As December gathers speed, amidst the holiday hustle & bustle, we find ourselves reflecting on the waning year & anticipating the new one to follow. A customary ‘end of the year’ activity is the compiling & publishing of ‘top lists’. We rank & rate everything from books, *New York Times’ Notable Books of 2007...* to wines, *Wine Spectator’s Top 100 Wines of 2007...* to websites, *Webby Awards.* Being a voracious consumer of media, I enjoy reading & comparing these lists against my own experiences; even discovering some things I might have otherwise missed. Reading, seeing or...drinking. This is especially true when it comes to film, so a ‘best of’ list that I look forward to every year is the nominees for...the IFC Spirit Awards. You probably thought I was going to say Academy Awards™, but my tastes lean more toward indie film. That said - since I have a broad appreciation for cinema & enjoy participating in debates over best roles, directors & movies - I pay attention to the Oscar™ nominees, too.

Upon recently reviewing the list of the 2007 nominees on the Oscar™ website, I noticed that February 2008 will mark the 80th year of the Academy Awards, as the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences (AMPAS) was incorporated in 1927. How interesting, I thought, that the Pittsburgh Chapter is about the same ‘age’ as the Academy Awards. I then recalled a bit of library trivia I’d once heard; that the ‘nickname’ for the statue ‘Oscar™’ was coined by a librarian. I continued to browse the site for confirmation of this & discovered that,… “Academy librarian and eventual executive director Margaret Herrick thought it resembled her Uncle Oscar and said so, and that the Academy staff began referring to it as Oscar.”

It should come as no surprise that Margaret Herrick was (of course) a member of SLA. Herrick’s contributions to the Academy & to film culture were acknowledged when the AMPAS library was renamed in her honor. I further learned - via the Southern California Chapter website - that Herrick served as chapter president sixty-five years ago, from 1942 - 1943, & that the current director of the Margaret Herrick Library, Linda Mehr, is also an active member of SLA.

“All the world’s a stage
And all the men and women merely players
They have their exits and their entrances
And one (person) in (their) time plays many parts”
- from ‘As You Like It’ by William Shakespeare

This convergence of film, libraries, awards & anniversaries got me thinking about this past year serving as Chapter President. Whereas I’m stepping down, I do plan to ‘audition’ for other roles, because I’ve had the unique experience to see up close the value that comes with being involved in the ‘production’ that is SLA. The word acting derives from the Latin agere meaning ‘to do’ & our Chapter got a lot done this past year but, there is more to do. As we celebrate those accomplishments at our ‘Annual Holiday Party, Awards Banquet & Business Meeting’ take a moment to consider the future parts & roles that you will play within our Chapter & SLA. Opportunities to get involved are just an email away - to Amy Watson, amywatson@ppg.com. Great performances require outstanding work from everyone involved, so come & help us ‘put on the show’.

**Continued on Page 11**
President-Elect's Incoming Address - Amy Watson

At last year’s student event, I formally accepted my nomination as President-Elect for the Chapter. At the end of the evening, one of the students tossed several of us a parting shot, in that she “was not impressed, and that we were all very cliquish.” This statement has stayed with me this year, as I’ve worked to plan programs for the Chapter. Because here is my shameful confession – I used to think the same thing.

I’m sure by now all of you know that Denise Callihan is my boss. But for those of you who don’t know her, Denise is one of the biggest champions of both SLA International, and of our Chapter. I would hear from her regularly about people from the Chapter – Ange, Earl, Lynn, Kim, Brian… and it always seemed to me that it was the same names that came up. It seemed that they made up a clique of Pittsburgh librarians, who got together monthly and met on topics that weren’t relevant to me.

Or so I thought - because here is my other shameful confession. I’ve been an SLA member since I graduated from Pitt in 1997 and a member of the Chapter since we moved to Pittsburgh in 1999. But I never attended a Chapter meeting. I’d get the flyers in the mail and look at the topic and think “that doesn’t relate to my job” or “that doesn’t interest me” or “I think I’d rather spend that night at home with my husband” and throw them away. Then I attended my first conference in 2003, and in 2004 President Brian Steinmetz called me and asked me to become the Professional Development Chair of the Chapter. Suddenly I went from having never attended a meeting, to planning two that year – talk about a learning curve. But I’ve learned several things since that time – that even if I don’t think the topic is going to be relevant, it turns out that at least one thing that night is – that even if it doesn’t sound interesting, the people who belong to our Chapter certainly are – and I joke that for my husband it means an evening a month of eating sushi and watching The History Channel, two tasks better done without me. But the most important thing I’ve learned is that these people aren’t a clique. They’re a NETWORK. I’ve learned that when I look around the room, I not only see a room of people I can call on for help when I need them, but I also look around the room and see people I can now call friends.

