



The Confluence

Newsletter of the Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter

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Winter 2017

2017 Outgoing President's Message

This is my final message as president of the Pittsburgh Chapter. I am currently riding into that glorious sunset called "past-president" after serving for two years as president-elect and one year as president. We have a lot to be proud of as a chapter, and I wanted to share a few statistics, a few thank-yous, and a few parting thoughts with all of you. In 2017:

- ◇ We had over 50% of our members attend at least one program.
- ◇ We added four new members, including a former member. (Welcome back, Nancy Flury Carlson!)
- ◇ Unfortunately we also lost an involved member of our chapter. Christine Slippy passed away unexpectedly. Our chapter donated \$250, with a \$250 match, to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in her memory.
- ◇ We had eight chapter members attend SLA in Phoenix, including our Promising Professional Olivia Glotfelty. And for those of you who were not there, it was so warm that there was a mad rush to get on a plane and out of Phoenix before the planes were grounded due to heat.
- ◇ We had a terrific turn-out and a lot of fun with Rick Sebak in July. Nancy Carlson pretty much beat EVERYONE who attended at trivia.
- ◇ We celebrated our 95th year in September with 34 former and current members attending a dinner, including every single member of the Pittsburgh Chapter that has won a national award.

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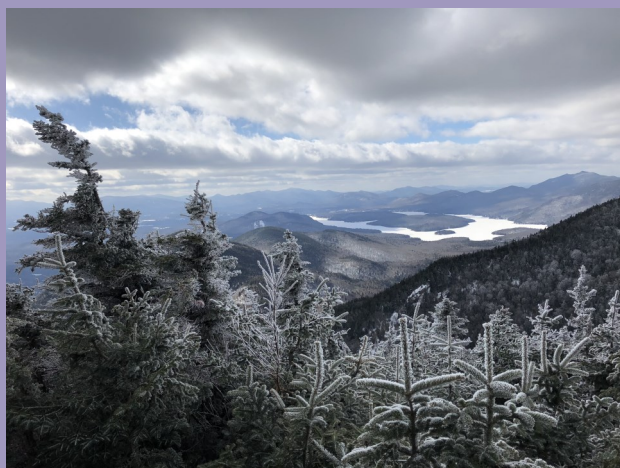
The SLA membership directory is available online. You will need to log in and select Pittsburgh chapter as the unit.

Welcome New Chapter Members!

Marita Johnson

Kristi King

Nyri Bakkalian



(continued from page 1)

As my final act as president, I want to thank a few people. First, the Board: I couldn't have done this without you all. So many emails, so many text messages, so much planning. Leslie was my guidance on so many things over the last three years: programs, how to fill out forms, precedent, procedure. Ryan planned great programs this entire year, and his enthusiasm for everything is contagious. Jennie really took charge of the Treasurer position and has served two consecutive terms willingly. She has straightened out our books, she managed to avoid a phishing attempt that has been prevalent among unit treasurers within SLA, and she has always responded quickly to any question I have regarding our funds. Liz took on the secretary role immediately and jumped in with both feet. And she did it, much like Jennie, with a baby at home. It is difficult to take on something new like this when your world has already been turned upside down. And Denise, our director, who has taken on so many roles within our chapter, was there to provide guidance, fill in information gaps, do whatever needed to be done, and generally encourage me.

I also need to recognize two others publicly – Donna Beck, our archivist, and Rachel Callison,

our web master. Donna has stepped down as archivist but I want to thank her for her years of service in this role. She took on and accomplished a few big projects related to our archives, including donating parts of our archives to Pitt and coordinating the digitization of them. Rachel has stepped down as web master and I want to thank her for her years of service as well. She has suffered through numerous and ridiculous projects from SLA HQ, most of which never went anywhere but still took a lot of time and energy on her part. She actively sought answers from HQ through the years.

“...it has been fun, I have learned a lot, and met a lot of great people while in this role.”

Finally, I want to thank the chapter. First, you trusted this librarian early in her career with no real leadership experience to be your president. Some of the things I wanted to accomplish worked out, and others never came to fruition. But it has been fun, I have learned a lot, and met a lot of great people while in this role. So thank you so much for giving me this opportunity and experience.



Page 2 Photo Credits: Brooke Hyatt

Q&A with 2018 Chapter President Ryan Splenda

Favorite SLA moment:

I would have to say that I have two favorite SLA moments. The first was experiencing my first SLA Annual Conference in 2016 in the City of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia, PA. Getting to network with experienced professionals in this setting for the first time was something that I will remember for the rest of my professional career. The second was the SLA Pittsburgh Chapter's 95th Anniversary event held in September of 2017. I am a sucker for all things history, and was profoundly touched when celebrating our Chapter's accomplishments with some of our legendary members.

