

The Confluence

Newsletter of the Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter

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

SLA Pittsburgh Chapter 95th Anniversary Celebration Speech – Carrie Wardzinski

A few years ago, I was asked to write a guest article for the New York chapter. The theme for their newsletter was “transition” and I thought to myself, wow, both Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Chapter are the epitome of transition. So I wrote a short piece about how both Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Chapter have transformed and changed over the years. This was before I knew that I’d be president, so it was a good exercise in learning the history of our chapter. And boy, what a chapter it is, I discovered.

We have been a chapter for almost exactly 95 years now. The Pittsburgh Special Libraries Association was formed on December 5, 1922, at a dinner held at what is now the William Pitt Union on University of Pittsburgh’s campus. Just to give you some perspective, this is the same year that King Tut’s tomb was discovered and the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC was dedicated. Judy Garland was born the same year as our chapter.

Reader’s Digest published its first issue in

1922. And the first convertible car – with a retractable hard top– was made in 1922.

There are so many things I could mention here. I could attempt to do a comprehensive retrospective of our history. I could mention how the Pittsburgh Chapter contributed to the



Photo credit: Alyssa Troyan of Loveplace Photography

Welcome New Chapter Members!
Beth Thomsett-Scott
London Stever
Kiera Mudry

SLA Pittsburgh Chapter 95th Anniversary Celebration Speech (cont'd)

war effort during World War II by sending books to the Signal Corps and technology and science periodicals to areas important to the war effort, like Washington, DC, the Hague, and the Philippines. I could talk about how instrumental the Pittsburgh Chapter was in creating the Union List of Periodicals. Or how, in 1966, our chapter won the H. W. Wilson Company Chapter Award because of “an exceptionally well-coordinated, chapter-wide, year-long approach to the communications role of the special library.” Or how in the 1970s, chapter members Josephine Quartey and Mary Lee attended the Pennsylvania Governor’s Conference on Libraries and Information Service. Or even better, how Mary Vasilakis was an alternate delegate to the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Service. Or I could mention how many of our members have won the Rosie (two, in case you are wondering) or how many of our members are Fellows (also two). Or I could mention how Ange Pollis is part of the SLA Hall of Fame. I could talk about how many of you have taught classes to aspiring librarians, at Pitt, at Clarion, at Drexel, and other library schools. Or how some of you are named on patents, or have contributed significantly to patenting through the years. But I think, instead,

I will leave you with this final thought.

When I attended SLA Annual in Philadelphia in 2016, Leslie Poljak and I told Mary Talley – the Chapter Cabinet Chair-elect at that time – that we wanted Pittsburgh to be the model for a medium-sized chapter. We will never be as large as DC, or Philly, or New York City, but we are mighty in our own way. Collectively, we have mentored and nurtured hundreds of librarians and information professionals. We have provided scholarships and awards to young librarians. We have done resume reviews and offered internships. Collectively, we have generously volunteered tens of thousands of hours to the Chapter and the Association over these last 95 years. Some of you have volunteered at the national level, working tirelessly as ambassadors for both SLA and for librarianship – as fellows, as officers both for chapters and divisions, and doing committee work or conference planning work. Many of you have volunteered at the local level, serving as an officer, a chair, or just quietly doing your thing behind the scenes, oftentimes with little thanks and little fanfare. And collectively, we have done exactly what we set out to do, which is to connect people with information, both formally and informally. And by doing this, we have helped to advance research, development, and engineering; business ventures; the education of countless individuals at our many colleges and universities in the region. We have enabled doctors and patients alike to make informed decisions. We have protected intellectual property. We have provided that perfect resource or uncovered that needed fact or figure in the nick of time – both before and after the advent of Google!

Here’s to many more years of the Pittsburgh Chapter – which has helped so many of us to succeed in our careers, to develop and hone our leadership skills, and advance the information profession.



SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Past Presidents

Photo credit: Alyssa Troyan of Loveplace Photography

SLA Pittsburgh Chapter 95th Anniversary Celebration September 15, 2017, Hartwood Restaurant and Whispers Pub



SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Attendees

All photos generously provided by Alyssa Troyan of Loveplace Photography

Welcome New Chapter Officers!

PRESIDENT ELECT: Jennie Crowley

Jennie Crowley is currently a private librarian for her daughter, Evelyn. She previously worked as a Quality Assurance Analyst at WebKite, a Pittsburgh-based startup that helped businesses publish data online. Before joining WebKite, Jennie cataloged digital media for the business school at Indiana University Bloomington and volunteered for the Open Folklore project. She earned her MLIS degree at the University of Pittsburgh and served as chapter treasurer from 2014-2017.

Thank you Jennie and Olivia for accepting our call and volunteering your time and skills to be leaders of our chapter!

