



President's Message ~ Amy Watson

Lately I've had the lyrics to a Neil Young song stuck in my head - "You are like a hurricane, there's calm in your eyes." I often feel like the summer months are the calm between the storms for SLA - we've got spring programming and the annual conference behind us, and a bit of a breather before fall programming and all that comes with it starts up.

Recently on a long road trip, my husband and I were discussing one of my more notorious stress coping mechanisms, living to "get past" something. I'll have a project proposed to me, and I'll tell someone that I'll start it "once I get past" another event. This isn't just at work - it's at home, it's with SLA, it's really every aspect of my life, as the puzzle pieces interlock.

Our road trip was to a vacation, and my husband pointed out that he could tell that up until the car pulled out of the driveway, I didn't want to go. **ON A VACATION!** Who dreads vacation? Foolish people who are under a lot of stress apparently. Fortunately for me, one of the people I vacationed with is a former therapist. (Free therapy!) In discussing all that I had going on in my life we came upon a few points that I want to share with you, and relate to our lives in SLA.

First - Don't live to get past things. That's kind of obvious to many of you I'm sure. But while I'm living to get past something in the future, I'm forgetting about the present. One of the things I was

living to get past was the trip to Seattle. I didn't feel that I could take anything more on until I had conquered the delayed flights, the cancelled connections, the lost baggage. It was really a sense of dread that clouded my preparation for the conference - but once I got there? Well worth every second of hassle.

As a result of this revelation, I am making a concerted effort to live deliberately. How does that tie to your professional life? I'd like to challenge you to do the same - to embrace the challenges that are thrown at you every day in your library, and to make tackling them a deliberate effort. I've always believed that everything in life happens for a reason, and that reason is a learning experience. Learn from today, instead of living for tomorrow. Find a mentor, be a mentor, learn something new every day. We're all given a certain amount of time on this planet, so regrets are a waste of our time. And none of us really have time to waste, do we?

Second - Embrace change - don't be inert. When I got right down to thinking about vacation, it was the change that was stressing me out. It's easier to just stay at home and stick with routine than to do something different. But at home, and at work, change is constant. It's just something we've got to get used to. So instead of fighting against it and stressing out, embrace it.

In our lives, new technologies are a fact of life. Sure, it's easier to do things the same way we've

always done them - but is it better? I'm not advocating change for changes sake - but don't be afraid to try something new. I think one of the things that many of us love about this profession is the chance for lifelong learning - in theory. How many of us take advantage of that? The current leadership of SLA has fostered a great environment of collaboration and learning - we just need to make the decision to take part.

And finally - drop the excess. Look carefully at your life - work, home, everywhere. What are you holding on to that doesn't bring value? Are you holding onto unused print resources because that's what a library "should" have? How about that "favorite" blouse that you haven't worn for three years? Or that obligation that gives you nothing in return but stress? Drop it. Don't be sentimental, just drop it. The more chaos and clutter in our lives and our libraries, the more stressful it is. I'm cleaning out my closets at home right now and I'm being ruthless. It is one of the most refreshing and freeing things I've done in a long time. Are there things that you can drop that you do just out of habit? Just like embracing change, embrace simplicity where you can - at home and at work.

So as we approach the other side of the eye of the storm, I hope you'll think about these things and enjoy the beauty of each day - at work, at home, and SLA. Life is too precious to not value every thing we do - so let's have a great rest of 2008!

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Thanks for the Feedback! - Membership Survey Update - Amy Watson

After spending last year as program planner, I became aware that only 30% of our Chapter membership were what we could consider "active" members. The main purpose of the membership survey was then to find out more about our members, and what we could do as a chapter, to both improve and to involve more people.

I was then extremely happy to have approximately 46% of the Chapter fill out the survey. 41% of those who filled it out are new members (between 1-5 years), which is exciting - to see that we have so many new people in our region.

Just over 50% of survey respondents consider the city limits to be their geographic region - which answered a key question for me - how many people are we not including by planning the majority of our meetings in the city? One solution that the board has been thinking about are regional meetings, and 55% of respondents would be interested in that idea. Another idea is one that several other chapters have found success with - purchasing the year of Click U programs and rotating

where they are held - 57% of respondents approve of this idea, with a very wide variety of travel distance preferences (between 5 and 100 miles).

We all know that we're very busy and have competing demands on our time. The top three reasons for not being involved in the Chapter are time related (competing work priorities 40%; not having time during the work week 29%; competing family priorities 28%). However, it is very encouraging to see that 61% of respondents would be interested in more opportunities for short term involvement.