Favorite part of your job:

The best part of my job is when I get to visit the classroom and teach students about the various methodological approaches involved with doing business/market research. There is usually that "lightbulb" moment when students understand how this type of approach will help them in their class assignments, but also in their professional careers after graduation. I view myself as an educator, and the teaching component of my job is where I see the most impact and value for our students.

Least favorite part of your job:

As a constant worrier, the least favorite part of my job is annual review time. I'm always stressing over what I have been able to accomplish over the year in order to prove my value to the library, as well as Carnegie Mellon.

Goal for the coming year:

One of my main goals for the year is to help build on the increased engagement that we were able to accomplish with our SLA Pittsburgh Chapter members this past year. On a personal note, my fiancée, Ashley, and I are getting married this year. So, another goal is that our wedding goes smoothly and that all involved have a wonderful time!



Photos credit; Ryan Splenda

First Library Job:

My first post-graduation library job was as Production Manager & Research Librarian for a company called Behavioral Measurement Database Services in Pittsburgh, PA. I actually created this position. I was mainly responsible for the production of the Health and Psychosocial Instruments (HaPI) database, a bibliographic database that focuses on the use of instruments and questionnaires in the medical and psychological literature.

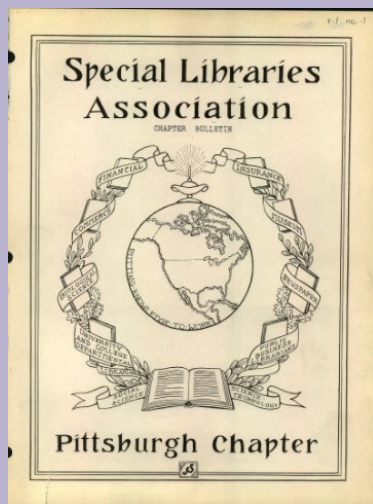
Last Book Read:

I'm a big horror/thriller fan. The last book I read was *In the Woods* by Tana French. I try to read multiple books at a time and am currently working on *Pink Floyd All the Songs: The Story Behind Every Track* (Philippe Margotin), *The Winter People* (Jennifer McMahon), and *Nightmare Movies: A Critical Guide to Contemporary Horror Films* (Kim Newman).

What made you want to become a Librarian?

I have always been a big fan of information in all of its forms, and am a big believer in the motto, "information is power." So, in my very biased opinion, what profession could be any better where the ultimate goal is connecting people with information than librarianship? This is ultimately why I decided to become a librarian.

Chapter Bulletin Archives Now Available Online!



[SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 1](#)

The SLA *Pittsburgh Chapter Bulletin* and *The Pointer* beginning, November 1933 through 1997, are now accessible online from the [Historic Pittsburgh](#) site. Please feel free to use the links below to explore our chapter's rich history!

[The Pittsburgh Chapter Bulletin 1933– 1988](#)

[The Pointer 1988—1997](#)

[The Confluence 1998– present on the SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Website](#)

A special thanks goes out to chapter members Donna Beck and Olivia Glotfelty for their work in carrying out this project and the Archives Service Center at Pitt for providing the necessary tools for scanning and making these bulletins available digitally.

2018 Leadership Symposium Reflections– Carrie Wardzinski

I never had a chance to attend the old Summit, but I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend the reimagined Leadership Symposium. If you are in any sort of leadership position within SLA, I highly encourage you to attend in the upcoming years. This year's symposium involved:

- ◇ Learning about the various leadership styles. An outside speaker - Jay Younger - led the day-long workshop, where we primarily focused on strengths, using the StrengthsFinder 2.0 typology test. (In case you are wondering, my strengths are Ideation, Learner, Intellection, Individualization, and Analytical.)
- ◇ Discussing how individuals manage change - are they conservative, are they pragmatic, or are they aggressive about change. This was probably the most eye-opening exercise for me - to realize that all three types are needed. I was on the aggressive side, ready to blow everything up and start over. It's good that we have some conservers and pragmatists in our chapter to balance out my radical ways ;-)
- ◇ Learning the ins and outs of SLA, with sessions on governance, finance, engagement, and the future plans of the association.
- ◇ Asking questions and exchanging ideas on how to get sponsorships, engage members, and succession planning.

We also heard a bit about what the management association (Amy Burke, Mike Rosenberg, Will Sweet, etc.) plans to do on their side too. Reaching out to library schools, identifying potential members, changing deadlines to accommodate units, and doing more of the heavy planning and administrative work so we can focus on programming and networking are just a few of the things that were discussed. We also learned that the organization is solvent overall, and that we gained 81 new members in January 2018.

Carrie's full Leadership Symposium update was sent via Connect on February 9, 2018

Annual Chapter Meeting– Olivia Glotfelty

On a chilly evening in December, SLA Pittsburgh Chapter members from near and far gathered together for the Annual Business Meeting and Cookie Exchange. The event was graciously hosted by Carnegie Mellon University, in the lovely meeting space at the Sorrells Engineering & Science Library.