TREASURER: Olivia Glotfelty

Olivia Glotfelty is the Medical Librarian at UPMC Mercy, where she provides clinical information, library, and archival services to hospital staff, students, and members of the community. She also serves as Adjunct Faculty at Duquesne University. Olivia graduated from the University of Florida with degrees in Anthropology and Russian, and continued her studies at the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned her MLIS in 2016. Olivia currently serves as the Employment Chair for the Pittsburgh Chapter of SLA, and is also a member of the Emergency Preparedness & Recovery Advisory Council for SLA. From the Pittsburgh Chapter, Olivia has been awarded the 2016 Leadership Award, as well as the 2017 Promising Professional Award.

95th Anniversary Celebration Silent Auction– Olivia Glotfelty

Q: What's a librarian's favorite type of auction?

A: A silent auction!



Photo credits: Alyssa Troyan of Loveplace Photography

The silent auction at our 95th Anniversary Celebration was a great success!

Through this fundraising effort, we raised a significant amount of money to put towards chapter initiatives. Thank you to all the individuals who contributed items and put together baskets, and to PPG and Pursuits for their generous donations.

July Event: Pittsburgh Trivia Night hosted by local legend, Rick Sebak Bryan McGeary

On July 20, SLA Pittsburgh and Beta Phi Mu's Pi Chapter cosponsored a Pittsburgh trivia night with local celebrity host Rick Sebak at Dave & Buster's in Homestead, PA. While Rick is widely known for his quirky documentaries that celebrate Western Pennsylvania and many facets of American culture, he is also a strong supporter of libraries.

Rick will be the first to tell you that he is a lifelong lover of libraries and that he relies on the help of librarians when gathering information for his documentaries. In fact, when I asked him if he'd be willing to serve as our trivia host, his immediate reply was, "I would love that! I owe librarians too much!" Rick has featured several libraries in his programs over the years, and he even dedicated an entire episode of his series *It's Pittsburgh and a Lot of Other Stuff* to the topic of local libraries. He was also the speaker at the closing luncheon of this year's Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference, which was held in Pittsburgh.

Trivia night with Rick Sebak is not your usual trivia night. Anyone expecting easy questions about the sports teams, Primanti's, or any of the other stereotypical Pittsburgh topics was in for a surprise because the questions Rick prepared were challenging and as off-the-beaten-path as the subjects he covers in his documentaries.



Photo Credit: Leslie Poljak

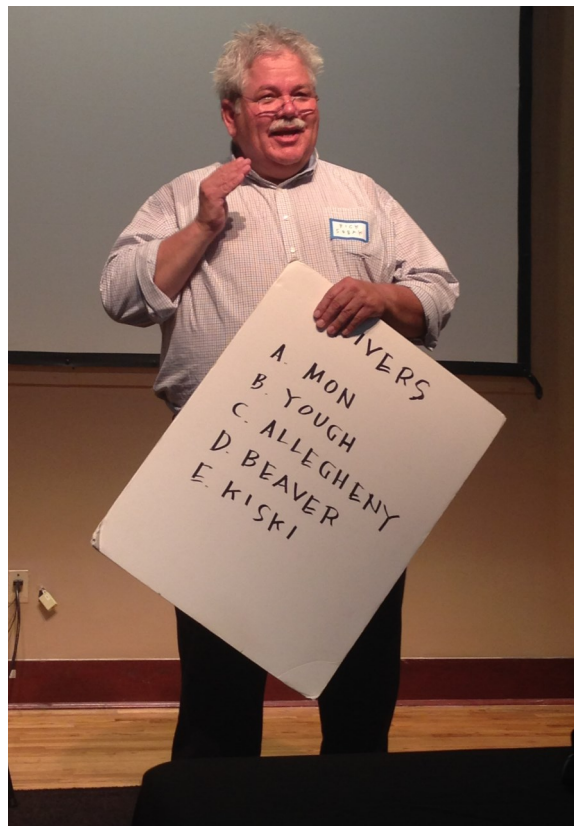


Photo Credit: Brooke Hyatt

Even lifelong Pittsburghers would have found the questions difficult.

However, the challenging nature of the questions raised everyone's competitive spirits and led to a lot of lively banter. We all learned a thing or two as well. Questions covered such unusual topics as the price of a beer at Forbes Field during the 1960 World Series (Trick question: They didn't sell beer at the stadium), the lengths of rivers in the region, local inventions, and the architectural phenomenon known as an UTBAPH. If you don't know what that last one is, you can find out more about it [here](#). Those who were lucky enough to come up with correct answers were awarded DVDs of some of Rick's programs, like the classics *Kennywood Memo-*
ries,

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SLA 2017 Annual Conference Experience in Phoenix, AZ- 119° F and Worth It—Olivia Glotfelty

This year, I was fortunate enough to be awarded the Promising Professional award by the SLA Pittsburgh Chapter. With this award, I flew out to Phoenix, AZ in June (yes, it was just as hot as you're thinking) to attend the SLA 2017 Conference.

This conference was the first conference I attended as a professional librarian-- not as a student. I was excited to not only explore a new city, but to explore the profession through a new lens. As an early-career information professional, there is so much to learn and experience. The SLA annual meeting was wonderful opportunity to do just that. Attending this conference allowed me to develop within my role as an information professional through meeting and networking with other professionals, as well as gaining valuable knowledge on current issues, topics, and trends within the field.



SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Meet-up in Phoenix

Photo Credit: Ryan Splenda

Before tackling a task (or a conference), I like to make a list of things to do, or things I'd like to accomplish.

My goals for this conference were:

1. Be visible and have a presence at the event.
2. Learn more about data-- management, visualization, analytics, etc.
3. Network with other library and information professionals
4. Bring back something I could implement at my library
5. Eat as much Mexican food as humanly possible (obviously not career related)
6. Minimize sunburns

I'm happy to report that I accomplished all my goals!

I must admit, I was nervous heading to the first official day of sessions; however, after the phenomenal Opening Keynote by Lulu Miller of NPR, I was ready to buckle down and take this conference by storm. During the conference, I attended sessions on interactive and engaging instruction, marketing, creating video tutorials, data analytics, data storytelling, and data visualization. While these sessions were all valuable and informative, the marketing and data storytelling sessions were where I got my biggest takeaways. Through what I learned in these sessions, I was able to implement new ideas and practices at my library, resulting in a significant increase in usage, new connections, and a grant! It's been extremely gratifying to see knowledge that I gained during my time in Phoenix have a tangible impact on my career and at my workplace.

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Olivia Glotfelty @OliviaG1453 · Jun 17

Time to explore Phoenix! Already down 1/2 bottle of sunscreen and a burrito.
#SLA2017



May Program: SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Tours Google Pittsburgh!



Photo Credit: Matt Poljak



Photo Credits: Brooke Hyatt

Keep up to date on chapter events and conversations by following the SLA Pittsburgh Chapter's social media:

- [Follow and connect with SLAPittsburgh on Twitter](#)
- Join the Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter (SLA-CPIT) on Facebook



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Things That Aren't There Anymore, Houses Around Here (one of my personal favorites), as well as newer ones like *Return to Downtown Pittsburgh* and *A History of Pittsburgh in 17 Objects*. Afterward, Rick graciously stuck around to sign autographs, take pictures, and chat with his fans.

I was thrilled with the high attendance, and everyone appeared to have a great time. Ryan Splenda and Carrie Wardzinski deserve tremendous thanks for their hard work with planning and taking care of the logistics for this event.

Upcoming Chapter Events :

Student Networking Night

November 30th, 2017, 6:30 PM

3rd Floor Collaboration Space of the School of Computing & Information

Annual Business Meeting & Cookie Exchange

December 14, 2017, 6:30 PM

Sorrells Engineering and Computer Science Library, Carnegie Mellon University, RSVP to [Olivia Glotfelty](#)



Photo Credit: Brooke Hyatt

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Phoenix was not all work and no play. Despite the intense, stifling, obscene heat, I got out and explored Phoenix. I made it to a lovely, local farmers market on Saturday, and even got to go eat at Pizzeria Bianco, one of Phoenix's notable restaurants. During one of the first days of the conference, a fellow SLA-er organized a Cider Meet-Up during the evening, where we got to sample local meads and ciders. This was a great reprieve from the heat, as well as an excellent networking opportunity! Throughout the conference, I also attended several events hosted by various divisions and chapters, including the Pittsburgh Chapter Meet-Up. It was wonderful to not only learn from others' professional experience, but forge new connections and friendships within the field. Phoenix convinced that the best connections are made over tacos and margaritas.

SLA 2017 was absolutely amazing (for a more detailed conference recap, [check this page out.](#)) The atmosphere was electric, the conference sessions

were on interesting and relevant topics, and everyone attending was engaged and fired up-- not just from the record-breaking heat! I cannot image where I would be without the support and experiences offered to me by this organization and the Pittsburgh Chapter. Attending this conference helped me better understand my role, and establish myself as, an information professional, and truly integrated SLA into my career and practice. Thank you, again, to the Pittsburgh Chap-

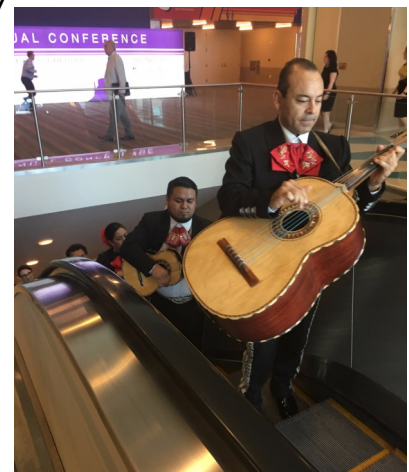


Photo Credits: Olivia Glotfelty

What's trending at SLA?

Twitter:



Facebook:



pittsburgh.sla.org

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

SLA's Revamped Career Center:

with career resources including:

[Resume Review](#)

[Interview Preparation](#)

[Ask an Expert](#)



2018 SLA Leadership Symposium

January 28–30, 2018

DoubleTree by Hilton, New Orleans, Louisiana



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