



Volume 77, Issue 1

April 2012

## President's Message: Spring Cleaning- Brian Steinmetz

Hello everyone. Looks like we got a lucky break with our mild winter. I'm always optimistic when I see the plants and trees coming back to life.

I wanted to let the Chapter know that we've made some changes at our last board meeting concerning our committee structure and events schedule.

While our executive board structure stays the same, we've consolidated our committees into five major groups – Election, Communications, Member Relations, Partner & Community Relations, and Programs & Events. We've made these changes largely because of a lack of volunteers needed to fill a large number of slots. We're hoping that having a more streamlined committee structure will lead to greater efficiency and effectiveness.

We've also reduced the number of events we plan during the year. This will significantly lighten the load for the newly elected president-elect. We are seeking to improve the quality of our programs at the sacrifice of quantity. But we will still focus on networking and professional development opportunities – a key reason that our members belong to SLA (as reflected in last year's member survey.)

I welcome any feedback or ideas concerning these changes. I look forward to seeing everyone at one of our upcoming events.



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**The Pittsburgh Chapter's Strategic Plan for 2012 is available at:**

[http://units.sla.org/chapter/cpit/strategicplan\\_steinmetz12.pdf](http://units.sla.org/chapter/cpit/strategicplan_steinmetz12.pdf)

## Welcome New Chapter Members!

January	February	March
Rachel Masilamani	Ashleigh Pirone	Diane Sohn
Leslie Eibl	Justine Melone	
Anne Schwan		
Erin Breid		

## 2012 Promising Professional: Eleanor Gehman - Christine Slippy and Marge Rhodes

Congratulations to Eleanor J. Gehman, the recipient of the Pittsburgh Chapter's 2012 Promising Professional Award (PPA)!



Eleanor is scheduled to receive her MLIS degree from the University of Pittsburgh in the fall of 2012. Currently, she is a full time student in the Master of Library and Information Science program at the University of Pittsburgh, as well as serving as an intern at the CCAC North Campus Library, at the U. Grant Miller Library at Washington & Jefferson College, and at the Pressley Ridge Library.

The Pittsburgh Chapter's PPA is intended to encourage new information professionals to participate more fully in SLA and Chapter activities by awarding grants that can be used to defray costs associated with attending Conferences of the Special Libraries Association (either the Annual Conference or the Leadership Summit). Eleanor will attend the Annual Conference in Chicago this July.

We look forward to hearing about her Conference experiences and networking in the next issue of The Confluence. Congratulations Eleanor and have a great Conference!



**Have any suggestions for future programs? location ideas? Want to roll up your sleeves and get involved in chapter program planning? Any and all suggestions are welcome!**

**Contact Eve at [ewider@pitt.edu](mailto:ewider@pitt.edu)**

## Chapter Member News

**Denise Callahan** (PPG) has been selected by the SLA 2012 Awards Committee for the class of 2012 Rose L. Vormelker Awardees! The Rose L. Vormelker Award is presented to an SLA member in good standing who is mid-career for beyond exceptional services in the area of mentoring students and/or working professionals. The award will be presented to Denise in Chicago on Sunday evening, July 15th, 2012 at the SLA conference. Congratulations Denise and thank you for all you have done!

**Emily Stephens** has accepted a position as a Knowledge Support Specialist with Gensler, an architecture and design firm. Their main US offices are in San Francisco, but Emily will be working at their satellite office in downtown Pittsburgh. Congratulations Emily!

