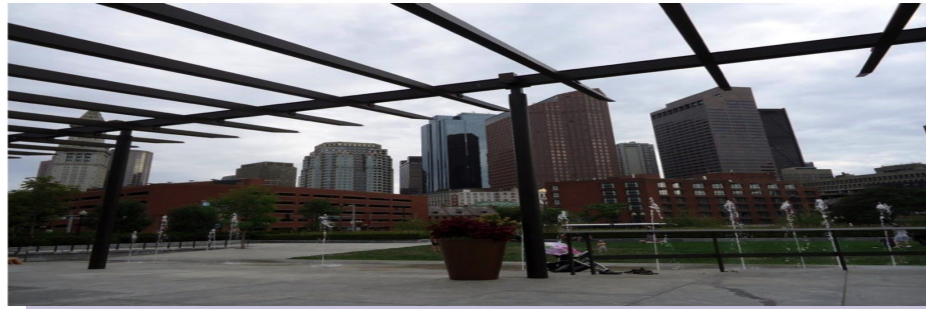
Boston Links:

For more information about Boston:

[The Rose F Kennedy Greenway](#)

[5 Reasons to Visit the North End](#)

[Mike's Pastry](#)



View of Downtown Boston from the North End

A short walk from the Convention Center area, the North End sports six parks for visitors to enjoy! Fountains, a porch area, and a canal are just a few options to take in all the parks have to offer. Formal gardens abound and did you know that early June is the perfect time to see the gardens' roses bloom? Don't miss this opportunity to take a break from conference activity to catch your breath and re-energize yourself!

Boston links to the left provide all the information you will need to locate, relax, stroll and enjoy all the wonderful eateries in this area known as Little Italy. Whatever you decide for your free time, cap off your day with dinner at ANY restaurant in Little Italy. A couple of favorites: L'Osteria and Café Florentine. What about cappuccinos you say? Try Caffè dello Sport... Bei tempi!

View of Historic Schooner from Spectacle Island

You are going to get tired walking around all the historic places to see in Boston. What's great about the Freedom trail is that you choose the amount of time you want to spend and where you want to go.

<http://www.thefreedomtrail.org/>.

After visiting the Paul Revere house, historic churches and cemeteries, learn more Boston tidbits from a ride on the Duck tour—always a favorite. Or if you really want a fast change of pace and the weather is warm enough, sign up for a

Codzilla. Ride: <http://www.bostonharborcruises.com/codzilla/>, a speed boat tour of the harbor is on my (Donna's) bucket list!

The harbor is always a great place to explore, either on land or water. No charge to pass by and view the exhibit of Atlantic Harbor seals outside the New England Aquarium. Get some New England clam chowder at the nearby Legal Seafoods restaurant.

The Boston Harbor is gateway to the Boston Harbor Islands. <http://www.nps.gov/boha/learn/historyculture/facts-intro.htm> I've been to two of them: Spectacle Island—cool views of Boston and Georges Island—a spooky walk through historic Fort Warren.



Boston: what a fun place to visit!

Shadow a Leader – Leslie Eibl

Have you ever thought about becoming more involved with SLA Pittsburgh? Are you looking for some leadership experience? Not sure about the roles and responsibilities of a chapter board member or committee chair?

Shadow a member!

This Spring the SLA Pittsburgh chapter has open opportunities for members and student members to shadow a chapter board member or committee chair. If you're interested, or even remotely interested in learning more about the work involved in these positions, I encourage you to participate by shadowing a member of the chapter board. The time commitment is no longer than two hours and can be as simple as meeting a member for a cup of coffee and discussing their role in the chapter to hands-on experience in chapter areas.

