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Winter 2014

## 2014 President's Message – Margaret Bower

Well, here it is December already, and I find myself looking back over the year's activities and forward to next year. In some ways this was a transitional year for us. As a chapter we were adapting to new timelines and expectations for choosing officers and filing reports. Now there will also be a new executive structure for SLA as a whole, and it will be interesting to see what develops there.

Although we had a few ups and downs during the year, someone always stepped in when needed. This chapter is very good at providing assistance and support, and I want to thank everyone who helped. Eve, Leslie, and Rachel were always willing to provide feedback and answer questions for me and take on extra roles. Lynn and Denise, as usual, worked on a program to appeal to students

Looking forward, I'm really pleased to see some of our newer members being willing to step into leadership roles. I think the chapter is in good hands with Leslie, Carrie, Jennie, and Ryan.

Welcome!

### New Chapter Members

#### September

Bryan McGeary

Mychele Criley

#### October

Mike Minjock

Adrian Y. Tinsley

Ryan Splenda

#### November

Rebecca Zucker

#### Inside This Issue:

Incoming President's Message..... 2

New Officers Elected..... 3

Student Mentoring Event Recap.. 4

Annual Holiday Event Recap ..... 5

Vivian Davidson Hewitt video..... 6

## Incoming President's Message: Reflections for a New Year ~ Leslie Eibl

It's hard to believe that a little over a year ago I receive a call asking if I would consider being nominated for the president-elect position of our chapter. While I had some idea of my duties for the position, I quickly learned the amount of reliance I would have on my fellow chapter members for support and guidance. This past year has allowed me to see the great strength of our leaders and members and how our chapter benefits from this collective strength. I'd like to thank our chapter president and past-president, Margarete Bower and Eve Wider, for their willingness to help me this year by helping to plan events, bounce ideas off of, and generally make the president-elect role less intimidating with their encouragement and support. I'd also like to thank Carrie Wardzinski for stepping up as our new president-elect. Based off of her past work with our employment committee, I'm confident she will be an excellent leader.



As I was preparing my message to give at our chapter's annual holiday, business, and awards meeting, I found myself reflecting on the most recent year's events and accomplishments. While I wasn't able to plan as many events as I'd hoped, I think the programs and meetings we had in 2014 were successful in providing a variety of networking opportunities. Our members were crucial to planning these events and while I won't list them all for fear of leaving someone out, I'm grateful for their willingness to plan and implement programming for our members and student members.

Before writing this article I thought I would consult past issues of the *Confluence* to get a more historical perspective of our chapter goals and accomplishments of past leaders. One thing quickly became clear: most, if not all, of the president and president-elect messages thank chapter members for their guidance and support. I think that this guidance is what drives our chapter to achieve excellence and I'm hoping to build upon this next year. My goals for next year include channeling our chapter's wealth of knowledge by

focusing on mentoring within our chapter and new member outreach.



In closing, I'm thankful to our chapter members for placing trust in me as a chapter leader and those that will be leading for stepping up and taking on these important roles. As we work towards a new year of programming, mentoring and camaraderie, I'm excited to be a part of this group and looking forward to working with you all next year. Have a safe and enjoyable winter!

## 2015 Chapter Officers Elected

*The following nominees were officially voted in to office at the Annual Business Meeting on December 3, 2014. They will assume their new roles on January 1, 2015*

### **President-elect: Carrie Wardzinski**

Carrie is employed as an Information Specialist with PPG Industries, working with the Specialty Coatings and Materials, Glass, Fiberglass, and Architectural Coatings groups. Prior to PPG, she was an Assistant Librarian at the Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA. Carrie has a BA in religion from Westminster College (2003). Before getting her MLIS at the University of Pittsburgh (2012), she worked at L3 Communications Avionics Systems as an administrative assistant and at PPG Industries as a payroll specialist. In 2012, Carrie joined SLA and the Pittsburgh chapter, attended her first SLA annual conference and served as the president of the student group (SLA-PSG). She has been serving as employment chair for the chapter since 2013. Carrie enjoys spending time with her husband and her toddler-aged son, renovating her 111 year old home, taking classes at Phipps, watching terrible reality-television programming, and reading.

