



Volume 77, Issue 3

Winter 2012

2012 President's Message – Brian Steinmetz

My how time flies! I think my second go as president went about as fast as my first time. It was a year full of great events and big happenings. We launched our new website, which has a more updated and clean look and offers new options and functionality. We also had one of our members, Denise Callihan, receive the much deserved Rose L. Vormelker Award for her education and mentoring of students and working professionals.

As I review my 2012 priorities, I see some success and some things that didn't quite go as well as planned. I was able to consolidate our committee teams and reduce the number of chapter events. Hopefully this will result in a lighter workload for committee heads and help us focus more on event quality over quantity. I was less successful on obtaining more sponsorships for our events. This continues to be a challenge given the recent cutbacks by vendors. And of course, increasing membership and member involvement is a never-ending goal for any chapter president. I think we had some excellent events that brought in potential members and hopefully the committee team changes will encourage others to become involved.

A chapter president is only as good as their president elect, executive board, and committee board members. I'd like to thank Eve Wider for having the courage to take on the role of president elect and doing a great job in the position. I'd like to thank the executive board members for their hard work and guidance. And I'd like to thank the committee board members for doing a great job in their respective roles and making sure our chapter serves the needs of our members.

I know I'm leaving the chapter in good hands as Eve takes over. I'll do my best to help her as past president and I'm hoping our members will give her the same great support they gave me. Thank you for the opportunity to serve again as Chapter president.

Welcome!

New Chapter
Members

October

Jennifer Cook

Katherine Craig

Magda Esposito

Alison Trautmann

Linda Whiteford

December

Mandy Heit

Inside This Issue:

Incoming President's Message..... 2

New Board Members..... 3

September Recap..... 4

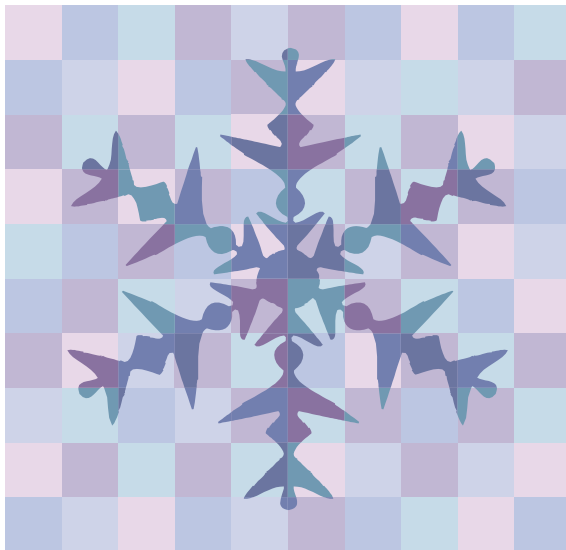
November Recap..... 5

December Recap..... 6

SLAPSG Update..... 7

Clarion Update..... 8

Incoming President's Message ~Eve Wider



Warm winter greetings to everyone! Hard to believe my presidential year is finally beginning. When I accepted this honor a year ago it seemed so far away. Last year was a learning curve for me in serving as your president-elect. My previous chapter involvement was limited to serving on the nominating committee and attending board meetings on rare occasions. Luckily our chapter is strong on mentoring and providing help and advice to new leaders.

Looking back I feel we had a successful 2012 from a programming standpoint. Our programs covered interesting topics, useful information, and provided varied networking opportunities. We heard about the library at Occupy Wall Street and visited the new library at Children's Hospital. We discussed ebooks and learned about 'building your own box' as you explore possible career paths.

I'd like to thank past president Brian Steinmetz for his leadership and quiet support. I am so grateful for the many members and leaders who have been supportive this year. In particular, I feel the need to formally thank Denise Callihan, Lynn Berard, Rachel Callison, Karen Liljequist, and Amy Watson for their invaluable assistance during the past year. Things wouldn't have gone as smoothly or successfully without your assistance. It truly takes a village to make our events go smoothly -- luckily we have a well inhabited and welcoming one.

My major goal this year focuses around involving more of our members in large and small ways. Of course I would like to grow our membership in numbers and will do what I can there - but I would like to challenge less active members to be more engaged and to encourage our active members to reach out to members they know who don't tend to be as involved. If it helps, you can find a list of our chapter members on the SLA website once you log in. We have several committee openings to fill. Please let me know if you are interested in getting more involved or if you would like to nominate someone.

I will also continue to challenge myself to work on one of my personal initiatives -- making our meetings more welcoming to people who are new. This is an ongoing struggle but I welcome your thoughts and suggestions on how we can do this better. And I hope you will challenge yourselves to be a part of creating a culture of hospitality and welcome.

I'm excited about this coming year as president of our Chapter. I look forward to what we can achieve together in 2013.

