

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John DiGilio

Looking Forward to a New Year

It is hard to believe that autumn is upon us. To say that the year has flown by would only understate the obvious. The first two meetings of our new season are behind us and we are already preparing for November's student party. Where do the days go? It seems like just yesterday that we were holding elections and announcing our award winners. It certainly was quite a year! I guess it gives definite credence to the saying that time flies when you are having fun.

It is my goal to bring you another year steeped in that same combined spirit of fellowship and scholarship that has marked our recent administrations. To say that I have some big shoes to fill would be an understatement. Yet I am thankful to have the combined wisdom of so many past Chapter leaders to guide me. It is in their honor and with great excitement that I now share my platform and vision with you.

My central themes are going to be OUTREACH and what I would like to call, humor me here, INREACH.

OUTREACH:

To our community: The Consultations Committee came to life last year under Kim's administration as President and thanks to Denise's drive as its Chair. Kim began the process of seeking funding for and making a push towards advertising who we are and what we can do for area businesses. This initiative will continue. Our visibility has been rising in recent years and we will not stop until the businesses and other organizations in this region know that such a fine resource exists here and understands the importance and power of a special library.

To our partners: Our Chapter has been incredibly fortunate over these last few years to have had so many vendors and other organizations take an interest in what we do and offer their support and participation. This too will continue. If seeking the support or participation of vendors or other groups will increase the value of an event to our members, you can bet that we will be working hard to involve the interested parties. Working with other groups of information professionals in our area is not only excellent for networking and forging professional relationships, it gives us a certain strength that can only be found in numbers. Because of this, we accomplish more and we accomplish it better. Look for more partnering in 2002 and 2003!

To our students: Students are the future of our profession and of our Association. They are tomorrow's special librarians as well our future Chapter leaders. As practicing professionals, we are their best resources for real-life insight, information, and exposure to the field of special librarianship. We have a lot that we can offer each other. We can certainly benefit from their enthusiasm and new professional idealism. We can aid them as mentors, advisers, and even as potential intern supervisors. We have two wonderful student chapters right here in our region, at Clarion and at Pitt. One of my goals is to bring more students to our meetings and other events. We are going to continue the push to develop a mentoring program. In addition, I am inaugurating an internship network of area employers and other area associations of information professionals. It is a tall order, but I know we can do this.

Now notice that I have not yet talked about outreach to you, our members. You have the single most integral role in achieving another successful year for our Chapter and the attainment of the goals I have outlined above. In my mind, this is not outreach. Outreach is about extending a hand to those on the outside. You my friends are not outsiders. You are the lifeblood and organs that keep this Chapter alive. We need your time, we need your support, and we need your enthusiasm. Reaching out to you is INREACH!

INREACH:

Our Membership Committee just completed its survey. We are going to put the results to good use. Our members have spoken and we are going to listen. Beyond the survey, we need to know what we can do to serve you, to keep your interest and to get you involved. I ask you to help us to do that – help us to make this Chapter the very best organization that it can be. Help us to tailor the 2002-2003 year to you and your needs as special librarians.

When I assumed the role as President of this wonderful Chapter, I promised myself that this would be another year that would pass in the blink of an eye. That is not to say that I am hoping for a speedy end to my term of office. Rather, it is my hope that the Executive Committees and I have put together another fantastic slate of programming and activities. If we have done our jobs well, it will be all too soon before I am writing the last of my Presidential columns.

FROM THE EDITOR

By Earl Mounts

I always get a rush when I start composing the new issue of the Confluence because it reminds me continually of the great creative talent we have in our Chapter. This first issue of the 2002-2003 season highlights President John's vigorous Outreach Program as well as his innovative Inreach initiative, and both will continue the aggressive approaches to Chapter vitality initiated by our recent past Presidents. With an emphasis on student support, Ange Pollis describes the Internship program at Pitt, John outlines the Chapter's Mentor Program, and Lynn Berard provides leads to important Web and people resources for students

I want to thank all of you who contributed to this issue - John DiGilio, Ange Pollis, Lynn Berard, Rosalie Shapiro, Kim Gregory, Lynn Labun -- and I encourage all members of the Pittsburgh Chapter to send me news.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Pittsburgh Magazine and WQED have named our President, **John DiGilio**, one of this year's "40 Under 40". Each year, Pittsburgh Magazine publishes a special issue to recognize 40 people under 40 who make the region a better place to live, work, and play. John was nominated for his many community, professional, and diversity-oriented activities. There will be a celebration to honor this year's winners on the evening of November 8, 2002, in the Regional Enterprise Tower. More information about the award can be found at <http://www.wqed.org/>.