### **Secretary: Ryan Splenda**

Ryan is employed as Production Manager & Research Librarian for Behavioral Measurement Database Services, which is the producer of the Health and Psychosocial Instruments (HaPI) database. While obtaining his MLIS at the University of Pittsburgh (2011), he worked as a Metadata Intern at Gumberg Library (Duquesne University) and as Reference Intern at the Information Science Library (University of Pittsburgh). Ryan worked as an Archives Intern for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Archives while obtaining his Bachelor of Arts in History (2010) at Wheeling Jesuit University. He recently joined SLA and the Pittsburgh Chapter in 2014.



### **Director: Sharon Palchak**

Sharon is employed as an Ebook Customer Relationship Manager at ProQuest, where she was previously employed as a Customer Education & Training Specialist. While obtaining her MLIS at the University of Pittsburgh (2005), she worked as Library Assistant in Microforms & Current Periodicals at Hillman Library and completed an internship in library marketing and development at Carnegie Mellon University, Hunt Library. Sharon joined SLA as a student and has been a member of SLA - and the Pittsburgh Chapter - since 2004. She is a member of the Information Technology and Leadership and Management divisions of SLA, as well as ALA, ACRL and LITA. Sharon is a regular attendee at chapter events and has been a program presenter at two recent ones: as a career panelist for Build Your Own Box (2012) and as a presenter at Successful Presentations: Tips for Information Professionals (2011).

***Thank you to our new board members for  
your contributions to our chapter!***



[twitter.com/slahq](https://twitter.com/slahq)



[facebook.com/slahq](https://facebook.com/slahq)

## Student Mentoring Event Recap: Tricks AND Treats!

~Lynn Berard and Leslie Eibl

This Fall's student mentoring event, *Tricks AND Treats, Beyond the Elevator Speech: Making Yourself a Polished Speaker*, was held on November 5 in the Collaboration Center at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Sciences Building. Denise Callihan and Lynn Berard planned the event and contacted the SLA Pittsburgh Student Chapter for additional input. Nine students and 9 members attended the event. The result was an informative evening including networking practice between students and SLA Pittsburgh chapter members.

CAN I JUST  
GO TRICK OR  
TREATING  
AND ASK FOR  
BOOKS?

Lynn Berard and Rachel Callison provided a great overview of the association and relationship to the student group, as well as talked about the annual conference and how to get funding from divisions and schools. Additionally, they provided general information on internships available and how to find out about them in Special Libraries. Then they focused on communication tips and networking techniques by providing a list of questions and had each student pair up with a member to practice these skills and learn more about one another.

At the end of the evening, Lynn provided a brief presentation using a photo to tell a story. This was provided as a starter to coming back in the spring and tackling presentation skills and resume assistance. In all, the presentations, networking activity, and raffle at the end evening were well received and made for an enjoyable evening for both students and chapter members.



A great turnout of students and members for the event.  
Credit: Leslie Eibl



Lynn and Rachel presenting to the students and members.  
Credit: Leslie Eibl



## Annual Holiday Event recap: Awards and Business Meeting

– Awards Committee (Eve Wider, Deb Martin, Brooke Hyatt and Chris Heil)

Thanks to the hospitality of Diane Covington, Chemistry and Biology Senior Librarian of the Mellon Institute Library at Carnegie Mellon, and some help from Chapter volunteers, the Awards Committee converted that stately library into the

venue for the Chapter's 2014 Annual Business Meeting and Awards dinner Wednesday evening, December 3.

Nineteen Chapter members and guests enjoyed an extended networking session with appetizers, a "baked potato bar" dinner and cookies for dessert before the business meeting. As we shared information about our colleagues, we learned some surprising facts. Come to the next Chapter meet-

ing to meet these very interesting, dedicated professionals whose generous spirits and humor liven every gathering.

Following the business meeting, Eve Wider, past Chapter President and a recipient of the Leadership Award, presented the 2014 Pittsburgh Chapter Leadership award to Carrie Wardzinski.

Carrie was nominated for her "outstanding and superior service for the entire year as employment chair." Those on the Chapter's Listserv know that Carrie consistently monitors potential jobs using various services, collates the data, distributes it weekly via our discussion list,

and also updates our SLA Pittsburgh website "Jobs" page, after a week's embargo, so that we can gain value from our membership. This service has been utilized by professionals and students. *"This effort represents lots of work done on Carrie's part in reviewing listings, choosing and selecting those that*



Before and after shot of the venue decorated for the event.



Enjoying the baked potato bar: Amy Watson and Denise Callihan



Leadership Award recipient: Carrie Wardzinski on right, with presenter, Eve Wider.