**Amy Yonick** (LECOM at Seton Hill) has had her first article published in the Journal of Library Innovation. Amy co-authored an article while still a graduate student at Pitt. The article discusses how her class contributed to the opening of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's LYNCs: Pittsburgh Public Market service point in the Strip District. It is freely available at: <http://www.libraryinnovation.org/article/view/163>

## March Event Recap: Banks Got Bailed Out, Books Got Thrown Out!

- Rachel Masilamani

On March 28, SLA Members and students attended "Banks Got Bailed Out, Books Got Thrown Out! The Ongoing Creation, Destruction, and Recreation of the People's Library at Occupy Wall Street," a presentation by William Scott, an Associate Professor in the English Department at the University of Pittsburgh. September 17, 2011 marked the beginning of the Occupy Wall Street (OWS) occupation of Zuccotti Park, a public park near Wall Street in Lower Manhattan. Inspired by the Arab Spring protests and motivated by frustration with the greed, corruption and inequality inherent in the U.S. financial system, protesters stood, marched and lived together in public spaces. OWS occupiers represent the views and needs of the many, as reflected in their slogan "We are the 99%," a reference to the concentration of wealth in the hands of a tiny percentage of the

population. The movement attracted growing support and huge crowds seeking change through direct action. Occupy movements continued forming in cities across the country throughout the fall, including Pittsburgh's Mellon Park.

On sabbatical during the fall 2011 semester, Scott travelled to Zuccotti Park to visit the occupation. He soon became a participant, living in the park and eventually finding his home with the "People's Library," the OWS working group dedicated to sharing books, poetry and discussion with visitors

and occupiers. Scott shared part of his extensive collection of photographs from the occupation and his reflections on the People's Library with program attendees. He described the role of professional librarians and other volunteers in establishing the collection, developing procedures and organizing donations as they flooded into the park.

Located in the northeast corner of the park, the



Books from the People's Library thrown out after raid.

*Credit: William Scott*

People's Library served as a gateway, drawing visitors and passersby into the park and the movement. OWS Librarians encouraged open borrowing with the expectation that materials would probably not be returned. The library hosted readings, performances and children's programming, all while battling the elements. "We were trying to embody what a non-privatized library could look like," Scott said.

In the early morning hours of November 15, New York City Police accompanied by sanitation workers raided and cleared Zuccotti Park, injuring occupiers, as well as destroying shelters, personal property, and the shared Library collection. Scott and the other librarians were told they could retrieve their possessions from the Department of Sanitation, but they found that the bulk of the Library's collection, including unique materials, was destroyed. Since the collection had been inventoried using Library Thing, Librarians were able to assess the loss at approximately 4,000 books and related materials. The People's Library is currently

*(Continued on page 9)*

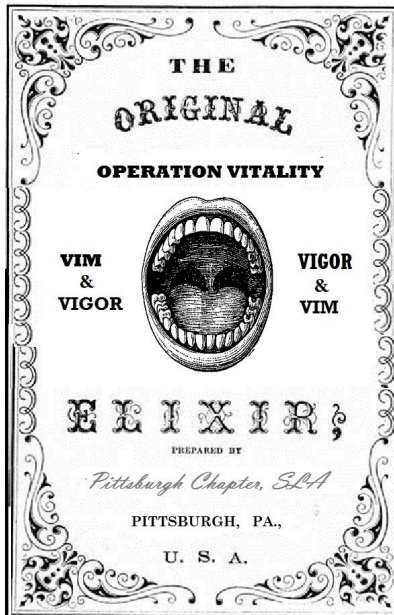


Corner of the People's Library. *Credit: William Scott*



## Operation Vitality: Putting Vim and Vigor Back in the CPIT Website

~ Rachel Callison, CPIT Web Manager



As I started to write this article I thought, “wow...has it really been a year since I wrote that article (on the initiative to visually align the units of SLA)?” ... only to discover that it will be, with the publication of this issue, exactly 2 years since it was written. [SEE v. 75 (3), 2010]. When I wrote that article, the part of the alignment that will directly impact our chapter was just getting started. First, a brief recap of my spring 2010 article: Daniel Lee (SLA director, 2009-2011) had been tasked with investigating what it would take to achieve the goal of bringing all of the chapters and division units under a consistent web theme. During the

January 2010 Leadership Summit, Lee had asked if units were interested in an alternative web hosting option, including cost sharing. That February, he surveyed all of SLA unit web managers about the processes and tools we were currently using to manage our respective web sites, any issues we’d been experiencing and if we had tool/tech needs that were not being met; i.e. did we have a wish list? I drafted a response to this inquiry, posted it to the web manager’s discussion list and shared it with CPIT board members. The rest of this article will address what’s occurred since then: where we are now and the direction our chapter’s web presence is heading.

