President's Message

By Denise Callihan

I can't resist . . . 2001 - An Information Odyssey!

I said to myself, "Denise, don't do it...don't even think of using the 2001 Space Odyssey metaphor!" But when I realized that this is part of the theme of SLA's Annual Conference in San Antonio in June, I couldn't resist, seeing that Arthur C. Clarke is one of my favorite authors.

So, here it goes . . . Welcome to 2001 - An Information Odyssey, and oh what a ride! With a computer as our vehicle, rather than a spaceship, we experience new frontiers and distant horizons with a click of a mouse. As we travel at breakneck speed trying to learn all the latest and greatest information tools, it's easy to get lost or feel time-warped into a new dimension. Staying ahead of this information curve is a difficult mission, but, a mission that is achievable and hopefully made easier by our programming and professional development meetings offered throughout the year. I invite you to share in these efforts and embrace these challenges as a team, rather than on your own.

This past January, Kim Gregory, President Elect, and I participated in SLA's Winter Meeting in Savannah, Georgia. It's always a terrific opportunity to find out what other chapters are doing and to verify that we're on the same wavelength. Many of the other chapter leaders shared great ideas for future programming and recruitment strategies that we will definitely consider. Winter Meeting attendees also participated in a Town Meeting where the primary purpose was to harvest ideas on several issues facing the Association. A secondary aim was for us to take these discussions back to you to prepare for the ideas and changes being considered by SLA. The Board has charged five strategic task forces to explore these issues and they asked the Town Meeting for input on their deliberations. To view the full-contents of ideas submitted, please see: http://www.sla.org/content/leadership/resource/update/feb2001update.cfm. Kim and I also attended a dinner to say farewell to David Bender, Director of SLA, who will retire in June. Our new director will be announced at the Annual Conference. What an exciting time to take on the task of director for our association!

So, times they are a-changin', and because of this, some of the ways we do business have to change alongside. Coming back from Savannah, Kim and I put some topics into perspective at our Chapter Winter Board Meeting held in February. A major change comes about with this newsletter. From today onward, you will read our Chapter's newsletter electronically. I think this new format will better focus our efforts in putting forward good content to our members using the formidable powers of hypertext! We also will utilize our now active discussion list to post time-sensitive news and information. So, if you haven't joined yet, please do so today! In the beginning of this transition, we will send out a print announcement, along with an email notice, reminding you to check the Website for the newest issue. For those members who do not have Internet access, let Earl Mounts, 724-337-2396, know and he will print an issue and mail it out. Our intent is not to cut members off from news, but to enhance your access to Chapter information.

As promised to you back when I became President, I am very interested in building community awareness of our chapter. I believe it is so important to not only show the community what we as an Association are all about, but to also come together as a Chapter and offer something back to the community. Kim and I met with the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council (GPLC) to

discuss our mutual interests and explore areas we can both benefit. We discussed their need for volunteer tutors and how we can help with tutor recruitment. Kim and I both agree that this partnership is a good fit for both of our organizations. We believe that many of you, our SLA-Pittsburgh Chapter members, are skilled in many areas and may want to volunteer your time to help fight the low literacy levels in our neighboring counties. Keep your eyes open for information on this worthy campaign. In addition to promoting full details and time requirements on becoming a tutor volunteer, we also plan to coordinate a few book drives tied to our Chapter meetings. GPLC can always use books for teaching and student recreational use. I believe this partnership with the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council will be a great opportunity for both of us to make a real difference to so many in need.

The end of my presidency nears, but I won't be going away! You see, I must continue on my information odyssey and learn and grow as a Special Librarian in tumultuously exciting times. Networking--learning and sharing with you is the fuel for this journey! I'll be sure to see you along the way!

Bye, bye, Pointer! Hello ?????
By Earl Mounts & Denise Callihan

E-commerce, e-books, e-zines, e-auctions . . . The e's definitely have it and we're jumping on the bandwagon and joining the parade into the future. Welcome to the first installment of the Pittsburgh Chapter's e-newsletter.

Dave Majka, Past-President, polled our members twice in regard to preference for distribution of the Pointer, and, in both cases, an overwhelming majority supported the transition to electronic-only format. (Details of the voting can be found in Paragraph 6A of the Minutes of the Winter Business Meeting further in this issue of the newsletter.) So, given the:

1. Efficacy and speed of electronic distribution;
2. The near universal access of Chapter Membership to the Web and email;
3. The absence of expressed opposition to discontinuation of the print Pointer, and the absence of compelling arguments for its continuation; and
4. The substantial financial benefit to the Chapter resulting from electronic-only distribution,

at the Winter Board Meeting, the Board approved his recommendation to move to electronic-only distribution.

This transition issue of the Pointer remains stylistically the same as the print, but we believe that changing the name of the Pointer may also be a great beginning.

