



Newsletter of the Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter

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Winter 2013

2013 President's Message – Eve Wider

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It is hard to believe this is my final message as president of the Pittsburgh chapter! How fast the year went and what a true pleasure it was to serve you. I write this from vacation in Florida where the break from the craziness of the end of the semester lets me reflect on the year that has passed. It took me a while to accept the call to serve in this role. I want to publicly thank Denise Callihan for her heroic role over the years with the nominating committee - I remember numerous conversations with her about this opportunity. She always said she would have my back if I took the role – and she did! She really helped out, along with so many other chapter members that I don't want to start naming or I'll worry I might miss someone. I must, however, single out Brian Steimetz who also helped every step along the way and who last year worked to consolidate our committee structure, making the work of the chapter president and president-elect more manageable.

Looking around the large table during the annual business meeting and awards ceremony earlier this month, I was proud of all we had accomplished. I also felt that we have taken positive steps over the year to make our meetings more welcoming to people who are new or haven't been to a chapter event in a while. This is an ongoing challenge, but by working together we are creating a warm climate of collegiality and learning during our meetings and programs. Speaking of programs, what great programs we had this year! Margarete, you were a joy to work with – and thanks to Leslie for taking on the role next year. I look forward to another great year of meetings and programs.

Lastly, two books I am reading during vacation that I can't resist mentioning to you all are Alone Together: why we expect more from technology and less from each other (by Sherry Turkle) and Focus: the hidden driver of excellence (by Daniel Goleman). If anyone is interested, I'd be happy to organize a book discussion group around one of these this winter.

Thanks again for all the wonderful support you gave me this year as your president – I look forward to seeing you all in 2014!



Decorated tree in the Mellon Institute Library at the AB&A Meeting.

Credit: Brooke Hyatt

2014 Pittsburgh Chapter Officers Elected

President-elect: Leslie Eibl*

Leslie is the Visiting Reference and Instruction Librarian at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to her current position, she worked in career-training school libraries at the Sanford-Brown Institute and Bidwell Training Center in Pittsburgh. She earned her MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh and completed an internship at NPR in Washington D.C. in their Consumer Products/Digital Media Department, which involved working with the library to assist in the creation of spoken word CDs.

Leslie was the recipient of the Pittsburgh Chapter's 'Promising Professional Award' in 2013 and has been serving as the chapter's secretary. In addition to being a member of SLA, Leslie is also a member of ALA (ACRL) and is currently serving as program co-chair for the local chapter, WPWVC-ACRL.

Treasurer: Jennie Crowley

Jennie is the Integration Lead at WebKite, a Pittsburgh-based startup that helps 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 currently serves as Vice President of the iSchool's Alumni Society. Jennie assisted Carolyn Bigelow with chapter treasurer duties in 2013.

*Secretary: Rachel Callison

This is a special, 1-year term appointment due to chapter's current secretary, Leslie Eibl, taking on the duties as President-Elect.

Rachel has served as chapter President (2007), Director (2012-13), web manager (2006+) and as secretary of Academic Division, SLA (2012-13).

Director: Nancy Flury-Carlson

Nancy is an information professional with expertise in competitive intelligence, technical literature research, strategic planning, content management and library operations. She is a former Principal Information Analyst with Corporate Strategy at Westinghouse Electric Company, specializing in global market trend analysis, nuclear industry competitor intelligence, and SharePoint content management. Prior to her thirteen years in Strategy, Nancy held professional and management positions in Westinghouse's Technical Library. Her library activities included catalog implementation and migration, technical and business research, intranet content management, and management of the support staff for the company's document management, library, and drawing control systems.

A member of the Pittsburgh Chapter since 1980, Nancy has held numerous chapter offices including President, Strategic Planning Chair, Bulletin Editor, and Awards Chair. She is currently a Board Member for the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh and a member of the Swiss Nationality Room Committee. These organizations spearheaded a fourteen-year planning and fund-raising effort that culminated in the April 2012 Dedication of a Swiss Nationality Room at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning.

Nancy is a printmaker and painter, participating in exhibitions with the Pittsburgh Print Group, a guild of the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. Examples of her printmaking work are included in the Pittsburgh Print Group's online gallery. She's a Principal at [Carlson Studio](#), which encompasses her husband's design and illustration business as well as her own printmaking and painting. She lives in Monroeville with her husband and two cats. She has two grown children who have flown the nest, so she has taken over their rooms to house media, archives, and studio space.