Lee took those unit web managers responses, summarized them and spent the 2010 summer exploring the options available to SLA. In October 2010, he sent an ‘unofficial’ announcement to the leadership and web manager discussion lists indicating that SLA had arrived at a solution. SLA would be contracting with HostGator to provide hosting ser-

vices for unit web sites and use WordPress (WP) as the content management system. WP was chosen for two reasons: (1) it’d be easier to update; and (2) would not require special software. Additionally, a single WP theme would be designed specifically for all SLA units. Other benefits that were highlighted included 24/7 technical support and the ability to conduct surveys and host unit based e-mail accounts for officers. And thus was launched the project (now) known as ‘Operation Vitality’. A group of super admins volunteered to beta test the new service between October and December 2010. The plan was to then offer this new web hosting to all SLA units starting in January 2011. The cost to all SLA units was determined to be \$40 per year, which would be automatically deducted from each unit’s annual dues allotments at the beginning of each year.

At the January 2011 Leadership Summit, Lee encouraged all of the units to migrate their web sites and by February, one third of the chap-

ters and divisions had signed up to begin the process. My report to the CPIT executive board at the February 2011 board meeting included a recommendation for our chapter to migrate, but with a caveat to wait until

### **Operation Vitality has Five (5) Objectives:**

- 1. Provide a stable and modern website hosting service to all chapters, divisions, and caucuses;**
- 2. Ensure the service is affordable and cost effective for the Association;**
- 3. Design a brand-compliant template for all units to use;**
- 4. Promote a common content management system we can all use, understand and build upon; and**
- 5. Rebuild the community for SLA’s webmasters.**

**-Daniel Lee (SLA Director, 2009-2011)**

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## Targeted Local Job Postings Continue to Offer Value to Chapter Members

- Karen Liljequist

Did you know that our local chapter members enjoy the benefits of "previewing" local (within 4 hours of Pittsburgh) job postings before they are posted to the public web-site?

The results from a recent informal survey indicated that members not only like receiving these e-mails, but find them valuable as well.

Here are some highlights from the responses.

•Members, relatives and friends of SLA members have secured interviews from the listings

•At least 5 postings have resulted in job offers and a successful local placement

•The 4 hour geographic radius is ideal

for most.. Including telecommuting/ remote positions is useful.

•Compiling the listings is viewed as a value-added service and while job seekers do scour the web for postings themselves, they appreciated the "personal" touch and the initial weeding of available positions

•The timeliness of the postings is helpful

•It's a great way to keep up with the regional market, even for members who are not looking for employment

•Members did question whether postings from Philadelphia and the eastern part of PA should be included

The Employment Team continues to evaluate new job posting tools, feeds and sites. The team wel-

comes member suggestions, position openings and feedback. Please contact Karen Liljequist at [kli@the-institute.org](mailto:kli@the-institute.org).

Upcoming Programs at the  
Downtown & Business  
Branch of the  
Carnegie Library of  
Pittsburgh

Thursday Noontime  
Business Program Series  
12:15 - 1:00 PM

\* Write Your Own Last Chapter-  
April 19th

\* Steve Jobs: One Last Thing-April 26th

### SLA Announces Candidates for 2013 Board of Directors

The Special Libraries Association's Nominating Committee has identified eight candidates to stand for election to four positions on the 2013 SLA Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for soliciting candidates from SLA's membership and compiling a group that has compelling talent supported by tangible accomplishments, is professionally diverse, and provides regionally balanced representation to the international association. The eight candidates, who hail from three countries, will serve three-year terms on the board if elected.

SLA members will have ample opportunity to meet the candidates at the SLA 2012 Annual Conference & INFO-EXPO in Chicago. The candidates will be recognized prior to the keynote speech and will participate in a meet-and-greet during the conference to speak with attendees about their backgrounds and plans for leadership. The election will be held electronically in mid-September 2012.