As I step into my role as president for 2008, I have two key agenda items – Membership and Mentorship.

Membership
My membership initiative ties in with my original clique thought. According to the SLA membership directory, our Chapter currently has 144 members. Of those, 54 members have attended one or more meetings this program year. That’s a little more than a third of the Chapter. It seems that it’s that third of the Chapter who are our familiar faces, our regular attendees, and a rotating list of our leaders.

The other day I was reading a fitness blog, and the writer challenged her readers. She proposed – when you go to the gym, do you give it your all? Do you work up a sweat; push yourself to the point that you don’t think you can take one more step; do you really make a difference? Or do you show up, walk on a treadmill casually for 30 minutes, and then leave – just for the sake of being able to say that you went to the gym? I make a parallel challenge to our Chapter members. Do you get every penny out of the money you pay for your membership? Do you come to our programs, do you read the newsletter, are you subscribed to the discussion list, do you volunteer to help? Or are you a member just to have the ability to put membership on your resume, or because you think it’s something you “should” do? This year, I plan on taking advantage of the web based survey software made available to us by headquarters. I want to ask our long time, incredibly gifted and experienced board members to step in and act as mentors to these new members. I want our Chapter to be prepared when our leaders face their term limits. I want to prevent burnout on the part of all of our volunteers. I want to be sure that we’re all giving it our absolute best, and I believe that sharing the workload, while working with “leaders in the making” is the way to do that.

This year as program planner and President-Elect has brought me both challenges and growth. I look forward to my year as President bringing me more of each. Thank you!
New Board Members Elected

On December 4th, via the Chapter discussion list, the Nominations Committee presented the slate of candidates for office for the 2008/2009 term. These nominees were officially voted into office at the Annual Business Meeting, December 6th.

Office: President-Elect
Donna Beck

Donna Beck began her current position in October 2004 as the Engineering Librarian for the Engineering & Science Library at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. She is the subject librarian for Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, & Materials Science & Engineering. Donna received her M.L.I.S. from the University of Pittsburgh in 2004. She spent 5 years in the Acquisitions department of Carnegie Mellon University’s Hunt Library before becoming Engineering Librarian.

Previously, she has worked in library support staff roles at these Pittsburgh area libraries: University of Pittsburgh Law Library, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Allegheny General Hospital, and the National Environmental Technology Applications Corporation. Donna completed a 2nd semester as an adjunct faculty member at Duquesne University, instructing the freshman course, "Research and Information Skills Lab."

An SLA member since 2004, she received the 2007 IEEE Continuing Education Stipend, administered by the SLA Engineering Division. She served as Student Relations Chair for the SLA Pittsburgh Chapter from January 2006-August 2007. She also received the Chapter’s 2004 Student Conference Stipend Award. With co-author, Rachel Callison, she wrote "Becoming a Science Librarian: Accident, Serendipity, or Purposeful Plan?" in the 2006 special issue "Recruiting, Training, and Retention of Science & Technology Librarians" of Science & Technology Libraries.

Donna’s current professional interests include overseeing the implementation of an “information literacy” game, developed by students at Carnegie Mellon University’s Entertainment Technology Center. She is the proud mother of a Carnegie Mellon University undergraduate. Donna enjoys traveling to library conferences and very much looks forward to working with librarian colleagues.

Office: Treasurer
Brian Steinmetz

* Received Masters of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 2000.
* Previously employed as a Research Associate at the University of Cincinnati, working in the Chemistry/ Biology Library and at the Equistar R&D Library through the University’s Corporate Services program.
* Until recently, employed as an Information Specialist at NOVA Chemicals, managing a corporate library and an R&D library.
* Currently employed as a Competitive Intelligence Librarian at Reed Smith LLC.
* Enjoys gardening, World War II history, and rock climbing.