(Continued on page 6)

## Vivian Davidson Hewitt on YouTube: Revisit a chapter event from 5 years ago

—Donna Beck

Not good archival practice: keeping the one and only copy of a special recording in my office desk. So, I finally uploaded to YouTube: “An Afternoon with Vivian Hewitt” held by the Pittsburgh Chapter on September 21, 2009 at the Hill District branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh:

<http://youtu.be/4DIGBviWL4I>

I hope it gets lots of views!

Vivian served as the first African-American President of SLA, 1978-1979. At the date of the event, we received her signature for permission to record and share her talk. The CD-R copy of the video will be housed in the Chapter Archives. Now the phrase “one and only” has a better meaning because...

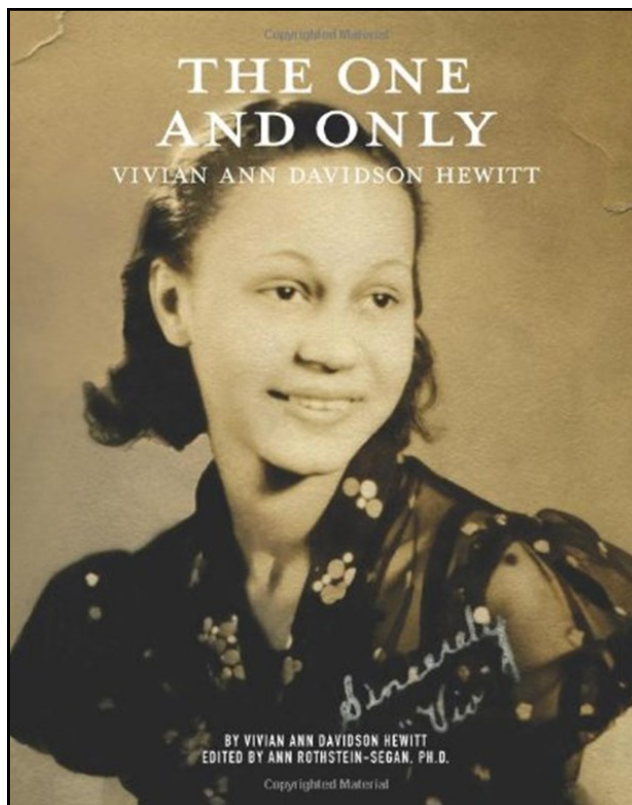
...since our Chapter event, Vivian’s autobiography was produced: *The One and Only*. The Library of Congress featured the author at a 2011 Center for the Book program. It is also available via YouTube.

You can preview the whole book on blurb.com:

<http://www.blurb.com/b/1800058-the-one-and-only>

Or buy the paperback from Amazon

Or view it in the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Main Oakland location in the Pennsylvania Dept.



(Continued from page 5)

*meet our criteria, and then providing the email to our members”.... “she is clearly deserving of the Pittsburgh Chapter Award for the outstanding service provided to our chapter members.”*

You should know by now that Carrie was also elected to be President-Elect of the Chapter, and will work with Leslie Eibl to plan our programs in 2015.

The Awards Committee wants to thank Diane Covington and all the Chapter members who helped set up before and clean up after the meeting, and the six winners of the door prize drawings, who agreed to wait for their gift cards!

**EARLY NOTICE:** Watch for an email from the Awards Committee in January requesting nominations for the **2015 Promising Professional Award**. Consider nominating a new information professional who has a lot to offer the chapter and profession, who would benefit from attending the Special Libraries Association’s Annual Conference in June 2015 or the Winter Leadership Conference in 2016. Self-nominations are welcome. See the Chapter website for details. [http://pittsburgh.sla.org/?page\\_id=573](http://pittsburgh.sla.org/?page_id=573)

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**The Confluence** is the newsletter of the *Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter*. The next issue will be published in **SPRING 2015**. Article submission deadline is TBA. Please contact Amy Raimondi, editor, at [araimondi@lecom.edu](mailto:araimondi@lecom.edu) with any submissions, issues or concerns relating to the newsletter.



# 2015 Annual Conference Boston

## June 14-16

Super Saver Registration now open! <https://www.sla.org/attend/2015-annual-conference/register/>

- ◆ Unparalleled networking opportunities with thousands of information professional.
- ◆ The latest technologies from leading industry partners, all under one roof in the INFO-EXPO Hall!
- ◆ Keynote speaker Leigh Gallagher, Assistant Managing Editor at Fortune magazine.

See more at: <http://www.sla.org/attend/2015-annual-conference/#sthash.66TuDYqu.dpuf>

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