The eight candidates running for election to the 2013 SLA Board of Directors are as follows:

For President-Elect:	For Chapter Cabinet Chair-Elect	For Division Cabinet Chair-Elect	For Treasurer
Kate Arnold, London, United Kingdom	Joy Banks, Bok Tower Gardens, Lakeland, Fla.	Stacey Greenwell, University of Kentucky Libraries, Lexington, Ky.	John J. DiGilio, Reed Smith LLP, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Juanita Richardson, Dysart & Jones Associates, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	Kama Siegel, Alta Planning + Design, Portland, Ore.	Tara Murray, American Philatelic Research Library, Bellefonte, Pa.	David Stern, Illinois State University, Normal, Ill.

For more information about SLA's governance practices and leadership, please visit the *Board of Directors* section of our Website.

## SLAPSG Update - Tallie

Casucci and Ryan Jones

The Special Libraries Association-Pittsburgh Student Group has been busy these last several months with Operation Medical Libraries, library visits, guest speakers, parties, SLA-Pittsburgh events, and community service projects. The following sections provide brief highlights of our past events. Several other visits and ideas are in the works for this summer, in addition to attending the SLA Conference in Chicago.

### SLAPSG

continued to participate in the Operation Medical Libraries ([OML](#)) program. OML is a grassroots effort to supply developing countries with current medical information for practicing physicians and nurses, in addition to students. Last semester five boxes were sent medical personnel around the world. This summer SLAPSG will be collecting and shipping more medical and health books. Contact Tallie Casucci at [slapsg.pitt@gmail.com](mailto:slapsg.pitt@gmail.com) if you would like to contribute to this endeavor.

Within the past several months, SLAPSG has organized tours of some great special libraries. Thanks to Ray Anne Lockard, SLAPSG visited the Frick Fine Arts Library. Also in February, SLAPSG went to the PPG facility, in Alison Park, to learn about chemistry, coatings, and the library's resources thanks to Denise Callihan and Amy Watson.

Utilizing Skype, SLAPSG heard from Larry Cebula and Mark Vrabel.

Cebula is an a Public Historian at Eastern Washington University and an Assistant Digital Archivist at the Washington Digital Archives. His talk was entitled, "The past, the present, and the future of digital archiving," which put into perspective what it is like working collaboratively with other institutions on a digital project. He gave a brief history on how the archive came to be, cooperation with other states and government agencies, lessons they have learned, and continuing

challenges. At the end of his presentation, he highlighted some of the unique features of the website including the audio search tool.

From the [Oncology Nursing Society](#), Mark Vrabel shared his experiences a medical solo-librarian serving the needs of ONS and nurses worldwide. Mark provided an overview of his own experiences in librarianship and the role that ONS

plays in the medical field. He not only serves the thirty-six thousand members of ONS, but also does medical writing for ONS' publications.

## Clarion Student Chapter Update - Michael Widdersheim

We've been fairly active this semester. We started a bi-weekly colloquia series where we invite Clarion's library staff members to speak with us about their experiences. We traveled to Pitt's Finney Music Library and met with James Cassaro. On that same day we had an impromptu meeting with Pitt's Elizabeth Mahoney. At the end of March, ALA and SLA student groups will travel to New York City where we will tour NYU's Bobst Library, the MoMA Library, NYPL's Schwarzman Building, and Columbia's Butler Library and Digital Humanities Center. We will also travel to Connecticut to tour the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, as well as Yale's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

We are beginning to plan for next semester, so we are always on the lookout for speakers, events, or other ideas.



(L-R) Martha Knuth and Laura Barkema working on OML. Credit: Tallie Casucci



SLAPSG members pack medical texts for OML. Credit: Tallie Casucci



## Top Ten Reasons to Attend the SLA 2012 Annual Conference ~ Lynn Berard



***If you are not attending, feel free to skip to #1 – it's the best news of all!***

**10.** To hear Guy Kawasaki, the co-founder of All-top.com, an “online magazine rack” of popular topics on the Web, speak at the Opening Session. His newest book, *Enchantment: The Art of Changing Hearts, Minds, and Actions*, released in March 2011, is a New York Times bestseller. The lessons in enchantment are drawn from Guy's tenure at Apple as well as his decades of experience as an entrepreneur and venture capitalist.