Now for the fun part! Our e-newsletter needs a new name. Since we're all highly creative people, put on your virtual reality gear and send us your ideas. The lucky winner will receive a **$50 Gift Certificate to Barnes & Noble Bookstore**.

Email (of course) your entry to Earl (earl.mounts@alcoa.com) or Denise (callihan_@ppg.com) before the deadline of May 14. The winner will be announced at the May Annual Business Meeting. Good Luck!

From the Editor

By Earl Mounts

This first issue of our e-newsletter propels us headlong, as Denise points out, into the virtual maelstrom of cyberspace and frees us from the bonds of the printed word, the endless experimental formatting, and the frustrating searches for appropriate clipart. Composing a paper newsletter has been a real challenge which I have thoroughly enjoyed, but I breathed a huge sigh of relief when Denise gave me the go-ahead to loose my bonds and soar into space!

This issue includes two excellent guides to information on the Internet. The first article, Great Chemical Websites, by Paul E. Johner, describes sites which exploit the capabilities of the Web by allowing us to visualize in three dimensions molecules and protein constructs as well as infrared spectra which truly bring technology to life.

The other guide is a Website designed by Denise Callihan which provides entrée to Technology Scouting for those elusive and esoteric latest advances in all areas of future technologies.

The In the News section features the press release on Clarion's Web-based distance education. If you want to know more about this unique program, contact Lynn Berard at lberard@andrew.cmu.edu. And Paula Reed's eagle eye has found a link to an article that shows how much librarians can be appreciated.

Completing the issue are the Minutes from the Winter Business Meeting. Jan Deitch has included all of the important details of the Meeting and I recommend that all of you actively read and react to the initiatives of our Chapter.

So, here we go. Since this is our first effort in e-dom, we need your comments on improvements for future issues. And, as always, we need your articles. You know where I am!

Members in the News

One of our most active members, Barbara G. Richards, is retiring from Carnegie Mellon in June. Barb has served in a number of leadership positions in the Chapter and SLA International and received the Chapter's coveted Leadership Award. Barb received her BA from Oberlin College in 1961, her MLS from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1969 and her MPM with distinction from Carnegie Mellon University in 1987. She came to Carnegie Mellon in 1978 as Assistant Librarian in the Mellon Institute Library. In 1981 she became Acquisitions Librarian and Assistant Head, Technical Processes, and in 1985 she became Assistant Director for Technical Services. In 1990 she was appointed Associate Director of Libraries, then Associate University Librarian for Administration/Information and Education Services in 1992. Barb also acted as interim director from 1991-92.

She has served on the Board of Trustees for the regional Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) network since 1992. Her professional memberships include the American Library Association, Pennsylvania Library Association, Special Libraries Association, American Society for Information Science and Technology and the Society for Scholarly Publishing. She has written and lectured extensively about the electronic library.

We all wish Barb a highly successful retirement and hope that she continues to come to dinner meetings, now that she has all that time on her hands!

Great Chemical Websites

By Paul E. Johner

In response to our President Denise's encouragement to broadcast to Chapter members news about interesting Websites, here are three fantastic sites that show the developing power of the Internet for providing chemical information:

1) When you need an infrared (IR) spectrum of an organic compound for a customer and can't find it in any available spectral library or database via CD-ROM or other means such as SpecInfo on STN, and would like to see the power of computational/ physical/ theoretical chemistry in action in real time and live over the Web, go to "TeleSpec: IR Database and IR Spectra Simulation on the World Wide Web" available at: http://www2.ccc.uni-erlangen.de/research/ir/english/index.html. Here you can simulate an IR spectrum by using "training molecules" and a "trained neural network." At this Website maintained by the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg's Institute of Organic Chemistry, Computer Chemistry Center, you draw the chemical structure with the mouse using supplied molecular structure templates, bonds, and atoms, or you can code the structure using a "SMILES" string. To view the simulated IR spectrum (in jcamp-dx file format) on your monitor, you will first have to download and install MDL Information Systems' Chime v. 2.6 browser plugin available free at: http://www.mdlchime.com/chime/.

You can then read absorption peak intensities and frequencies in addition to zooming in on a portion of the simulated spectrum with your mouse. An IR spectra database is also available for searching at the site. Check out the companies/institutions who have used or are using this site.