2014 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Margarete Bower

Denise Callihan

Rachel Callison (chair)

Thank you to our new board members for your contribution to our chapter!

2013 Annual Business and Awards Meeting –Chris Heil

The Mellon Institute Library at Carnegie Mellon was the venue for the 2013 Annual Business Meeting and Awards dinner Thursday evening, December 5. Twenty-two Chapter members and guests enjoyed an extended networking session with appetizers, a “pasta bar” dinner and dessert before the business meeting.

Members of the Awards Committee presented certificates and checks to these 2013 award winners:

Leslie Eibl – the Promising Professional Award. This was announced in March, but publically recognized at the meeting. Leslie has served as Chapter Secretary and will now be President Elect. She attended the SLA conference in San Diego in June and wrote an article describing her experience in the



Award recipients: Leslie Eibl, Lynn Berard, Nancy Carlson, Eve Wider, Margarete Bower, Donna Beck. Mark Vrabel not pictured.

Credit: Brooke Hyatt

Summer/Fall 2013 issue of the CONFLUENCE.

Donna Beck – the Innovations in Technology Award. Donna received several nominations for her work on a project promoting lending of iPad2 tablets to Carnegie Mellon students. Donna’s research, grant-writing and marketing efforts were summarized in her SLA Poster session “Move over E-Readers – Here Come the Tablets”.

Mark Vrabel – Publication/ Authorship Award. Mark was nominated for his publications on a variety of topics including the article “Challenging Cases in Multiple Myeloma” in the September 2013

Oncology Nursing Society’s (ONS) Connect online supplement, and his presentation at the 2013 National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Middle Atlantic Region meeting, titled “Boost Box: New Roles for Librarians,” explaining how Mark assumed more “non-traditional” roles in his position in the Library and Archives Department at ONS.

Lynn Berard and Eve Wider - Mentoring Award.

Lynn and Eve were nominated by chapter members who benefited from the guidance and support each provided to them when they were students and new members of the profession, interviewing for new jobs, deciding on career paths. Several of us can attest to the fact that Lynn and Eve also provide similar professional guidance and emotional support to experienced colleagues who have lost jobs.

Margarete Bower - Leadership Award. Margarete was nominated for her innovative programming. She arranged very informative programs in interesting venues outside our regular meeting locations, and kept meeting costs low to attract students as well as professional members. Meeting attendance increased due to her efforts.

(Continued on page 4)



Introductions before dinner. *Credit: Brooke Hyatt*

Thank You – Nancy Flury-Carlson

As always, it was informative and enjoyable to hear about members' accomplishments as the annual chapter awards were presented on December 5. As Brian Steinmetz began describing the qualities of the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award winner, I admired the characteristics of the person and enjoyed hearing about that person's accomplishments as I usually do. But this time was different. Very near the end of his remarks, Brian said a couple of things that were strong clues that this year, the winner might actually be me. When he announced my name as this year's winner, I was completely surprised.

The Pittsburgh Chapter of SLA has been an important part of my professional life since 1980 when I was graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh. It's always been one of my favorite communities of practice, a source of new ideas, valuable advice, and lasting friendships. Throughout the years, chapter presentations, events, and informal discussions were often my first exposure to new technologies, new information resources and suppliers. Through the chapter I was connected to smart and fun people who were excellent sounding boards and benchmarking partners. I am happy to see current members taking advantage of the richness of experience and knowledge within our chapter, and sharing their own expertise, in keeping with the tradition that makes our chapter so special.

To thank my most significant chapter colleagues and coworkers by name is not possible because there are many more than space would allow. But I would not have achieved the accomplishments that led to this award without my number one mentor, friend, adviser, leader and partner in fire drills, writing, budgeting, hand-wringing, laughter and tears – Barbara Spiegelman. Thank you Barb, and thanks to the Award Committee and those who crafted nominations and texts in support of the award. I am honored to receive this award and will always treasure it.



Lifetime Achievement Award winner Nancy Carlson, with her Lego memento. Credit: Brooke Hyatt

(Continued from page 3)

Nancy Flury Carlson - Lifetime Achievement Award.