83% of respondents consider networking to be one of their reasons for chapter membership, closely followed by professional development (79%) and professional affiliation (73%). This is also reflected in the types of programs that are preferred (in order) - professional development, presentations by information professionals, nationally known speakers, and library tours. Specifically, emerging technologies/web 2.0 and business/competitive intelligence are the most desired areas of professional development.

Weeknight evenings continue to be the preferred time for meetings, but a significant number of the open ended responses expressed concern about the cost of our meetings. Since our program planners often struggle with finding a venue to meet our budget, it has become obvious that we need to look closely at our traditional meeting format. Many people were open to Dutch Treat events, or events without meals. This was also echoed in that meetings without meals (or optional meals) could take less time away from our busy schedules. This is good "food" for thought for the program planners of the future. I think that perhaps many of us long time

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**Congratulations to the winners
of our survey drawing!**

**Certificate for Free Meeting
Eve Wider**

**\$10 Gift Card
Jo Ellen Butcher & Betsey Tuttle**

So What Am I Paying For? - Learning Resources from SLA - Amy Watson

At the Leadership Development Institute as part of this year's annual conference, SLA President Stephen Abrams addressed the issue that I've heard from many of our Chapter members - "SLA membership is expensive, and what do I get for that money?" The answer is a lot - you've just got to take the time to use it!

* First and foremost - the **Innovation Laboratory** - <http://www.sla.org/innovate/>! It contains an *application suite* where you can try - free with your membership - close to 100 kinds of software before committing to it for your facility. There are *innovation resources*, such as Execubooks summaries and information feeds from NewsGator and Factiva. There are *technology links* which are examples of the best of web based applications for you to try. There is a subscription to *Atomic Learn-*

ing Videos where you can watch and learn from 35,000 videos (requires a log in, but username and password are on the Innovation Lab website). There is an *innovation collaborative wiki*, a *Second Life* Island, and micro-blogging as an organization using *Twitter*.

* A subset of the Innovation Lab is the **23 Things Project** - but I think it's valuable enough to warrant it's own bullet point. Here you can work through a self guided tour of 23 new skills in 9 weeks, in only 15 minutes a day. Talk about a lot of impact to your skill set for just a little time - and no money! <http://wiki.sla.org/display/23Things>

* With your membership you also have access to two Ebsco databases - **GreenFILE** and **LISTA** (Library, Information Science & Technology

Abstracts). I did some research using LISTA before the creation of our membership survey - think of how you can better benchmark your work (and become green to boot!) using this resource. <http://www.sla.org/content/resources/ebsco.cfm>

* And don't forget that each month **Click University** offers a free course for members! These are on a variety of topics and taught by experts in our field. How can you pass that up? <http://www.sla.org/content/learn/clicku.cfm>

Stephen stated that he wants to foster the "mentality of exploration" within the entire organization. I encourage you to help make that happen - not for the organization but for *yourself* - NOW GO! EXPLORE! EXPERIMENT! PLAY! LEARN!

Notes from the Annual Conference ~ Donna Beck

I feel that I was lucky this year with the great content in the sessions that I attended. I took many pages of notes for ideas that I wanted to remember and put into use back in Pittsburgh.



Here's a few that I would like to share with you!

I was intrigued by SLA's "23 Things"--an initiative that is asking SLA members to consider committing 15 minutes a day for nine weeks during the summer to learn Web 2.0 tools. This is through SLA's Innovation Lab program. Go to the Lab's site for this and other self-paced training on new technologies: <http://www.sla.org/innovate/>

Here's another place to get some training. If you have digital materials in your collections, you want to ensure that you are taking the correct steps to preserve them. I found out about these tutorials in the "Surviving Your Digitization Project" session: <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/dpm/>

Who isn't overloaded by email? You just have to view the demo on this site and then tell me what you think about it! <http://www.seriosity.com/attent.html> The product is called Attent™ with Serios™ and I heard about it by attending the Spotlight session: "Gaming and Learning."

How about some end of summer reading suggestions? I attended the Sci-Tech and Engineering Contributed Papers session and found out about

Linda Hall Library's Nonfiction Book discussion group during: "If the Library Brand is 'Books,' Why Not Read a Few? Bringing Narrative Nonfiction Book Discussion to the Special Library."

Maybe this fall, I will follow their great idea by leading a few book discussions at my institution. You can go to Amazon.com and peruse the reviews for the following books that Linda Hall chose for their "one book" discussions. Better yet, read the book!