**9.** Stay until Wednesday and be a part of **Future Now: A Panel Discussion**. Hear from leading information pros who will discuss and debate topics that were popular during the conference and will continue to be important throughout 2012. You'll explore challenging perspectives and ideas for our future, and you'll walk away excited, inspired and re-invigorated about the profession's possibilities.

**8.** On Monday you could attend **The Wikileaks Controversy talk** – a little controversy goes a long way and makes for good cocktail conversation starters :-}

**7.** On Tuesday do not miss this funny bone tickler: **Improv!ing your Library, Using the Principles of Second City**. If you've never seen Second City perform, you can make up for it while working at the conference. (Believe me, they are hysterically funny).

**6. Take a CEU course!** By attending one of these divi-

sion-sponsored continuing education courses you will add value to your organization and increase your marketability. Register early...classes can fill up quickly!

### **5. Need a little help tying together your rational for attending SLA 2012 with the “people upstairs?”**

SLA has developed a ‘Dear Boss’ letter to assist you with that process. Simply copy and paste the text below or download the [electronic file](#), tailor it to your specific needs, and send it to the boss!

**4. Receptions anyone?** Check the conference schedule for the many sponsored receptions and parties hosted by vendors, chapters, and divisions. Let's get this party started!

### **SLA Annual 2012 Links**

[sla2012.sla.org/](http://sla2012.sla.org/)

Registration: [sla2012.sla.org/registration/](http://sla2012.sla.org/registration/)

Hotel and Travel: [sla2012.sla.org/travelhotel/](http://sla2012.sla.org/travelhotel/)

Schedule: [sla2012.sched.org/](http://sla2012.sched.org/)

Twitter: [@SLAChicago](https://twitter.com/SLAChicago)

**3.** If you are a first-timer a “must-do” is attending the Association Fellows' Sunday event “SLA Fellows and First Timers Meet”. SLA's Fellows welcome first-timers to the conference with food, networking and conference wisdom. This is an ideal opportunity to meet association leaders & veterans as well as new attendees. **Hey, I'll be there, so no reason to be shy, you already know one person!**

**2.** Networking – our greatest benefit of membership! Enjoy a free lunch in the vendor hall with friends and colleagues you would love to catch up with. **INFO-EXPO “Lincoln Park” Networking Lunch** | 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Take your lunch voucher to one the food carts in the INFO-EXPO hall. *All full registrations will receive a lunch voucher.*

**And the #1 reason to be in Chicago:** Since you will already be at the Opening Session, add your voice to the cheering section during the Awards Ceremony on Sunday evening as **OUR** Denise Callihan walks across the stage to accept the **Rose L. Vormelker Award**....for exceptional service to the profession of special librarianship in the area of mentoring students and practicing professionals in the field. Be there or be square, and bring your Steeler Terrible Towel (let's be loud and proud together)!



(Continued from page 4)

after the annual conference (Philadelphia) to start because I was hoping to garner more information about the migration process. Since it was unclear during board meeting discussions as to whether it was a choice or a requirement to migrate, the CPIT board decided to wait until the fall 2011 meeting to decide our next steps.

By May 2011, postings on the web manager's discussion list indicated that there was interest in having a meet up at the annual conference in order to discuss OV. I offered to set up a Doodle in order to find the best day/time for us to meet and HQ graciously arranged to have a room reserved for our use in the convention center. I also offered to create a RSVP process using GoogleDocs and included a question about the status of their respective unit's migration. Out of the 24 web managers who indicated they were going to attend our meet up at annual, 10 had switched to the new platform, 11 had not switched and 3 were in the transition phase. Our meet up went well and was a great way to find out what units were doing and had learned about the process. Unfortunately, due to a schedule conflict, Daniel Lee was

*Examples of a chapters/divisions using the new platform:*

Philadelphia: <http://sla-phl.org/>

Legal Division: <http://legal.sla.org/>

Toronto: <http://toronto.sla.org/>

Academic Division: <http://academic.sla.org/>

unable to attend. Since he was very interested to hear how things were going everyone's OV experience, I sent him a summary of the discussion. The most salient piece of information that was shared during this meet up was that the (SLA) server which currently houses all of the unit web site files (including CPIT) will eventually be decommissioned, although an exact time table was not set.