Visit <http://www.sla.org/cvcfm/MembershipDir.cfm> to access SLA membership directory. You will need to log in and select [Pittsburgh chapter](#) as the unit.

SLA CAREER CENTER

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Find the right job in your industry!

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- Search for jobs
- Career Advice
- Useful Resources
- Seminars

New Board Members Elected

The following nominees were officially voted in to office at the Annual Business Meeting on December 9, 2012.

President-elect: Margarete Bower

- ◆ MSLS from Clarion University, 1989.
- ◆ B.S. (Allegheny College) and M.S./ Ph.D in Chemistry (University of Michigan).
- ◆ Currently Head of the Chemistry Library and Langley Library at the University of Pittsburgh. Liaison to the departments of biological sciences, chemistry, and neuroscience.
- ◆ Previously Head of the Chemistry/Computer Science Library at the University of Pittsburgh.
- ◆ Secretary of the SLA Division of Chemistry (2007 - 2009).
- ◆ Member of the SLA Division of Chemistry committee that produced the document "Information Competencies for Chemistry Undergraduates".
- ◆ Adjunct instructor for science reference and resources courses at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Sciences (2008 - 2012).

Secretary: Leslie Eibl

- ◆ MLIS, University of Pittsburgh, 2010.
- ◆ BA in English, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, 2009.
- ◆ Currently employed as a Visiting Reference and Instruction librarian at the University of Pittsburgh's Hillman Library.
- ◆ Joined SLA in January of 2012 and attended past events in Pittsburgh both as a student and while employed as a librarian.
- ◆ Member of ALA and the Western Pennsylvania/West Virginia Chapter of the ACRL.
- ◆ Worked in career training school libraries at the Sanford-Brown Institute and Bidwell Training Center in Pittsburgh.
- ◆ Completed an internship at NPR in Washington D.C. in summer of 2010. This internship was in the Consumer Products, Digital Media department and involved working with the library to assist in the creation of spoken word CDs.

Director: Barb Spiegelman

Barbara Spiegelman is Principal of Spiegelman Group and former Manager of Technical Information and Communication for Westinghouse Energy Systems. During her tenure at Westinghouse, she was involved in projects including technical indexing, database management, and internal communications. Barb has served on various SLA committees: she served on the Board of the Special Libraries Association (HQ), Chaired the Library Management Division, as well as having chaired many other committees at the association, division, and Pittsburgh Chapter levels. Barb was awarded Fellow of SLA in 1999, and was recognized with the Distinguished Alumna Award by the University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Science in 1997. For a more complete listing of her activities and honors see: <http://www.sla.org/content/Shop/Information/infoonline/2002/jan02/candid02/spiegelman.cfm>

Ms. Spiegelman holds a BA degree from Chatham College and an MLS from the University of Pittsburgh.

Thank you to our new board members for your contribution to our chapter!

Chapter Member News

Sharon Palchak and her husband John welcomed their beautiful baby daughter, Zoe Catherine Palchak, into the world on Sunday, November 25, 2012. Congratulations!

September Event Recap: Tour of Children's Hospital Family Resource Center and Library -Michael Widdersheim

I was struck by the thoughtfulness and sensitivity evidenced in the hospital's design. At the beginning of the tour, Ann noted the importance of the values of transformation and connectivity to the hospital's constituents. I saw these values realized many times throughout the tour. For example, visitors' first experience in the hospital is the transformation corridor, a hallway leading visitors from winter to summer, cold to warm, snowflakes to butterflies, symbolizing the healing process. On the sixth floor, where the family resource center is housed, the four-story atrium enables patients to connect to community events in multiple ways: through face-to-face interaction; through the windows on their respective floors; and via a live feed. Solaria and the outdoor healing garden connect patients and families to views of



Fish tanks at CHP. Credit: Michael Widdersheim

greater Pittsburgh. Finally, it is clear that library services play an important role in transformation and connectivity. Carolyn and her associate librarians connect patients, families, and physicians to resources to assist in the transformation process. The

library collections provide access to adult recreational reading, children's resources, professional medical resources in print and digital formats, and consumer health resources. The library and librarians at CHP are truly special.



Photos from the tour. Credit: Eve Wider

November Event Recap: Build Your Own Box

—Lynn Berard & Denise Callihan

Build your Own Box, a Panel Discussion on Alternative & Non-Traditional careers for MLS professionals was held on November 15, 2012 (6:00-8:30) at the Mellon Institute Library. “Build your own Box”...is a twist on the theme, Thinking outside the box, and highlights how you can take charge of your career! SLA members continue to move out of traditional libraries and are moving to non-traditional or alternative career paths. This panel consisted of local Chapter members, Kim Gregory, Haley Hodum, Sharon Palchak, and Steve Van Tuyl, along with an SLA sister organization, AIIP (Association of Independent Info Professionals) member, Pat O'Malley. The panel provided advice using their own “non-traditional experiences and shared what they have learned throughout their careers. The session was hosted by Lynn Berard and Denise Callihan. 36 people attended the

session.

