



Inside This Issue:

Annual Student Pizza
Party..... 2

Annual Chapter Meeting..3

New Chapter Officers
Elected..... 4

2016 Chapter Awards ... 5

History of the 'Golden
Retread Award' 5

Volume 81, Issue 3

Winter 2016

2017 Incoming President's Message Carrie Wardzinski

What do Betty White, the Dewalt radial arm saw, and the Pittsburgh Chapter of SLA all have in common? Well, if you guessed that we all turn 95 this year, then you guessed correctly. Having a 95th birthday is a big deal – for a person, for a technology, and yes, even for an organization. Very few things seem to endure for that long, and yet here we all are!

Our 95th year is poised to be a great one. Ryan Splenda and I met a few weeks ago to discuss programming ideas for the year, and I am very excited about the ideas that Ryan proposed. Look for a program on prospect research, which is an up-and-coming field that often employs librarians and information professionals because of their expert research skills. And if you missed our wonderful Warhol program last August, there is a good possibility that it will happen again so look for details concerning that as well. Of course, SLA Annual will be held in Phoenix in June. If you are planning to attend (and I hope you are), we will have our traditional

Pittsburgh Chapter meet-up while there. And finally, to celebrate this milestone anniversary and showcase our chapter, we are planning to hold a one-day regional conference in October. We are in the planning and brainstorming stages, but if you want to get involved, please contact me at carrie.wardzinski@ppg.com. We will need you, and your time and your talents, to make this successful!

I told Mary Talley at the Chapter Cabinet meeting last June that I would like SLA to view us as the model medium-sized chapter. We are not large in membership like the Philadelphia or New York chapters, but we are not small either. We are somewhere in the middle, but we have a mighty base. And it is in this base – the knowledge, the collective experiences, and the dedication of our members – that have enabled us to continue for 95 years, and will allow us to continue well into the future.

Cheers to us, and to this year!

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

Welcome New Chapter Members!

Stefanie Maclin– Hurd

Heather Brown

Annual Student Pizza Party– Denise Callihan

This year's Annual Student Pizza Party was held on November 30, 2016 at the University of Pittsburgh's SIS building's 3rd floor Collaboration Space. Chapter members Denise Callihan and Lynn Berard worked with Erin Tobiasz, Student Chapter ALA President (SCALA), to plan the event. 14 students attended the event.

Denise acted as moderator of the event and began the evening with an overview of what special librarians are and relayed some understanding of the types of special libraries in the area. Each panelist provided an introduction about themselves, their job, as well as some detail on past experiences. The panel also addressed how viable special libraries are to soon to be graduates.



Questions included those concerning skillsets, the value of networking/associations, and continuous learning. The panel consisted of the following SLA members & friends:

Kim Gregory: Law Librarian at K&L Gates, LLP

Chris Heil: Records Manager at Elliot Company

Lynn Berard: Engineering, Principal Librarian and Director of Research Curation, CMU

Deb Martin: Technical Services Supervisor, Northland Public Library

Elaina Vitale: Academic Coordinator, National Network of Libraries of Medicine

Olivia Glotfelty: Librarian, UPMC Mercy



“Everyone who I’ve talked to found the information the panelists shared very interesting, informative, and helpful.”

Photos and quotation credits: Jessica Morgan Kirschner, SCALA business manager

Annual Chapter Meeting and Awards

The 2016 Annual Chapter meeting was held on December 8, 2016 at Dave & Buster's in Homestead, PA. The evening was arranged by 2016 president– elect Carrie Wardzinski and the awards committee: Margarete Bower, Eve Wider, Brooke Hyatt and Deb Martin.

The evening proved a great time to catch up with members and friends of members, followed by dinner, the annual meeting, chapter elections, awards ceremony, and finally, arcade games for all!



Photo Credits: Denise Callihan & Eve Wider

2016 President's Message— Leslie Poljak

This will be my last message as chapter president, now past president, and it is one of thanks for all of the guidance and opportunity our chapter members have provided in the past few years.

First, a very special thanks to Carrie Wardzinski for serving as president-elect for 2 years, always taking initiative to plan awesome programs, and patiently helping with any question I'd run past her. 2016 was full of successful chapter programs and I'm excited to see what the future holds for our chapter, especially under Carrie's leadership. I also would like to thank Ryan Splenda, Jennie Crowley, Margarete Bower, Denise Callihan, and Sharon Palchak, for serving on our board and for all of their wisdom, as well as all of the committee chairs for working so hard to ensure chapter operations are running smoothly.

While I will no longer serve as president I hope to remain active as co-editor of this bulletin with Brooke Hyatt. As I've stated many times before, our chapter is made up of a truly amazing group of people and I'm so lucky to be working with you all!

2017 New Chapter Officers Elected

Congratulations to the newly elected 2017 Pittsburgh Chapter officers! They were voted in unanimously by vote of acclamation at our Annual Board Meeting and Dinner:

Carrie Wardzinski - President

Ryan Splenda - President-Elect

Liz Hogan - Secretary

Jennie Crowley - Treasurer

Denise Callihan - Director

And many thanks to Leslie Poljak, who served as president of our chapter for 2015 and 2016. She is happily moving into the past president position for 2017, but will remain active as co-editor of our newsletter, the *Confluence*.

SLA Connect Webinar

In Spring 2016, SLA introduced a new communications platform, SLA Connect which replaced our chapter listserv. The [Fall 2016 issue of the Confluence](#) gave a brief overview of how to login and edit your Connect email settings.

A more in-depth overview of Connect can be accessed from the [Getting the Most Out of SLA Connect webinar recording](#).