- * *The Future of the Internet-And How to Stop It* by Jonathan Zittrain
- * *Hope is the Thing with Feathers: A Personal Chronicle of Vanished Birds* by Christopher Cokinos
- * *The Physics of NASCAR: How to Make Steel+Gas+Rubber=Speed* by Diandra Leslie-Pelecky
- * *Rocket Boys* by Homer Hickam
- * *The Selfish Gene* by Richard Dawkins
- * *The Silver Lining: The Benefits of Natural Disasters* by Seth R. Reice
- * *Sputnik: The Shock of the Century* by Paul Dickson
- * *The Whale and the Supercomputer: On the Northern Front of Climate Change* by Charles Wohlforth

Finally, one of the most worthwhile sessions for me was called "Teach So They Can Learn" presented by educational consultant, Dr. Ilda Carreiro King. According to Dr. King, adults have narrow, defined expectations about learning and teachers need to "be specific" or students "won't take time to generalize." Adults tend to seek learning because of a life altering event such as a trauma, a move, a marriage or divorce.

Here is some of her advice:

DIRECTLY state the purpose and objective for the content being presented. Ask students, "Do you see any benefit to this?"

To work on the important MOTIVATION and SOCIALIZATION factors, partner the class into two people per one computer. By

partnering, the students are more likely to risk asking questions. As students work in teams, you can walk around—"graze" through them but do not look at them. Never partner an expert with a novice. Allow students to pick their own partners. One person "reads the script" or speaks the steps (believe it or not, this person is doing the most learning) while the other person does the "clicking." After moving through the step, go back to discuss, otherwise the students may not "get it" or see the links.

Students engage better if no hand raising is permitted.

Complete the sentence by advertising your workshop with the message: "THIS WILL HELP YOU..."

Keep in mind that your role as teacher is to be the facilitator of knowledge—the hierarchy should not be "top down." Recognize the talents of your students in order to get them to engage. Start SHOWING rather than telling.

Always make use of the power of PEER ACCOUNTABILITY. This allows for a "little bit of stress" which is appropriate for the purpose of motivating.

Take time outs for two to ten minute discussions where you present the students with a scenario and they talk amongst themselves. The length of time—two minutes or ten minutes will determine the appropriate level of depth that you want them to devote to that particular part of the topic.

I was able to find Dr. King's website, so you can go there to learn more about her and her techniques: <http://ildaking.net/>

I also want to say thanks again to all who took time out for a short Pittsburgh Chapter meet-up in Seattle at Pike Pub. The weather was perfect for the conference, and I was able to enjoy the waterfront and many meals of melt-in-your-mouth salmon.

Seattle Conference Recap

At least twenty Chapter members were in attendance at the Annual Conference in Seattle - it seemed like every hallway held a Pittsburgher (or a former Pittsburgher - **Adele Barsh**, **John DiGillio** and **Mary Arnold** were all spotted) which is further confirmation that we're a strong network even when we're not at home!



(L-R) Eve Wider, Amy Watson & Rachel Callison at the Space Needle

Two of our elected officers were also speakers this year - Treasurer **Brian Steinmetz** spoke at the session "The Making of a CI Professional: CI Division Mentoring Program." He spoke about his experience as one of the first mentees for the new CI mentor program, and discussed his initial expectations of the program, what he's learned and suggestions for future mentees. Director **Denise Callihan** taught two ticketed CE courses for the Chemistry Division - "Diving into

Patents: A Primer for Librarians" and "Chemical Information Sources, Requests, and Reference."

After coming back from Seattle, Chapter members in attendance were asked - "What was your a-ha moment of the conference?" - Meaning, what information was a paradigm shift or made the conference for you? Several members responded below, but be sure to check out more detailed responses by **Donna Beck** and **Trish Havrin** on pages 3 and 5 respectively.

*The Innovation Lab, and in particular the 23 Things initiative, really impressed me. Stephen Abram provided an overview during one of his talks, and at the end said something along the lines of "Is there enough value in that to justify your dues?" He is absolutely right on this point. I started the 23 Things initiative this past week, and though I'm only on the fourth or fifth Thing, I have already learned so much more by "doing" than I would have by reading or listening to someone explain these tools. I have a new blog, a wiki account, del.icious capabilities, enabled an RSS feed, and yesterday I explored Technorati. This is enabled by the step-by-step instructions and the overall plan put together by the 23 Things team. Really, it's the most value I've received from the overall SLA organization in a long time, or maybe ever! (And I've been a member since 1980). - **Nancy Flury-Carlson***