After a pizza and salad buffet, the session started with the introduction of the panel, and a brief biography of their career paths. Most discussed the “fits” that they’ve discovered along the way, and gave lots of suggestions to our audience for potential career direction and options.

The panel members were selected as having shown a fit in the full spectrum of careers outside of the Librarian in a Library.

NON-TRADITION CAREER SPECTRUM ADDRESSED BY PANEL

Explore positions in organizations that SERVES libraries and librarians. Sharon Palchak is a customer education and training specialist with ProQuest since she graduated with

(Continued on page 8)



Panelists (L to R): Sharon Palchak, Haley Hodum, Steve Van Tuyl, Kim Gregory, Pat O'Malley

THIS COULD BE YOUR COLUMN!

+++++

- **Have you ever dreamed of being a columnist?**
- **Do you have any thoughts on current library and information science news?**
- **Are you searching for ways to share your opinions on topics relevant to LIS?**
- **Do you have ideas you want to share with the rest of your LIS colleagues?**

The Confluence is looking for a columnist to publish an op-ed piece for our newsletter. The columnist would have their article published in each issue of the 2013 newsletters for a total of 3 articles with an option to continue publishing through 2014.

Please contact Amy Raimondi at araimondi@lecom.edu if you are interested in this exciting opportunity or have any questions.

December Event Recap: Awards and Business Meeting – Marge Rhodes

Our annual holiday, awards and business meeting was on Saturday December 8 at Mitchell's Fish Market in the Waterfront/Homestead. Fifteen people were in attendance. Awards Chair Marge Rhodes presented the Catalyst Award and the Leadership Award to two chapter members.

Although unable to attend the meeting, Rachel Callison received the Catalyst Award because she spearheaded the chapter's website upgrade to our new blog-like platform. She worked with SLA HQ to ensure all necessary specifications were carried out, while best modifying them to meet the specific needs of our Chapter. While she worked with a small commit-

tee on this project, Rachel did much of the migration work.

We also recognized Eve Wider for outstanding leadership to the Chapter as this year's President Elect. Instead of monthly meetings, she planned larger low-cost meetings and promoted them well in advance... Her work resulted in increased attendance by both members and students, and changed how the chapter does business.

Congratulations and thanks to both for their contributions and dedication.



Eve Wider accepts Outstanding Leadership Award

Credit: Denise Callihan



Holiday lunch table
Credit: Denise Callihan

Free online class: Grants and Proposal Writing

Designed for beginning grant proposal writers, this class presents a general overview of the grant and funding processes as well as the level of detail required in a successful proposal. Each component of the grant writing process will be addressed, including: documenting the need; identifying the target population; writing measurable objectives; developing a work plan, an evaluation plan and dissemination plan.

The course will consist of three 1 hour Adobe Connect webinars and a planning assignment.

Schedule:

January 16, 2013 - January 30, 2013

Three required webinars:

1/16/13 3-4pm ET

1/23/13 3-4pm ET

1/30/13 3-4pm ET

To register: http://nnlm.gov/mar/training/register.html?schedule_id=1943

For more information about the class or about the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, contact Kate Flewelling (flewkate@pitt.edu or 412-624-3336)

NEWLY ELECTED SLAPSG OFFICERS

Carrie Wardzinski – President (Fall 2012)

Carrie served as the president of SLAPSG for the Fall 2012 semester, though she has been a member since her first semester at Pitt. She has since graduated with her MLIS and is currently employed as an assistant librarian and archivist at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA.

Magda Esposito – President (Spring, Summer 2013), Webmaster (Fall 2012)

Magda was the webmaster for SLAPSG during the Fall 2012 semester and has stepped up to be president for the Spring and Summer 2013 semesters. She currently is a Pitt Partner with the Carnegie Library in Homestead.

Linda Whiteford – Vice President

Linda became involved with SLAPSG during her first semester here and is currently serving as the vice president. She works as an Information Assistant at the Mellon Institute at Carnegie Mellon.

Kat Craig – Business Manager

Kat Craig is the business manager for SLAPSG. She is also heavily involved with Pitt's student chapter of ALA. Kat works as an Information Assistant at Carnegie Mellon's Hunt Library.

Jen Cook – Secretary

Jen is serving as the secretary for SLAPSG this year. She hopes to go into academic librarianship after her graduation from Pitt's iSchool.

Alison Trautman – Membership Coordinator

Alison is serving as SLAPSG's membership coordinator this year. She is currently a Pitt Partner at the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh.