Annual Chapter Meeting and Awards Photos



Photo Credits: Denise Callihan



2016 Annual Awards - Margarete Bower & the Awards Committee

This year the Pittsburgh Chapter gives its Leadership Award jointly to the team responsible for digitizing the historical collection of the chapter's bulletins.

Donna Beck was nominated for being "the driving force behind the project" and her initiative in gathering the necessary information "from other SLA members and chapters to help inform the decision to begin. She also organized our chapter bulletins to ensure all bulletins were included." Olivia Glotfelty was cited for the key role she played in volunteering her time to learn how to digitize these documents. She volunteered and traveled to Pitt's Archives Service Center to carry out this work even though she was unable to fit a field placement for academic credit into her schedule and after graduation was busy with job hunting. She was commended for her patience, flexibility, and leadership. As noted in one nomination, enabling future access to these documents "provides a rich contribution to our chapter history!"

Congratulations, Donna and Olivia!



Photo Credit: Denise Callihan

History of the 'Golden Retread' Award: This Tire Grows Some Wings Rachel Callison

Way back in 2006, the 'Golden Retread' Award came to fruition thanks to the creative mind of long time SLA member - & the first recipient of our chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award - Bob Sullivan. At our December awards dinner that year, Bob wanted mark the occasion of Earl Mounts having just served the Pittsburgh chapter as our president ... for the second time [1990-91; 2005-6]. Along with the presentation of a revitalized (thanks to some gold spray paint) lawn mower tire, Bob asked "apologies of the gods of literature and poetry" and read the following poem he'd written for Earl --



**"There once was a Pittsburgh Librarian,
Whose devotion to SLA was unvaryin',
He stood as our President once
And to our amazement now twice!
So please accept our respect and our thanks,
with this Retread Award I am carryin' "**



History of the 'Golden Retread' Award: Rachel Callison (cont'd)

In 2010, our awards chair - **Ange Pollis** (also a recipient of our chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award) noticed that **Brian Steinmetz** was ending his second go round as president that year [2002-3; 2009-10]. Thus another tire was gilded and presented to Brian at the 2010 awards dinner. Which leads us to the 2016 Awards season and ten years after the initial 'Golden Retread' was presented. As we approached the end of 2016, yours truly noted that not only was **Leslie** (nee Eibl) **Poljak** (2014-15; 2015-16) finishing her second consecutive year as chapter president, but **Carrie Wardzinski** was finishing her second year as president-elect. A missive was quickly drafted to the awards committee indicating that we should mark this occasion -- along with an assurance that, "I got this".

That said, in writing this up now, I honestly do not recall my exact presentation speech at Dave & Buster's on December 8th -- which may have had something to do with that G&T I had right before I got up to present Leslie & Carrie with their awards. However, I do recall that since Shawshank Redemption had been on a constant loop - it being December -- that I did incorporate that great line between *Andy* (Tim Robbin's character) and *Red* (Morgan Freeman's character) into the presentation: *"Remember Red, hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies."* Because even a curmudgeon like myself could not help but to be filled with hope for our association and chapter by having this energetic and competent duo stepping up and leading us -- not once, but twice.

Leslie was presented with my arts & crafts version of the 'Golden Retread': slightly smaller gold tires on a plaque. Because every great leader has an equally great person 'in the wings' acting as their wing-man/woman, Carrie was presented with the first "Wind Beneath My Wings" award: a small gold tire on a plaque, but with feathers.



And the (final) cherry on this 'Golden Retread' Award story sundae is that Bob & Brian were there that night, too.



Photo Credits: Denise Callihan

Golden Retread Award Information

Brian Steinmetz: Winter 2010 Confluence, vol 75(3)

Earl Mounts: Winter 2006 Confluence, vol 71 (3):

**One other person did serve as president twice - Edith Portman [1936-38] -- but that was way before all our times/the idea for this award.*

Information about all of our Chapter's Awards

2017 SLA Annual Conference June 16-20 | Phoenix, AZ

Conference Learning Streams Include:
Career Development
Data Management and Curation
Intellectual Property
Leadership
Metrics, Analytics, and Assessment



Photo credit: sla.org

Early Bird Registration Rates End March 15, 2017

More information available at the Conference Website

pittsburgh.sla.org

The Confluence is the newsletter of the *Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter*. The next issue will be published in **Spring 2017**. 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.



What's trending at SLA

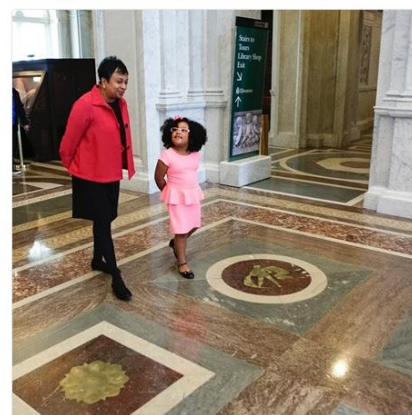
Click the pictures for more information!



SLA Retweeted
SLA @SLAhq - 16 Dec 2016
2017, here we come! @SLAhq President @deemagnoni and Executive Director @amylesti look forward to the year ahead! #SLAers



SLA @SLAhq - Jan 12
A future calling? Yesterday Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden welcomed 4-yr-old Daliyah as "Librarian for the Day".
[instagram.com/p/BPIMwfEDq5E/](https://www.instagram.com/p/BPIMwfEDq5E/)



Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by contributors to the Association's publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter.

© 2017 by Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter. Material protected by this copyright may be photocopied for the non-commercial purpose of scholarship or research.