(L-R) Christine Slippy, Brooke Sansosti and Mary Arnold at the Chapter Meet-Up

*Lots of "aha" in the Outsell session at the conference - "Government Librarians Get Savvy! Metrics! Metrics! Metrics!" - projected corporate library budget for 2008 is over \$2 million! That probably makes many of us seem like a great bargain! - **Tim Gaus***

*At the career panel hosted by SAAAC, Susan Klopper, a new SLA fellow said "If you want to work in a library in a corporation - I would strongly recommend you don't do that because that job doesn't exist anymore." Sylvia James, another fellow, echoed Klopper's statement. Both agreed that the librarian job isn't merely undergoing a name change (to say information specialist or research analyst) but rather the research and information management functions were being incorporated into other jobs and the library role is getting phased out. - **Gail Stebbins***

*My aha moment is that I will NOT teach two courses back to back next year! - **Denise Callihan***

*I attended the "Create Your Screencasts in a Flash" session hosted by the Military Librarians division. Edward Metz gave a fantastic presentation introducing me to the software Adobe Captivate. Captivate is a tool that captures screen-casts, or creates "movies" that can be used for e-learning. I can't wait to implement this as a format of users guides for our libraries. - **Amy Watson***

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

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

- August 14 - Speaking Skills for Professional Women
- August 21 - Deskerercise! Energize Your Workday with Office Exercises
- August 28 - The nowU Guaranteed Savings Plan: Pennsylvania's Tax-Smart Way to Save for College
- September 4 - Thinking about Retirement in a Volatile Market
- September 11 - Estate Planning: How to Preserve What You Have
- September 18 - How to Build a Successful Website - You Know You Need One, Now Learn the Steps to Do It!
- September 25 - How to Buy a Business

Awards Nominations Sought ~ Ange Pollis & the Awards Committee

It is never too early to start thinking about our annual awards process. Each year, we celebrate members of our Chapter who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, at our Annual Business Meeting/Awards Banquet in December. Further information will be coming directly from the Awards Committee in the near future concerning the nomination process and deadlines. The committee is also excited to report the addition of a new award for 2008 - the *New Member Award*.

Once the *New Member Award* is finalized, the chapter will have seven annual awards. Please think about nominating a colleague for:

Leadership/Pittsburgh Chapter Award

The Pittsburgh Chapter's "*The Pittsburgh Chapter Award*" is presented annually to recognize a Chapter member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to the Chapter.

Lifetime Achievement Award

This award will honor a professional librarian for outstanding achievement and accomplishments reflecting the goals of the library profession. The honoree will have shown extended and sustained periods of distinguished commitment to the Chapter.

Publications/ Authorship Award

This award will be presented to a Chapter member who has made a significant contribution to the published literature or created an important electronic document or tool. Examples include journal articles, conference presentations, book chapters, web pages, and blogs.

Catalyst Award

This award recognizes a member who has provided innovative solutions to issues that significantly affect the mission and values of the Chapter.

Innovation in Technology Award

The technology award is given to a member who has developed methods or tools to streamline and simplify information tasks through the use of advanced technology so as to achieve actionable results.

Mentoring Award

This award will be presented to a Chapter member in recognition of exceptional contributions in the area of mentoring students and/or practicing professionals in the field.



For more information about any of the awards, or if you would like to nominate a Chapter member for a national award, please feel free to contact Ange Pollis, or any member of the Awards Committee (Rachel Callison and Kate Joranson). It's been said before, and it will be said again - we've got a great chapter here, so let's recognize and celebrate it!

My A-Ha Moment! ~ Trish Havrin

Besides discovering in Seattle's Public Market that fish kissing and throwing could be so entertaining!

I was fortunate to be able to attend over nine different lectures, sponsored by various SLA divisions, each of which provided insight into current challenges. Every speaker shared background knowledge, which included past division or company history, theories on changes and ways we can meet future challenges. Each and every workshop was enriching! Which is why I especially like the "What is your a-ha moment question?"

The Wow experience for me was the Thomas Reuters Spotlight Session from the Leadership & Management Division titled **Knowledge Management at the Core: Facilitating Knowledge Sharing** with speaker Dave Snowden.

The purpose of Dave Snowden's lecture was to help you create a knowl-

edge sharing culture within your organization. In order to fully understand the Wow moment (which is a short culminating video) the following points were made.

Mr. Snowden first addressed head on the idea that control of knowledge is a power struggle issue. Rather he said it is one of fear of abuse of knowledge. Knowledge is triggered by the context, and those in the know don't want it corrupted. This results in people generally communicating with those they trust.