SLAPSG Update

~ Carrie Wardzinski

The officers and members of SLAPSG have been busy this semester!

In September, we joined with SLA-CPIT to tour the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Since many of our members and several of our officers are interested in medical libraries, this was an ideal and natural choice in programming for us. The feedback about the program was positive and the students who attended found it informational and engaging. They also enjoyed interacting with the professional members of SLA who attended the tour.

In October, we toured Hillman Library's UN and government documents collection. Hillman is unique in some ways in that it serves as a depository library for both the US and the UN. Tom Twiss, who is the UN documents librarian, provided us with a 90 minute tour of the collection. He was also on hand to answer questions we had about the collection and about being a government documents librarian.

In November, we joined again with SLA-CPIT. Lynn Berard and Denise Callihan hosted the "Build Your Own Box" event on November 15th, and it

was a success. We had students from all of the student groups – SLAPSG, SCALA, and ASIST- attend the event. The students who attended found it enlightening and encouraging. They also enjoyed interacting with those in the profession.

In December, we held our Grilled Cheese Study Session. Students from all over the library science program came to have a home-made grilled cheese (or two!) and work on their end-of-term assignments and papers. We plan to make the end-of-semester study session a regular thing to give students a dedicated place and time to work on assignments, while enjoying some food.

SLAPSG also has some interesting events in the works for the spring semester. We are trying to coordinate a trip to tour the "Mines" in conjunction with SAASC. We are also planning a resume and portfolio workshop. Finally, several members have expressed serious interest in going to the SLA Annual Conference in San Diego in June. We also have ongoing participation as a group with both Operation Medical Libraries and the Millvale Community Library.



Students attended the Build Your Own Box event,

Clarion Student Chapter Update

– Jessica Franco

There have been numerous changes with the new semester; the graduate program has become exclusively online, thus altering the dimension of our organization. We are working with the Wimba classroom to make a more effective and interactive meeting space. In addition, we have participated in a webinar on RDA cataloging and are currently planning a workshop on book repair and other practical skills. SLA has also taken over the planning of De-Stress with the Dogs, an event that brings therapy dogs on campus during finals weeks. For the spring semester we are planning a trip to Erie, Pennsylvania to visit museums and libraries. As we begin to plan for the upcoming semester, we are looking for speakers, events, and other professional development opportunities for our members.

(Continued from page 5)

her MLS. She spoke on what it's like to work for a vendor, and showed students to consider that as a viable route.

Consider “nontraditional” roles in traditional institutions/libraries. Steve Van Tuyl holds a unique position as Emerging Technologies Librarian at CMU. Steve provided another “story” for students and demonstrated how he created a job from seeing a gap in service. He used his past experience as a researcher coupled with his librarian skillset to show how he was best for the job

Consider self-employment: Building a business around info brokering and research. Pat O'Malley has started to focus on building his business called Four Leaf Information <http://www.fourleafinfo.com>. He discussed his motivation for becoming an independent, and what he's learned so far building a business.

Consider working with information in non-traditional institutions. Kim Gregory, now a law librarian at K&Lgates, was a market analyst at both Federated Investors, as well as Westinghouse. She also just became a local gym owner, speaking of building her own box! (Pure Fitness for Women <http://www.purefitness4women.com/>).

Kim addressed what she learned working outside of a library for many years. Haley Hodum, now a law librarian at K&L gates, was a market analyst with Direct Energy. She provided good discussion on how her interest in competitive intelligence provided motivation to learn about (taking a SLA Click-U certificate course on CI), and then pursuing it outside of a library.

Many students and professionals commented that they learned something that they may not have considered prior to the session. One thank you note received was from Stephanie Freas, a Resource Sharing Intern at the Grace Library at Carlow University.

I just wanted to say thank you for a wonderful panel discussion last night. I am currently in my first term at the University of Pittsburgh, and I have been spending a lot of time figuring out where I might “fit in” in the library world. It was liberating to see that there are so many options out there. I really appreciate the invitation and the work your organization put into the event. The information, the people, and the atmosphere of the night gave me new insight into the information professions. So, again, thank you. —Stephanie Freas

So, for those who were unable to attend, watch for yourself at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMU5_oQK2pg&feature=youtu.be

SLA-CPIT
Special Libraries
Association-
Pittsburgh Chapter

pittsburgh.sla.org

The Confluence is the newsletter of the *Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter*. The next issue will be published in **SPRING 2013**. Article submission deadline is **APRIL 12, 2013**. Please contact Amy Raimondi, editor, at araimondi@lecom.edu with any submissions, issues or concerns relating to the newsletter.



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- **Keynote speaker Mike Walsh, best-selling author of *FUTURE-TAINMENT*, CEO of innovation research lab Tomorrow and a leading authority on the digital future.**

For more information: <http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac13/index.cfm>

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