President’s Message - Jennie Crowley

Hello SLA Pittsburgh Chapter members! It’s hard to believe that the official start of summer is just around the corner!

We’re continuing our efforts from last year to increase member engagement with virtual meetings, webinars, and varied event locations. Our first board meeting in February was open to all members and scheduled via SLA’s GoToMeeting account. In March, we co-hosted our third webinar with the Philadelphia chapter, “Use an Elevator Speech to Prove Your Value.” We also held coffee chats in March and April at two different locations, Carnegie and Regent Square. Thank you to Stefanie Maclin-Hurd for organizing our March coffee chat at Carnegie Coffee Company, and thank you to Kiera Mudry for organizing our April coffee chat with me at Biddle’s Escape. We’d love to schedule more coffee chats this year so please reach out if you have a location in mind! We’d also like to continue our webinar collaboration with Philly so please email me with ideas for professional development topics.

I’d also like to thank our board members for their generous decision to cover the 2019 SLA Annual Conference registration fees for Stefanie and me. I’ve never attended SLA Annual primarily because of the expense, and I’m very excited to represent our chapter, connect with members, and learn! (Plus, I’ve heard the IT Dance Party is not to be missed!) Stay tuned for a recap of my first conference experience in a future issue of the Confluence.

If you’re headed to Cleveland this year, our annual no-host chapter get-together is scheduled for Sunday June 16 at Taza Lebanese Grill. Please consider joining us for dinner and hanging out with current and former Pittsburgh Chapter members. I hope to see many of you there, or at a future chapter event! Have a wonderful summer!
Q&A with Chapter Member Nancy Flury Carlson

Favorite SLA moment:
I met Roger K. Summit at the 2009 SLA annual conference when he happened to be at the Dialog booth in the vendor hall. He was the founder of Dialog and has been called the father of modern online search. I was first introduced to Dialog in library school in 1980, when we used dumb terminals that simulated online interactive searching. I always loved interactive searching with its Boolean logic and the need for both flexibility and accuracy in language. Dialog Information Services was the hands down leader in providing organized access to information through its subject-oriented databases in science and technology, business, education, and social sciences (just to skim the surface). Meeting and chatting with Roger Summit, for an online searcher, was like a programmer meeting Bill Gates or a physicist meeting Albert Einstein.

Favorite part of your job:
First, I loved working with such smart and interesting coworkers, customers and industry associates, and being able to learn so much throughout my career. Second, I liked that the work kept changing. Each day brought new and different reference questions and literature search topics into the library. In the strategy department, competitor moves and market shifts influenced our research focus. On a larger scale, it was amazing to work through two major technology shifts—the advent of personal computers on workplace desktops was the first. The second was the emergence of the internet and its impact on companies, libraries and the information industry.

Least favorite part of your job:
Justifying information services and resources (over and over again), especially during times of downsizing. It’s not the justifying part that I didn’t like, because that is important. It’s the “over and over” part.

Goal for the coming year:
Now that I am retired my focus is moving to things that I always planned to do “someday.” I’ve been learning Swedish and Italian using DuoLingo and brushing up on German to get ready for a European trip this summer. As chairman of the Swiss Nationality Room Committee at the University of Pittsburgh, I want to complete the fundraising to fully endow our scholarship fund. I have a studio full of paint and printmaking supplies waiting for me. Finally there are thousands of photos and documents in lots of boxes and drawers to weed and organize.

First Library Job:
Acquisitions Assistant at Washington University Law Library in St. Louis, Missouri.
Chapter Member Q&A with Nancy Flury Carlson (cont’d)

Last Book Read:
The Checklist Manifesto - How to Get Things Right, by Atul Gawande, 2009. The title makes it sound like a dorky management how-to, but it’s really interesting. Written by a physician, it’s an exploration of the complexity of knowledge and technology and the strategies we use to overcome failure.

What made you want to become a Librarian?
Part of it was that I like quiet. At the law library in St. Louis I enjoyed the acquisitions process and learned a little about cataloging and reference. The librarians there were interesting and smart, and I learned from them what it would entail to get a master’s in library science. I originally intended to become a rare books or art librarian and never thought I would have to use computers, but serendipitous turns led me to my job at Westinghouse and it was perfect for me.

Anything else you would like to share:
Half of my career was in libraries and the other half in strategy and market research. The shift to strategy at Westinghouse came about when the library closed but the strategy group still needed research support and access to external information resources.

Congratulations!
Eve Wider, has been named the recipient of the Rose L. Vormelker Award! The “Rosie” is presented to a mid-career member in good standing who actively teaches and/or mentors students or working professionals.

Eve’s award will be presented during the SLA Annual Conference closing session on Tuesday, June 18.

Congratulations Eve, on this well deserved award!

Spring Chapter Events
Use an Elevator Speech to Prove Your Value Webinar with Kathy Dempsey, March 28

Coffee Chat, Saturday, March 2 at the Carnegie Coffee Company

Coffee Chat, Saturday, April 13 at Biddle’s Escape

Stay Connected! Pittsburgh Chapter Social Media and Communication Links

Social Media
SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Facebook @slapittsburgh

Chapter Communication
SLA Connect
SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Website Confluence
Chapter Meeting Minutes
2019 SLA Annual Conference

June 14-18, 2019
Cleveland, OH

Conference Preperation Links:
- Small Talk “Cheat Sheet”
- Schedule at a Glance
- Keynote Speakers
- Explore Cleveland

Have a great conference!

What’s Trending at SLA:
Click the Pictures for More Information

Visit the SLA Career Center

The Confluence is the newsletter of the Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter. The next issue will be published in Fall 2019. 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.