** He addressed underlying theories of how humans interpret knowledge. Our ability to see patterns, termed the naturalistic approach, as well as chaotic and complex systems of thought.*

** Snowden emphasized that humans pull out fragments of information they find most useful considering their cultural experiences and familiar ordered patterns.*

** Keeping this in mind, as well as that a knowledge management system is a request system, watch the video Snowden showed to the audience of over 100 people. (Internet search: Basketball/Gorilla Video) Snowden asked the audience to find out how many times a white clothed team passed a basketball around. Sounded simple, as there would be two teams of five members each. I watched the short video closely. and with a certain degree of pride realized afterwards that I had the right count answer. However, in reality I was wrong, as well as 98 other spectators, as we missed an entire "event". Don't want to give it away...a video not to be missed!*

** Last, for all parents of teenagers... Snowden explained that when your son/daughter comes home late at night with a big story to tell. Think they are lying? The easy test is to ask them to tell the story backwards.*

BOARD MEMBER
PROFILE



Name: Donna Beck
Role on Board/Committee: President-elect
Education: BA University of Pittsburgh;

MLIS University of Pittsburgh

Employment: Carnegie Mellon University, Engineering Librarian

Member of SLA Since: 2004

First Library Job: Student worker at University of Pittsburgh's Hillman Library

Favorite Part of Being an

Information Professional: Finding stuff! Playing the role of detective by assisting others to find information that in turn somehow helps the greater good.

Least Favorite Part of My Job:

Having too many "uncompleted" projects or projects that are not getting enough of my attention.

Being a Member of SLA has

Helped Me: Reaffirm the importance of information professionals—acknowledging for me that my work has value. I continue to learn so much from my SLA colleagues. I very much enjoy socializing with them and hearing their stories and inspiring ideas.

Family/Pets: One daughter, Brandy – 20-yrs-old, graduating from CMU in December. My parents and my five siblings and their families all live in the Pittsburgh area. My friends and family, plus my 8-yr-old cat, Maizie, all keep me on my toes!

Hobbies: Does listening to music count? I do chores and current house painting projects with the radio blasting. I like to hike, bicycle, badminton, swim, do yoga, dance, and cook—but don't do any very well. I also collect bar glasses—with mixed drink recipes etched on them.

Last Book Read: I am attempting to read *Plenty of Room for Biology at the Bottom: An Introduction to BioNanotechnology* by Ehud Gazit. I am

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CHAPTER MEMBER
PROFILE



Name: James D. "Kip" Carrier
Role on Board/Committee: SLAPSG Faculty Liaison
Education: Four degrees from University of

Pittsburgh: BA, Japanese; JD; MLIS; PhD

Employment: Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences; former attorney and public library administrator

Member of SLA Since: First joined in 1996

First Library Job: Page, Buhl-Henderson Community Library in hometown Sharon, PA during high school

Favorite Part of Being an

Information Professional: LIS field is a dynamic digital age nexus that engages my interests in information, culture, law, politics, and diverse populations.

Pets: 2 Italian Greyhounds, Ajax & Lafitte; 1 Terrier, Annabell

Hobbies: Weight-lifting, Maintaining pre-"graphic novel" comic book collection since 1973, Creating marketing slogans, Archiving family photos and documents

Last Book Read: *Freedom of Expression: Resistance and Repression in the Age of Intellectual Property* (2007) by Kembrew McLeod; *The Powers to Lead* (2008) by Joseph S. Nye, Jr.

Favorite Vacation Spots: Sydney, Australia; Bruce Peninsula, Ontario, Canada; Utah's National Parks; New Orleans

Four Things I Never Leave the House Without: Cell phone, Wallet, Keys, Sunglasses

Favorite Movie: Lots; one is Christopher Guest's dog show satire "Best in Show"

Spot in Pittsburgh I Take Out of Town Visitors to: Pitt's Nationality Rooms (student volunteer tour guide there for three years in 1980's)

BOARD MEMBER
PROFILE

Photo
Not
Available

Name: Kate Joranson
Role on Board/Committee: Awards Committee team member, Green Committee team member
Education: BS,

University of Wisconsin; MFA, Ohio State University; MLIS, University of Pittsburgh

Employment: Reference/Public Services Librarian, Business Library, University of Pittsburgh, and Adjunct Faculty, Chatham University (Studio Art)

Member of SLA Since: 2007

First Library Job: Reference Intern at Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh

Favorite Part of Being an

Information Professional: Being surrounded by questions and curiosity.