After pizza and refreshments were served, the business meeting commenced. At the end of the agenda, Carrie Wardzinski reflected on her time as President and offered a brief summary of chapter events and happenings throughout 2017. Carrie also recognized and thanked several people, including Donna Beck, who retired after a long tenure as the chapter's archivist.

After the business and awards portion of the meeting finished, the cookie exchange began! Attendees shared and swapped delicious holiday cookies and treats. The meeting was well-attended and well-received. It was a wonderful way to conclude the celebration of the Pittsburgh Chapter's 95th year and kick-off an exciting 2018.



Chapter Awards—Margarete Bower



Page 4 photo credits: Leslie Poljak

Congratulations to **Ryan Splenda** for receiving the Publishing/Authorship award during the 2017 Pittsburgh Chapter Annual Awards Meeting and Ceremony. Ryan received the award for publication of his first peer-reviewed journal article: *Venturing forth: Venture capital and private equity information in academic business libraries published in the Journal of Finance and Business Librarianship*, Volume 22, Issue 3-4, 2 October 2017, pp. 208-221. Ryan was the lead author, and his co-author is M. E. Barnhart from the University of Pennsylvania.

Olivia Glotfelty, winner of the 2017 Promising Professional award, was also honored with a chapter award certificate.

Annual Student Pizza Party -Leslie Poljak

SLA Pittsburgh Chapter hosted the ALA student group for a night of resume and job preparations on November 30, 2017 in the 3rd Floor Collaboration Space of Pitt's School of Computing & Information.

The evening began with a presentation on tips and trends for resume preparation and an exercise on creating an elevator speech. After pizza and a presentation, student attendees completed 7 rounds of resume speed dating. Each student spent a few minutes with chapter members receiving resume feedback from chapter information professionals in many areas of librarianship including corporate, academic, and law, with an almost even student to member ration.

A special thanks goes out to Denise Callihan and Lynn Berard for putting this event together and all of the ALA Student Chapter attendees! As one attendee noted, "everyone I talked to thought it was great and many said it was by far the most fun they had ever had at a resume event."



Photo credits: Leslie Poljak

Upcoming Webinar:

Blockchain Technology Webinar: Hosted by SLA Philadelphia & Pittsburgh Chapters

Tuesday, March 27 12-1 PM EST

Find out what all the talk is about in the information professional world and join SLA Philadelphia and Pittsburgh for a webinar on Blockchain Technology. Our knowledgeable speakers will teach you about blockchain technology and share what it can be used for in libraries, archives, information centers and more!

Speakers include Eliezer Kanal, a technical manager at CERT, focused on applying machine learning techniques to the cybersecurity domain and Dr. Sue Alman and Dr. Sandy Hirsh from SJSU, the principal investigators on the Blockchain project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

[Click here to register for this FREE webinar](#)

*Libraries in the News:***WWII Enigma Machines Added to CMU Libraries Collection**

Shannon Riffe, Director of Marketing & Communications, Carnegie Mellon University Libraries

WWII Enigma machines have found a home at the Carnegie Mellon University Libraries, thanks to the generosity of author Pamela McCorduck, wife of the late CMU Computer Science Department Head Joseph Traub.

Totalling more than 50 calculating machines, letters and books, the collection contains important items in the history of computing. Included are two Enigma machines, electro-mechanical rotor cipher machines used to encrypt communication. Most notably, they were used by Nazi Germany to protect military communication during World War II. With this gift, which includes one 4-rotor machine and one 3-rotor machine, CMU becomes one of a handful

of American institutions to own an Enigma machine.



Photo credit: Shannon Riffe

[Read more about this gift and view slideshow.](#)

**What's trending at SLA?**

Click the pictures for more information!



SLA @SLAhq · Jan 29

#SLAers attending the @SLAhq Leadership Symposium share their top 3 talents. What are your talents? #sla2018 @slapittsburgh



1 4 7



SLA @SLAhq · Feb 7

In the past few years, online journalism has lost a number of important voices. Now, @FreedomofPress and @internetarchive are taking steps to keep the archives of these publications online. Read more: bit.ly/2BIX8CO #infopros

**Nonprofits Take Steps to Protect Shuttered News Sites**

The Internet Archive and Freedom of the Press Foundation are working together to archive digital news outlets threatened by legal or ownership ... associationsnow.com

13 30

2018 SLA Annual Conference June 9-13 | Baltimore, MD

Early Bird Registration Ends March 30, 2018



Photo credit: sla.org

pittsburgh.sla.org

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

Conference Features Include:

- Keynote speaker Dr. Carla Hyden, Librarian of Congress
- Redesigned conference schedule with less distance between conference events
- Varying levels of sessions for everyone including fundamental, intermediate, and master

More information available at the [Conference Website](#)



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