Still not sure? Below are some testimonials from chapter members about how being a chapter leader has helped them:

“ There is no greater gift to yourself and others than to carve out time to volunteer for your professional association. You win by honing your skills (public speaking, advocacy, leadership, giving back) and all those whose careers you invest in and inspire will return the favor by seeking successful and meaningful careers for themselves. If that is not sexy, what is? (Lynn Berard)

I have benefited in so many ways through my association with SLA Pittsburgh. Aside from being able to reach out to fellow members when I have a work related question or topic, the professional development skills learned and the relationships made while volunteering and serving the chapter, continue to support me every day in my “regular” job! In fact, I include this activity on my yearly goal statement at work, to make my manager aware of the types of activities I’m involved in within our community...it proves that membership in this association has meaning. (Denise Callihan)

If you'd like to shadow or meet with a member, please contact Leslie Eibl at leslieeibl@gmail.com with any committee names or leadership roles that may be of interest to you. Opportunities include shadowing the employment chair, learning more about the awards committee and alternative careers for library professionals. A full list of committees and board positions can be found on the [Chapter Leader](#) page.

Chapter Member News

Carrie Wardzinski was recently hired as a full-time, permanent employee of PPG Industries as an information specialist. She started on January 5th, 2015 after working in as a contract information specialist for PPG for the previous seven months. She works at the Monroeville and Harmar locations.

Prior to working for PPG, she was employed as an assistant librarian for Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA.

(President's Message, continued from page 1)

One of the most memorable conversations I had while at the Leadership Summit was with a former chapter member who was excited to learn that I was a member of the Pittsburgh Chapter. If I remember her words correctly, she exclaimed, "Everything I learned about librarianship, I learned from the Pittsburgh Chapter!" I've heard similar statements to this at past conferences and I think this is something to be celebrated and is at the core of our work as a chapter. To continue our chapter's culture of learning and mentorship, I encourage our members to continue to grow professionally by shadowing a chapter board member or committee chair this year. More information about this initiative is detailed in the Shadow a Member article.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Spring and Summer and hope to see you at a future meeting!



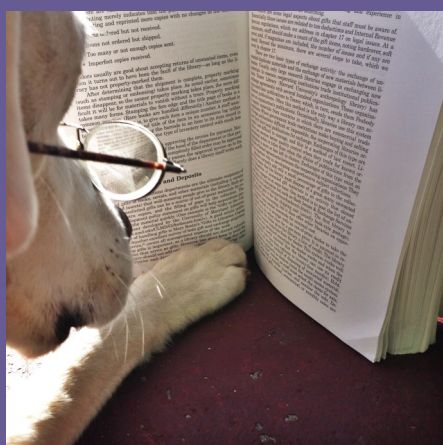
SLA Leadership Summit Credit: Leslie Eibl

SLA CAREER CENTER

www.sla.org/careers

Find the right job in your industry!

- Post resumes
- Search for jobs
- Career Advice
- Useful Resources



Credit: Brooke Hyatt

(Barbour Library Tour, continued from page 2)

The evening ended on a high note. The curator of the Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology, Karen Bowden Cooper, came in specially to open up the museum for the evening to our group. The museum is adjacent to the library on campus. She gave a short presentation about the history of the museum and opened up the session for questions and comments. Our group then had time to look at the artifacts housed in the museum. There were an astounding numbers of artifacts on display, and even more waiting to be processed in their storage area.

The evening was incredibly informative and interesting. For those who are interested in history or theology, it was doubly so! Our hosts were warm and welcoming. If you missed this program, I would encourage you to take the time to tour the library and the museum. They are two of western Pennsylvania's hidden gems.

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pittsburgh.sla.org

The Confluence is the newsletter of the *Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter*. The next issue will be published in **FALL 2015**. Article submission deadline is TBA. Please contact Brooke Hyatt (brookehyatt@gmail.com) and Leslie Eibl (leslieeibl@gmail.com) co-editors, with any submissions, issues or concerns relating to the newsletter.



2015 Annual Conference Boston

June 14-16

- ◆ Unparalleled networking opportunities with thousands of information professional.
- ◆ The latest technologies from leading industry partners, all under one roof in the INFO-EXPO Hall!
- ◆ Keynote speaker Leigh Gallagher, Assistant Managing Editor at Fortune magazine.

See more at: <http://www.sla.org/attend/2015-annual-conference/#sthash.66TuDYqu.dpuf>

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