Being a Member of SLA has Helped Me: Meet wonderful librarians and have stimulating conversations.

Hobbies/Interests: Art-making, cooking with vegetables from my garden, hiking, reading, collecting old children's science encyclopedias, writing, and traveling whenever possible.

Last Book Read: *The Toss of a Lemon* by Padma Viswanathan and *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold

Favorite Vacation Spot: Bear Butte, South Dakota

Four Things I Never Leave the

House Without: a camera, notebook, a pencil, and something to read

Favorite Movie: *Charade* with Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant.

Spot in Pittsburgh I Take Out of Town Visitors to: The Mattress Factory, Frick Park, and to the top of the steep hills in my neighborhood.

If you would like to be featured in an upcoming **PROFILE** contact [Amy Watson](#).

April Event - SLA Meets & Greets AIP - Lynn Berard

On conferences and professional endeavors: SLA meets and greets AIP

Billed as *Networking, Networking, Networking!* the AIP conference did not disappoint! Indeed it was an occasion to discover new career paths and make new friends. On April 30th over 150 information professionals descended upon Pittsburgh for 5 glorious days to meet, greet and conference together. The **American Institute of Information Professionals (AIP)** is the premier industry association for independent information professionals with a membership of more than 500 business owners representing 20+ countries around the world. Having the opportunity to network with this sister association was a beneficial activity for chapter's members and was coordinated by our Chapter's networking committee (Denise Callihan, Ange Pollis, Carolyn Biglow and Lynn Berard).

One of the main attractions of the conference was a special one-day rate for attendance (Thursday May 1) which entitled attendees to participate in free vendor training sessions, a first timers/new members session from 4-6pm, a poster session, and the opening conference reception from 6-8pm. This event was a great way to kick off the official conference opening as well as provide a way for local SLA members to solicit "dinner buddies", as

hosts to local restaurant venues. The reception was held in the vendor hall where our local chapter, with the assistance of SLA HQ, manned an SLA vendor table, complete with a larger-than-life SLA banner and a table full of materials and giveaways. Members assisted in manning the booth throughout the conference and some are pictured here.

Many handouts were created for our visitors including the most important "shopping guide" (which included a special list of knitting stores compiled by Amy Watson); restaurant and transportation guides as well as a sign up sheet for dine-around opportunities hosted by chapter members. AIP members who took advantage of the dinner buddies program were most enthusiastic and appreciative of the chance to view our city through our experiences and to make new friends. A group of 20 enjoyed the view from Mt. Washington at the Monterey Fish Grotto after a full day of pre-conference workshops, as well as sharing meals at Six Penn and



SLA @ AIP - (L-R) Lynn Berard, Donna Beck, Ange Pollis and Denise Callihan

Tambellini's with our group. A special thank you to those who hosted dine-arounds: Casey Brady, Donna Beck, Amy Watson, Denise Callihan, Lynn Berard and Heather Scott. Hosting our colleagues from AIP helped us forge new friendships and to reconnect with old fiends, as almost 50% of AIP members also have memberships in SLA!

Thanks go to many members for making this event a success but it never would have materialized if not for the excellent networking, support and leadership of our president, Amy Watson and AIP conference planner, Jocelyn Sheppard.

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also close to finishing: *The Spectator and the Topographical City* by my colleague, Martin Aurand. I like mysteries and have read all but the last of Sue Grafton's alphabet mysteries. I also read Westerns, authors like Nicholas Evans.

Favorite Vacation Spot: A place that is hot, sunny, and includes a beach or pool.

Four Things I Never Leave the

House Without: 1. Keys—even though I don't know what some of them are for. 2. SLA bag or other free conference tote to carry around all my junk. 3. My wallet. I refer to it as my

"pursette"—Is that even a word? Sounds French, anyway. 4. My leash. Oh no, never mind—I don't own a cell phone but if I did, I'd carry it around with me!

Favorite Movie: "The Sound of Music"—#1 for romantic scene—what a wonderful classic.

Three Words to Describe Me: simple (but also complex), silly (but also serious), sincere (always sincere)—that's why "She's a Gemini" might be the best way to describe me

Spot in Pittsburgh I Take Out of Town Visitors to: Ideally Mt. Washington, often Phipps or the Zoo.

SLA Centennial Stamps Now Available!



More information is available at the [SLA Marketplace website!](#)
Start the celebration early!