Earl Mounts, our Bulletin Editor, will be honored on November 19, 2002, the 50th Anniversary of the Alcoa Foundation, with a \$1,000 grant in his name to the Alle-Kiski Learning Center (<http://akvalley.com/aklc/>). Earl was chosen as one of 50 from among Alcoa's 29,000 employees worldwide to receive this award. The award is given in recognition of Earl's "spirit and energy in helping Alcoa to be the best company in the world by being the best company in

the community". Earl helps adults enhance their math and language skills at the Learning Center located in Arnold, PA.

The Fall 2002 issue of CMU's Graduate Times features a great column by **Lynn Berard** on Research Tips in Science Libraries (p.5). It's available online at <http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/~gsa/thegradtimes/2002-Fall-Grad-Times.pdf>. Thanks to **Lynn Labun** for telling us about this article.

CANDIDATES VISIT CHAPTER

For the first time in the history of our Chapter, both candidates for President of SLA International came to Pittsburgh to discuss the development of their careers and issues facing the Association. At this critical time in SLA's evolution, we are very fortunate to be able to share time with these two remarkably successful librarians. Ethel M. Salonen, Manager of External Content at Millennium Pharmaceuticals, attended our first Dinner Meeting organized by Brian Steinmetz on September 17. In addition to discussing her own professional life cycle, Ethel extended the model to SLA's organizational life cycle. Doris Helfer, Science Librarian, California State University Northridge, was the key speaker at our first Professional Development Program held October 28 and organized by Jan Deitch. Doris emphasized the importance of strategic vision in developing and accomplishing your career objectives. For more information on the candidates' activities in SLA, go to the SLA Website at www.sla.org. And remember that you must vote in this year's election to assure the continued positive evolution of our Association.

FIELD PLACEMENTS AND INTERNSHIPS

By Ange Pollis

The University of Pittsburgh School of Information Science has an active program in field placement and internships in the Masters Degree program in Library and Information Science. The objective of the program is to provide experience to the student in a working environment, a library or information center. Supervision is provided by a trained librarian at the working site. This program provides the student an opportunity to apply the skills, methodologies, and theories presented in their academic course work. In return, the site supervisor benefits by utilizing the skills and knowledge of the student to accomplish special projects, to help answer reference questions, and to assist with other library functions.

A field placement is worth 3 credits/150 hours of supervised professional work at no cost to your organization; however, internships are paid positions. Suggested types of projects to consider for a student are:

- Provide reference/instruction services
- Design and maintain Web pages
- Plan marketing programs
- Develop a special collection or Catalog special collections/media
- Prepare Web and print resource guides for technology, law, and other areas
- Learn and participate in the daily operations of a Library/Information Center

During this past year, Ange Pollis has been appointed Field Placement/ Internship Advisor to coordinate the program for the students in the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program. Several students have expressed interest in doing field placements/internships in special libraries. If you are interested in participating in the program, please contact me for specific details. This is a great opportunity to look at your wish list of special projects or having

an extra reference librarian or cataloger on staff. You can reach me by email at a.pollis@worldnet.att.net (412-856-8386). Feedback from both the students and the supervisors has indicated that the program offers a worthwhile experience. If you have any questions, please contact me. I'm available to find the perfect match for your library/information center.

FOR AND ABOUT STUDENTS

By Lynn Berard

Welcome Students!

The Special Libraries Association, and especially the Pittsburgh Chapter of SLA, welcomes all students to join our association. Special librarians are information experts dedicated to putting knowledge to work to attain the goals of their organizations. We would love to have you join us for dinner meetings and professional development events. We can help prepare you for an exciting professional career. Come and join us! For the 2002-2003 academic year, I am your student liaison and I would love to hear from you. We are planning to host resume critiques and interview role-playing practice, so watch for notices of upcoming events. Let us assist you in your job search and in building your professional skill set. You can reach me, Lynn Berard, at lberard@andrew.cmu.edu (412-268-2428) or stop by to see me at Carnegie Mellon University's Science Libraries in Wean Hall.

Here is helpful information about scholarships, awards and student group activities. Enjoy! Check out a listing of all SLA Students Chapters and their Advisors at <http://www.sla.org/content/chdiv/sgroups/sgf.cfm>

The "Student Union" newsletter: "The Student Union", an electronic newsletter published at least once a year, contains a variety of articles highlighting the activities of student groups, important information about scholarships, conference volunteer opportunities, and contact info for key leaders in SLA who are working hard on student issues. Check out the latest edition at: <http://www.sla.org/content/chdiv/sgroups/stunion/spring2001.cfm>

What is the Student and Academic Relations Committee (SARC)? This Committee advises the Board of Directors on programs and other issues affecting SLA student members. It is composed of professional members of SLA who have an interest in providing students with a quality SLA experience while pursuing their degrees. Activities include working closely with faculty advisors of the student groups, increasing student membership, educating students about the benefits of membership in SLA, and working with library schools on curriculum development. SARC recognizes and awards the active development and participation of student members through their involvement in Student Group activities. For SARC Award Programs, see <http://www.sla.org/committee/sarc/awards/meritnom.html>.