2) For any former chemists/ biochemists/ biologists in the Chapter who are still fascinated (like I am) by the structure and function of proteins and other biomolecules, try the Protein Data Bank at: http://www.rcsb.org/pdb. This site is an international repository for processing and distribution of 3D macromolecular structure data determined by X-ray crystallography and NMR spectroscopy. If you want to interact with a 3D display on your monitor, go to "SearchLite" under "Search" on the opening page. Enter a keyword such as calmodulin, parvalbumin, or ribonuclease. When the resulting hits are displayed, click on the red "EXPLORE"; then click "View Structure" on the left side of the next page. If your machine can handle it, at "Interactive 3D Display", click on "VRML (default options)". This option requires a VRML v 2.0 compliant browser plugin such as Cosmo Player. Or for "Java (simple interactive sequence/ structure/ property backbone diagram)", click on "QuickPDB" (requires a Java-enabled browser). By moving your mouse and holding down the left clicker, you can rotate, translate, or move in and out of the molecule, select and highlight amino acid residues within the structure; isolate those amino acid residues that are hydrophobic; and so on. Follow the site's help and instructions and enjoy a visual trip at atomic/molecular dimensions!

3) Another biochemically-oriented site that is loaded with information is the "University of Minnesota Biocatalysis/ Biodegradation Database" available at: http://umbbd.ahc.umn.edu/index.html. This site covers microbial biocatalytic reactions and biodegradation pathways and metapathways primarily for xenobiotic chemical compounds. Try this site out and you will see why I have picked it and why it has received awards. As chemical companies shift to using biocatalysis more and more for expanding their available synthetic methods (see "Biocatalysis Boom," Chemical & Engineering News, March 19, 2001, p.12) because of cost or because the molecule can't be made any other way, this site is invaluable and a must for inclusion as an electronic database available over corporate intranets. The environmental division of a company should also find this site useful.

Searching for Information on Emerging Technologies: Becoming a Technology Scout

By Denise Callihan

"Every day the world turns upside down on someone who thought they were sitting on top of it."
- Glen Tullman, *President, CCC Information Services*
-
"In 3 years, every product my company makes will be obsolete. The only question is whether we'll make them obsolete or somebody else will."
- Bill Gates*, Business @the Speed of Thought*

Technology Scouting is:

- Researching and Analyzing Technology Areas
- Innovation Seeking
- Managing/Developing Intellectual Property
- Monitoring Competitors

"By scouting, organizations can explore uncharted territories. They can discover and create information that will allow them to become proactive. Scouting supports organizational learning by breaking existing mindsets and supporting curiosity. It is a critical aspect of the process of innovation." (Scouting: A process for the Next Generation of Organizations - http://www.mce.be/news/articles/a45.htm). See also Josh Duberman's 1996 Database article: "Information to Change the World: Fulfilling the Information Needs of Technology Transfer" at: http://www.onlineinc.com/database/OctDB/duberman10.html

What information is needed to help new technologies succeed, and how or where can it be obtained?

Magazines/Journal/Newsletters - General Scope

Inside R&D: http://www.wiley.com/technical_insights/ird.html
New Technology Week: http://www.kingpublishing.com/publications/ntw/
R&D Magazine: http://www.rdmag.com/scripts/default.asp
Research-Technology Management: http://www.onlinejournal.net/iri/RTM/
Innovator's Digest
Technology Review: http://www.techreview.com/
Industries in Transition:
http://buscom.com/letters/iitpromo/iitpromo.html
Chemical Market Reporter: http://www.chemexpo.com/schnell/cmr.html
Chemical Innovation: http://pubs.acs.org/journals/chtedd/
Broad journals like Nature, Science, Popular Science
Small newsletters coming from the government, like, TECHFrontiers (NASA Center for Technology Commercialization: http://www.ctc.org/NewFiles/frontiers.html and NASA TechBriefs: http://www.nasatech.com

Utilize Current Awareness Updates and Alerts

Keep track of a specific industry with current awareness searches. Many websites now offer an alerting service to let you know if something has changed on their site. These will only be productive once you narrow down the topic for review.

Market Research/Directories

SRI's Chemical Economics Handbook (CEH)
SRI's Specialty Chemicals Update Program (SCUP)
CorpTech
Directory of American Research & Technology
Frost/Sullivan, Freedonia, BBC: take a look at this site: http://www.marketresearch.com/

Databases

Use databases like Gale's suite of products, Business & Industry, ABI/Inform (when searching for emerging technologies, use terms like forecasts, outlook, trends, innovations, tech transfer)

Internet search engines

Recommended search engines: Google, http://www.google.com, and Northern Light http://www.northernlight.com
Specialized search engines like InvisibleWeb.com, http://www.invisibleweb.com, or Search Engine Guide, http://www.searchengineguide.com)
Find a metasite to launch from like Photonics Online, www.photonicsonline.com, or Semiconductor International, www.semiconductor.net
FindArticles.com, from Looksmart, www.findarticles.com--An online article-search service. Search for quality articles in more than 300 reputable magazines and journals.
MagPrtal.com, http://www.magportal.com/c/sci/future/ -Links to articles covering future trends in Sci/Tech
Business 2.0, http://www.business2.com/content/magazine/breakthrough/1999/07/01/ --Pretty neat source for nuggets

Government Information

Government Funded Programs--use to glean what small research companies/university are pursuing; see what the government is selecting, backing, funding. Most sites offer searching mechanisms by company, keyword, region, state.

Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) (includes DOE, DOD, DOC, NASA, EPA, NIH, NSF) found at http://www.sbaonline.sba.gov/sbir/otagency.html
Small Business for Technology Transfer (STTR) (same as above link)
Advanced Technology Program (ATP) found at http://www.atp.nist.gov/atp/atphome.htm
NASA Research Opportunities found athttp://www.nasa.gov/research.html
National Tech Transfer Center (NTTC) found at http://www.nttc.edu
Community of Science (funded research) found at http://www.cos.com
Commerce Business Daily (publishes all government proposals and solicitations) found at http://cbdnet.access.gpo.gov/
Federal Register found at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html

Patent Information

Use patents as launch pads to uncover other technology (utilizing old technology--cross-referenced patents are good ways to view)

Patent Networks

Internet based: USPTO found at http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html, or IBM, found at http://www.delphion.com/.

Patent license exchanges

Ebays for corporate patents. What the business-to-business marketplaces offer, users say, is a fast, efficient and extremely low-cost way to transfer technology and build revenue on inventions that otherwise might not have seen the light of day.

yet2.com, found at http://www.yet2.com
Patent License Exchange (Pl-x) found at http://www.pl-x.com Uventures.com (home of the Techno-L discussion list archives), found at http://www.uventures.com

People/Networking

Don't Forget People--Still one of the best sources for uncovering information.
Discussion Lists--Techno-l is one of the oldest discussion lists pertaining to technology transfer.
Societies and Associations--Great for uncovering useful links. Don't attempt to uncover useful links all on your own, use the expertise of others.
National Tech Transfer Center (NTTC), found at http://www.nttc.edu
T2S.org--Tech Transfer Society, found at http://www.t2s.org
Consultants, Agencies to do this work for you...

Be organized! Organization helps team efforts! Assign areas to investigate, rather than have everyone do the same thing.

IN THE NEWS Clarion University Expands Library Science Graduate Program

The Department of Library Science at Clarion University of Pennsylvania will expand its nationally accredited graduate program in librarianship this Fall through an increased number of Web-based courses and the development of new teaching sites in the southeast region of Pennsylvania. The program's expansion, funded through major grants from the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and Clarion University, "ensures that the state's most affordable accredited graduate program for preparing professional librarians is now also the state's most accessible," said Bernard Vavrek, chair of the Department of Library Science at Clarion. Vavrek said the new funding allows Clarion to increase its Web-based offerings plus initiate new onsite classes in the Philadelphia area. The department currently offers onsite coursework at the Dixon University Center in Harrisburg and California University of Pennsylvania's Southpointe Center in suburban Pittsburgh. "The department is also linked to its distance education sites through state-of-the-art interactive video equipment," said Vavrek. Site locations in the Philadelphia area are currently being investigated and will be announced later this spring. "The combination of onsite instruction, Web-based instruction, and video-linked classrooms ensures that the department has the ability to select the most appropriate format for each of its courses, resulting in a program that is well-attuned to the learning styles and educational needs of all our students throughout the Commonwealth and beyond," said Vavrek. Vavrek noted that the department's Master of Science in Library Science requires the successful completion of 36 semester hours or 12 courses and can be completed during one year of fulltime study. Vavrek said that most distance education students are working adults who are interested in part-time study, and the cycle of distance education courses is geared toward the

needs of these students. "Distance education students typically complete the program in two years, though some complete it in one year and others take the full six years allowed by the university," he said. Vavrek said that Clarion offers coursework allowing students to concentrate their studies in any of the four generally recognized library types: public, school, academic, and special libraries. Long known for its excellent work in the field of rural librarianship, the department is currently revising its curriculum to offer courses in urban librarianship as well. "We anticipate these courses will be particularly appropriate for students who hope to work in libraries in cities," said Vavrek. The Department of Library Science at Clarion has been continuously accredited since its initial accreditation in the 1974-1975 academic year. It is one of only 56 programs in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico accredited by the American Library Association (ALA) and one of only three ALA-accredited programs in Pennsylvania. For more information on the department and its programs, visit its website at http://www.clarion.edu/libsci or call its toll free number, 866-272-5612.

UAlbany librarian's honor a first for SUNY

Thanks to Paula Reed (paula.reed@msanet.com) for the following article on successful recognition of an academic librarian at SUNY Albany:

In a sign that university librarians are becoming as important as professors, the State University's Board of Trustees unanimously agreed recently to name what could be a first in the country.

Meredith Butler, director of the three libraries at the University of Albany, was offered the title of distinguished librarian during the board's meeting last month in New York City. She is the first person to be named to the position created by SUNY a few years ago.

To read the rest of the article, go to: http://timesunion.com/ss.asp?s=49046&c=C

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