Ethics Update - Ethics Town Hall (May Event) & Annual Conference Ethics Summit- Nancy Flury-Carlson

Pittsburgh Chapter Ethics Town Hall

Frank Dinglihaber, the founder and CEO of Questyle (<http://www.questyle.com/>), presented a comprehensive talk on meanings and interpretations of Ethics, followed by an Ethical Dilemma case study discussion at the Chapter's Ethics Town Hall event, held on May 6, 2008 at Jimmy Tsang's Chinese Restaurant in Pittsburgh.

The 25 members in attendance were asked to imagine a scenario in which they overheard potentially sensitive business information in a hotel restaurant. The information was directly related to the listener's own company – it could be valuable competitive intelligence, or customer insight, or in fact the people discussing the information could even be from the listener's own company. The question to the group: What would you do? Would you stay and listen, would you walk away? Would you speak to the people whose conversation you were hearing? If you stayed and listen, would you do something with the information you overheard?

There was anything but consensus in the room. Several people related the reasons why they would continue listening, and others presented equally compelling reasons why they would walk away. Some people recalled specific examples from their own organizations in which similar situations had been addressed, as the basis of why they would react one way or another. Few if any remained silent during the discussions. Feedback was positive and several members commented on the value of the debate in terms of surfacing opinions across the spectrum of behaviors.

SLA Annual Conference Ethics Summit

At the association's Ethics Summit on June 14, 2008 in Seattle, Ethics Ambassadors from units across the organization participated in a half-day session that was facilitated by Jill Strand, chair of the PR Advisory Council (PRAC). Sessions were presented by ethics consultant Chris Bauer and SLA member Barbie Keiser.

Chris Bauer (www.bauerethicsseminars.com) encourages us to regard an ethics code as a tool that will actually help members to "consistently and appropriately apply your organization's values to the issues confronting you in your day-to-day decision-making."

Barbie Keiser presented the content discussed at her chapter's Ethics Town Hall (<http://units.sla.org/chapter/cdc/presentations/EthicsSLAandYou0508.ppt#3>), which includes the history of ethics activities in our profession and at SLA, definitions and examples of ethical problems specific to our field, strategies for incorporating ethical behaviors in our jobs, and much more.

Both Chris and Barbie focused on the importance of identify the core values of our organization as a first step in creating a code of ethics. Breakout groups drafted Values Statement components that will be compiled and distributed for future planning and evaluation.

Survey Recap Continued - Amy Watson

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members with more established budgets might forget what it's like to be new to the field. It was an eye opener to see how many of our members are new, and that perhaps we need to rethink things to accommodate more people.

85% of the survey respondents are subscribed to the Chapter discussion list, and a majority stated that the list should be restricted to SLA members only (open to members of other chapters). This has been a topic of discussion on the board for quite some time, and we will be moving forward with this change through the near future.

There was however some confusion about what the discussion list actually was, so we know that some education and promotion needs to be done there.

There was a lot of good open ended feedback concerning the website, and there are plans in the works for the most requested item - an updated membership directory.

After the annual conference, an email went out to the leadership discussion list that mentioned on average, the active membership of all of SLA is 30%. That's an interesting data point, and now I know that our Chapter falls into line with the rest of the organization.

However, this survey has provided valuable feedback to the board, as we look to the future for the Chapter. For those of you who took the time to give your feedback, thank you, sincerely.

One of the open ended comments seems to sum up our group well - "We have one of the best chapters in SLA because of how accessible our members are to each other... and the level of engagement of our members in sharing advice, mentoring each other." It's true - we are our own best asset, and I hope that using the survey results we can just get better! Thanks again everyone!

Student Group News - University of Pittsburgh - Gail Stebbins

Travel Stipends Awarded

Secretary / Treasure Jeanne Hoover of SLAPSG has been hard at work to make sure that all four travel award recipients received their travel awards from SLAPSG. SLAPSG ran a lottery this year and gave out four awards of \$500 each so that students could travel to the SLA 2008 conference in Seattle. This generated four new SLA memberships and raised awareness of SLA.

Goodbye and Hello, Pitt SLAPSG group faculty liaison change....



For the past three years (Fall 2005 – Summer 2008) the University of Pittsburgh student group was fortunate to have Dr. Judith A.

Jablonski as its faculty liaison. During her tenure as faculty liaison the Pittsburgh Student Group won three awards from SLA, Outstanding Use of Electronic Resources in both 2007 and 2008 and Outstanding Leadership in 2008.

Judith worked with many different SLAPSG boards, as officers changed each trimester. She was active in both influencing the Pitt MLIS faculty to adopt courses geared for Special Libraries students as well in encouraging increased student SLA membership. Judith's innovative SLA membership raffle not only generated five new student SLA members, but also opened the doors for the SLAPSG board to rethink the use of its funds, offering to compensate students for their attendance at SLA Pittsburgh Chapter events. Also, Judith's generosity led two different boards to issue travel awards for the 2007 and 2008 conferences.