At the August 2011 CPIT board meeting, a motion to convert/migrate our chapter's web site was put forth and approved. I reminded the board that 2011 was my sixth - and thus last year - serving as chapter web manager, but that I was willing to stay on to assist with the migration if needed. Since my first project after becoming the chapter web manager in 2006 was to do a complete overhaul of our web site [SEE v. 71(3), 2006], it seemed only fitting that my final one will be to oversee the migration of our site to an entirely new platform. This migration will change the roles of web manager and the communications committee for our chapter; in that WP allows for multiple contributors & site maintainers. Due the election of new officers in the fall 2011, and the collaborative nature of the new platform, and it was decided that our migration process should begin in January 2012 when they took office. Following the

fall board meeting, I contacted HQ to set up our accounts in preparation for January and invited CPIT officers/chairs to join a beta test group. Below is the project plan - with timeline - including when we plan to cut over to our new site. If

any chapter members are interested in joining the beta group, or have ideas about what they'd like to see included on our new site, please contact me: [callison@sei.cmu.edu](mailto:callison@sei.cmu.edu)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *This would be a good opportunity for a student member or recent graduate looking to build up their resume.*

**PHASE I:** Target date completed = July 2012

- Beta group (CPIT officers/chairs) contacted & assigned WP roles/accounts. (DONE)
- WP site baseline populated with sections & brief content from existing web site.
- Beta group explore & test capabilities of assigned roles via creation of content.
- Old web site 'frozen' with regard to new content.

[Contact HQ to cut over to new site: July/August 2012]

**PHASE II:** Target date completed = October 2012

- All officer/committee chair roles assigned accounts & corresponding sections of WP site for monitoring/updating/maintaining.
- Chapter's Procedures Manual modified to include/incorporate these duties into said relevant roles.

## SLA CAREER CENTER

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[www.sla.org/careers](http://www.sla.org/careers)



SLA-CPIT  
Special Libraries  
Association-  
Pittsburgh Chapter

[units.sla.org/chapter/  
cpit/index.htm](http://units.sla.org/chapter/cpit/index.htm)

**The Confluence** is the newsletter of the *Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter*. The next issue will be published in **August/September 2012**. Article submission deadline is **August 23, 2012**. Please contact Amy Yonick, editor, at [ayonick@lecom.edu](mailto:ayonick@lecom.edu) with any submissions, or issues or concerns relating to the newsletter.



(Continued from page 3)



The People's Library at OWS. Credit: William Scott

suing the City of New York for the destruction of the Library.

Following the raid, Librarians continued to bring boxes of books to the streets, navigating changing rules about containers and property, which at times made it impossible to bring any books into the park. Dubbing the current incarnation of the Library "People's Library 3.0," Librarians began rolling laundry carts of books on marches and to occupations throughout the city.

Though librarians in traditional libraries are not forced to reckon with the seizure and destruction of materials they curate, program attendees noted that the People's Library experiences many of the same challenges that mainstream libraries face. The People's Library illustrates the importance of having a physical space devoted

to a library, as well as the impact of librarians who meet users where and when they are needed. Though he would not speculate about the long-term sustainability of OWS, Scott recognized that, as long as the Occupy movement continues to grow, the Library will develop with it. At its core, any movement that develops and maintains a library proves its commitment to sharing knowledge and promoting discussion. The People's Library continues to grow, accepting donations and participation.

People's Library Site: [http://  
peopleslibrary.wordpress.com/](http://peopleslibrary.wordpress.com/)

*Rachel Masilamani is a Reference Librarian at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Downtown & Business. She also teaches Career Building Workshops in several Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh locations.*



The People's Library after the raid. Credit: William Scott

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