Nancy received several nominations for her commitment to the Pittsburgh Chapter, as demonstrated by her roles as President, Committee chairperson (Awards, Strategic Plan) and willingness to share her expertise as a speaker at Chapter meetings: "Put the Whee Back into Weeding", "E-portfolios" and even Rock Climbing! Her enthusiasm for innovations in library technology and services, and support of colleagues and customers were also documented.

Nancy serves as a "model for professionalism and character: a concern for colleagues, a commitment to innovation and a desire to serve".

Congratulations to each of the award winners for their contributions and dedication!

Special thanks go to Lynn Berard for coordinating the venue and catering arrangements, to the staff of the Mellon Institute Library for their hospitality and festive Christmas trees, and to Brooke Hyatt for taking photos during the meeting. Several photos are shown here, and thanks to Rachel Callison, all may be viewed at the Chapter's flickr site: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/slapittsburgh/>

EARLY NOTICE: Watch for an email in January requesting nominations for the **2014 Promising Professional Award**. Consider nominating a new information professional who has a lot to offer the chapter and our profession, who would benefit from attending the Special Libraries Association's Annual Conference in June 2014 or the Winter Leadership Conference in 2015. Self-nominations are welcome. See the Chapter website for details. http://pittsburgh.sla.org/?page_id=573

The Awards Committee
Brian Steinmetz, Deb Martin, Brooke Hyatt and Chris Heil

September Event Recap: ePortfolios – Rachel Reeves

On September 30, librarians and students came together to learn about E-portfolio's, which are small, personalized websites that act as a supplement to a resume. On paper, we only have a page or two to provide a bulleted list of our work experiences. However, online we have room to explore and display our work first-hand.

Examples of possible artifacts to include in an e-portfolio are screenshots of LibGuides you have created, copies of articles that you have published, and even slides from presentations you have given. Photos of events or exhibits at your library are also a possibility, as well as videos that you might have made to promote your library and its resources. E-portfolios also provide room to include personal information and create an engaging identity that could never fit in a tightly-restricted resume.

Carlson recommended starting your e-portfolio project with a clear focus. Are you looking for a job? Trying to document an intensive project to share with colleagues? Gathering research documents as you begin to pursue tenure? The best e-portfolios have a clear function, and all the material in that portfolio directly supports that purpose. This makes the website easy to navigate and understand.

Since there are an overwhelming number of personal website and blog providers to choose from for an e-portfolio, Carlson was able to narrow down

some specific hosts that have proved to be high-quality and easy to use. Weebly.com is a great free source that allows you to easily construct your site and add a variety of documents and media. If you choose to pay extra, the site will provide you with your own professional domain name. The site makes it easy to add, remove, and rearrange material, making it painless to keep your e-portfolio up to date.

Although Carlson recommended Weebly, there are other hosts that look great and are straightforward to use, including Wordpress.com, Blogger.com, and more. These hosts not only provide you with a platform to build and display your portfolio, but there are often features that allow you to see how many people are viewing your material, and when. For example, if you were to distribute a link to your e-portfolio in a job application, and your viewership increases within a couple of days, that could suggest that potential interviewers have begun to look over your material.

You can check out Nancy Carlson's own e-portfolio at nancyflurycarlson.weebly.com. Her website is an excellent example of a professional, navigable, and appealing e-portfolio.

E-portfolios are a dynamic tool that can keep librarians well-equipped for advancing and enhancing their careers.

New Employment Chair

Carrie Wardzinski has agreed to be the SLA Pittsburgh chapter's new Employment chair. Carrie currently works at Trinity School for Ministry, where she is an Assistant Librarian. She is primarily responsible for cataloging new books, course reserves, and the archives. She lives in New Kensington with her husband, Jim, and 11 week old son, Logan. She graduated in December 2012 from Pitt's iSchool. While at Pitt, she was the president of SLAPSG during her final semester.

November Event Recap: GIS

On Wednesday, November 6, librarians gathered in the Barco Law Building to hear Patricia Roncevic's presentation "Utilizing GIS Tool for Librarians". Patricia is a librarian at the University of Pittsburgh's Barco Law Library and received a Master's degree in GIS (Geographic Information Systems) from the University of Pittsburgh. She discussed GIS and it's relevancy to information professionals.