Judith offered wise counsel and support and created a wonderful opportunity for students to grow their leadership skills. She will be missed and we wish her happiness and success in the next phase of her career/life. Judith and her husband will be relocating to the Greater Denver area. Her email address after August 8th is judithajablonski@gmail.com.

James D. "Kip" Currier, PhD, JD, will

be the new faculty liaison for the Special Libraries Association Pittsburgh Student Group (SLAPSG), effective August 2008. Dr. Currier, a former attorney and public library administrator, is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences. His teaching areas include several required MLIS "core" courses, *Understanding Information*, *Organizing Information*, and *Managing Libraries and Information Centers*, as well as *Government Information*; he is also currently developing a *Copyright and Fair Use* course. Kip's educational credentials comprise four degrees from the University of Pittsburgh: BA, Japanese, (1985); JD, (1988); MLIS, (1996); and PhD, University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences (2007). His 2007 doctoral dissertation, *Greedy for Facts: Charles Darwin's Information Needs and Behaviors*, garnered the April 2008 Harold Lancour Award for excellence in international library and information science, through research at Cambridge University and Darwin's Down House, from Pitt's School of Information Sciences.

Student Group Wins Two Awards - 2nd Year Running for E-Resources!

The Student and Academic Affairs Advisory Council (SAAAC) of SLA recognizes student groups who have outstanding leadership, innovative programs, and use electronic resources creatively, through certificates of merit.

At this year's annual conference, the SAAAC recognized the University of Pittsburgh's Student Group (SLA-PSG) not once, but twice, for their successes.

For the second year running SLA-PSG received the Creative Use of Electronic Resources merit award. In addition, the group received the Outstanding Leadership merit award for 2008.



(L-R) Jeanne Hoover, SLA President Stephen Abrams, and Gail Stebbins at the SAAAC Awards Event

In the awards notification from SAAAC, the student group was told "We were very impressed by your efforts this year, especially as you were the only student group to win two awards. Well done indeed!"

For more information about the University of Pittsburgh's Student SLA Group, check out their blog at <http://sla-divisions.typepad.com/slapsgl>.

For more information about SAAAC, their website is available at: <http://units.sla.org/committee/sarc/index.htm>.

Congratulations again SLA-PSG, and good luck as you move forward!

SLA-CPIT
Special Libraries
Association-
Pittsburgh Chapter

[http://www.sla.org/
chapter/cpit/
index.html](http://www.sla.org/chapter/cpit/index.html)

The Confluence is the newsletter of the *Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter*. The next issue will be published December 15, 2008. Article submission deadline is November 24, 2008. Please contact Amy Watson at with any submissions, or issues or concerns relating to the newsletter.



Chapter Member News

Renee Tkacik began a new position as the Librarian of the Education and Instructional Resource Center at Slippery Rock University in May. Congratulations Renee!

Denise Callihan will be a panelist with two others covering trends in Scientific Information at the CAS Americas Conference (the 100th celebration of the Chemical Abstracts Service), in October. Good luck Denise - you'll be great!



Alice Bright (pictured at left) received the 2007 Faculty Excellence Award for Innovation & Library Citizenship at Carnegie Mellon University. Alice was part of a library team that worked on "Transformation 2007," a reclassification of the library collections from Dewey to Library of Congress classification. A total of 50,000 books were reclassified, relabeled, sorted and re-shelved by the end of the project. Go Alice! Congratulations!

It is with sadness that we report that Chapter member **Jean Guasco** passed away in May at the age of 86. Jean was a resident of Bethel Park.

Popular University of Pittsburgh Librarian and SIS Professor **Amy Knapp** passed away in May after an extended illness. The University Library System hosted a memorial service to celebrate Amy's life in July at Heinz Chapel. A full obituary is available via the [Post-Gazette](#).

Do you have news that you would like the Chapter to know about? A promotion, a new job, a new publication, or a professional appointment? For inclusion in the next issue of the *Confluence*, contact Amy Watson at amywatson@ppg.com so that we can offer congratulations and update our network!

Welcome New Chapter Members!

April 2008	May 2008	June 2008
Patricia Havrin	Erin Mackin	James "Kip" Carrier
Sara Loree	Brooke Sansosti	
Robert Risko		July 2008
Casey Sirochman		Eileen Akin

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