MENTORING PROGRAM RETURNS

By John DiGilio

men-tor (m n tôr , -t r) n. A wise and trusted counselor or teacher.

Source: The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition Copyright © 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

Are you a student looking for insights into the many wonderful worlds of librarianship? Or are you new to the profession and just looking for the occasional tip from a learned colleague?

Maybe you're a professional who would like to serve as a beacon to others as they navigate the waters you have long charted. We have just the thing to help . . .

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Special Libraries Association is pleased to announce the return of its annual mentoring program. Our Chapter needs members who are willing to share their insights and experiences with others, to serve as mentors. We are also looking for students and new professionals who think they might benefit from the guidance of a seasoned library veteran. Help us help each other and our profession by signing on to this year's mentoring program! The requirements are not too demanding and the rewards can carry on long beyond the one year commitment. Requirements:

Mentors:

A one-year commitment to openly and honestly share your experiences and insights with students or others who are new to the profession. The ability and availability to communicate (email, phone, in person – whatever works for you and your mentee) with a mentee on at least a monthly basis, or more often as needed, for the duration of the program.

Mentees:

A one-year commitment to openly and honestly share your professional concerns and questions with an experienced member of the profession. The ability and availability to communicate (email, phone, in person – whatever works for you and your mentor) with a mentor on at least a monthly basis, or more often as needed, for the duration of the program.

Applications for both mentees and mentors are available online and sign-ups will be accepted on a rolling basis. We will do our best to match the interests of mentees and mentors. Please contact John DiGilio at jdiglio@kl.com (412-355-6304) with any questions.

SIGHT BITES

By Ange Pollis & Kim Gregory

Long Live the Library Dept.: "Witness the future of libraries by visiting the newly updated portal established by the Library of Michigan: the Michigan eLibrary (www.mel.org). Acting as an adjunct to the physical library as well as a powerful standalone resource, MeL is an astonishing site. During the Internet age, we've forgotten that professional librarians know how to find information better than anyone—especially better than computer programmers. Though at the beginning of the Web era in 1993, librarians did not have the computer and Web development skills to show their muscles, they do now. Expect to see more killer sites like this in the years ahead as other states get a clue. Bravo to the Michigan librarians who put this gem together. Kudos. Yahoo!, move over." <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,543424,00.asp> (Ange Pollis)

For those who keep files of chemistry humor, or just want a smile, see the page entitled "Table of Condiments That Periodically Go Bad" at: <http://backtable.org/~blade/fnord/condiments.html> (Ange Pollis)

"When Internet song-sharing services created digital jukeboxes of free music, book publishers raced to bolt the door to their own archives of copyrighted works. Many librarians, on the other hand, thought the idea was pretty exciting. Now, new technologies are igniting a similar battle closer to home. Librarians have seized on the potential of digital technology and offered users free online access to the contents of books from their homes, and they are squaring off with publishers who fear that free remote access costs them book sales." - D.D. Kirkpatrick: Battle

Over Access to Online Books. New York Times, June 19, 2002. (Kim Gregory)

“A feel of ‘freshness’ in a Web site is the result of many, mostly subtle, elements all being kept up to date. Every page in your Web site begins life fresh and new. The links work. The written references in the content are current and accurate. The page design is nicely integrated into the overall scheme of your Website. Then you put a new page into your Website and it begins almost immediately: insidious creeping staleness.” - T.P. Bergman, Web Site Freshness: The Fine Art of Keeping It Current.

<http://www.microsoft.com/frontpage/community/columns/sbcolumn03.htm>

“The hiss piercing the University of North Texas library used to come from a librarian quieting a student. Now it’s more likely a Starbucks employee, steaming milk for an undergraduate’s late-night grande caffe latte.” - Snacks Among the Stacks: College Libraries Accept Coffee Shops. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, October 15, 2002, p. H-12.

The Confluence is published 4 times a year by the Pittsburgh Chapter, Special Libraries Association. If you are interested in placing an ad in The Confluence, contact Earl Mounts, Alcoa Technical Center, 100 Technical Drive, Alcoa Center, PA 15069-0001 (Voice: 724-337-2396, Fax: 724-337-2394, email: earl.mounts@alcoa.com)

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