Topics included:

- an introduction to GIS and how librarians can use it
- resources to learn more about GIS on their own
- how Pat has used her GIS skills on projects for the law library

Attendees had the option to meet for dinner before the talk to socialize.

October Event Recap: Student Pizza Party – Denise Callihan

Our annual student pizza party was held on Wednesday, October 16 in the new Collaboration Center (3rd Floor) of the University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences Building. 5 Chapter members volunteered and presented on various topics (see below list). Over 18 students and 11 chapter members attended. Aside from the pizza and presentations, an ice breaker exercise (based on Bingo; see page 7) was created by Lynn to help jumpstart the “social and networking” hour.

List of Presentations

- **Tips and Techniques for doing patent research-** Denise Callihan
- **Tips and Techniques for Attending Conferences and/or involvement on Committees** – Rachel Callison
- **Day in the life” of a small/solo/academic/medical librarian** - Amy Raimondi
- **Tips and Techniques for Dining Professionally** –Lynn Berard
- **Day in the life of a special librarian in a corporate research setting** – Christine Slippy



The event at Pitt's iSchool was well attended by students. Credit: Amy Raimondi



Lynn Berard set the stage for proper etiquette when dining out for work. Credit: Amy Raimondi



Denise Callihan gave us an introduction into the world of patent research. Credit: Amy Raimondi



Rachel Callison presents tips for getting involved. Credit: Amy Raimondi

Rachel's Tips

- ☐ Schedule things ahead of time.
- ☐ Decide what you want to get out of it.
- ☐ Talk to people & socialize.
- ☐ Summarize & have action items.

How Well Do You Know Your Chapter Members?

(A sample of the October Event's ice breaker BINGO game)

1. Who used to climb ~125 steps to get to her previous library?

2. Who sailed around the world while working?

3. Who has traveled to Paris 4 times?



4. Who belongs to a CSA Farm Share?

5. Who has hunting dogs and the nickname Annie Oakley?

6. Who is going to Bermuda?



7. Whose work involves altmetrics?

ANSWERS

Game credit: Lynn Berard; Photos: Amy Raimondi

2. Eve Wider

4. Amy Raimondi

6. Christine Slippy

1. Margarette Bower

3. Rachel Callison

5. Lynn Berard

7. Jennifer Chan

Linking Up with the Librarians

At our July event this past summer, we shared resources and tools with each other, and included links in the summer newsletter. We'd like to continue sharing interesting new things with one another, so if you come across a link you think other members would find useful, send it to araimondi@lecom.edu to be included in the next issue.

Tim Gaus recently shared two interesting blogs with the chapter:

Research Buzz (<http://researchbuzz.me>) is a blog that focuses on the use of technology to store, organize and retrieve information.

Search ReSearch (<http://searchresearch1.blogspot.com>) is a blog about the process of searching and researching.



Get your passports ready!

<http://travel.state.gov/passport/>



Chapter Member News

Tim Gaus was published in Science and Technology Libraries. His article, *The Role of the Library in the Food Safety Mission of a Multinational Food Company*, can be found in Volume 32, Issue 4 and online here <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0194262X.2013.838916#.UrC3WtjDuSo>.

Sheila Rosenthal became Chair-Elect of SLA's Sci-Tech Division for 2014 (Chair in 2015 and Past-Chair in 2016).

Ashleigh Faith presented "Creating a Unified Front: Taxonomy Automatic Indexing" at the 2013 Taxonomy Boot Camp in Washington, D.C.

Welcome!

New Chapter

Members

Dawnlyn Diehl

Liz Hogan

Kimberly Lemon



Get Your Passports Ready!

SLA 2014 Annual Conference & INFO-EXPO

When: June 8-10 2014

Where: Vancouver Convention Centre;
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Keynote speaker: John Wilbanks, Chief Commons Officer at Sage Bionetworks and a Senior Fellow in Entrepreneurship at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

<http://www.sla.org/attend/2014-annual-conference/>

Early Registration ends December 31, 2013.
Full registration opens in February.



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The Confluence is the newsletter of the *Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter*. The next issue will be published in **SPRING 2014**. Article submission deadline is **APRIL 4, 2014**. Please contact Amy Raimondi, editor, at araimondi@lecom.edu with any submissions, issues or concerns relating to the newsletter.