Office: Director
Kim Gregory

* Received Masters Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1998.
* Has worked as an Investment Librarian and currently as a Senior Market Research Analyst for Federated Investors, Inc. since April 1999.
* First joined the Special Libraries Association as a student member in 1998 and has served in the following capacities: Student Liaison, President-Elect, President, Past-President and Webmaster.
* Active member in the School of Information Sciences Alumni Society and has served in the past as secretary for two years.
* Personal interests include traveling, trying new restaurants and working out as a spin instructor for a local health club.

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

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

December 13 - Power Mingling: Make the Office Party Holiday Season Work for You
January 3 - What’s New in Taxes for Individuals (and Some Businesses) in 2007/2008
January 10 - Real Estate Staging: How to Prepare Your Home to Sell Quickly for the Highest Price
January 17 - Take Control of Your Career
January 24 - Socially Responsible Investing: Investments that Matter
February 7 - Entrepreneur’s Update
February 14 - Get Organized for a Stress-Free Tax Season!
February 21 - On the Road Again? Commuting Alternatives That Can Save You Money
February 28 - Thinking About Starting Your Own Business? Realities and Advice for the New Entrepreneur
Name: Jenny Gelman
Education: MA in International Affairs, Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies (Italy & Washington, DC) and an MLS.

from the Catholic University of America (Washington, DC). Undergrad was at Dickinson College in Carlisle PA – majors were French and History.

Employment: Reference/Consulting Librarian at the RAND Corporation

Member of SLA Since: 2002
First Library Job: Cataloging assistant at Catholic University of America's Law Library

Favorite Part of Being an Information Professional: Finding the needle in the haystack. I love the detective work.

Least Favorite Part of My Job: Obtaining restricted data from the federal government.

Being a Member of SLA has Helped Me: Keep up in new developments in the field. Network and meet great people!

Family/Pets: Husband

Hobbies: Swimming, yoga, singing.

Last Book Read: I just finished The Chrysalis by Heather Terrell, a Pittsburgh lawyer. Although I enjoyed it, it was not particularly well-written. Here is a link to the Publisher’s Weekly Review, which I think is pretty accurate.

Favorite Vacation Spot: Paris

Four Things I Never Leave the House Without: Umbrella, gum, a hat, and something to read!

Favorite Movie: Princess Bride

Three Words to Describe Me: Detail-oriented, loyal, curious

Spot in Pittsburgh I Take Out of Town Visitors to: Mt. Washington – runner-up for the top 10 views in the country!
September Event - “Making the Net-Work” - Denise Callihan

I was lucky enough to attend a presentation through my company’s Women’s Leadership Council on networking this past May. The presentation was given by Dr. Audrey Murrell, a University of Pittsburgh Professor at the Katz Graduate School of Business. After going through a full-day session with her providing case studies showing the different types of networks people use in their professional & personal lives & how we can better utilize them, I immediately thought how great she would be for our professional network, SLA. I talked to her about it, & she thought it would benefit her as well…so, we were fortunate enough to host her as a speaker at our September dinner meeting, Making the Net Work. The presentation focused on strategies to enhance the overall effectiveness of people as they network & connect with others to accomplish personal & professional goals. She provided good background on the different types of networks that people use: Opportunistic Networks (high diversity but weak ties), Traditional Networks (low diversity, strong ties), & Entrepreneurial Networks (high Diversity, strong ties, span multiple groups/sub networks). Our SLA-Pittsburgh Chapter fits the traditional network…and she stressed how we should all start building an Entrepreneurial Network as these are the most strategic, & can increase our effectiveness within our organization & throughout our careers. After the presentation, she delivered a great exercise that helped us all assess our networks. She asked the question, “Think back over the past 6 months. During that time, recall a specific challenge, important decision or problem that you faced. Who did you call upon for advice or assistance?” She then had us circle the names of the people who were frequent contacts, mark those with a star for close friends, underline those of reciprocal relationships, & mark those with a check for inside primary business. Based on this exercise & the questions posed, many in the room observed common patterns in their network & further analyzed how they lacked diversity. Many of us don’t think to consult with others outside the information profession for help, but think how important it is for us to consult many types of information sources for a more comprehensive answer to a request– why shouldn’t networks be the same? This exercise provided a good action item for each of us to start building contacts outside our traditional networks. The more different types of people we have in our networks, the better perspectives we cultivate!

Dr. Audrey Murrell was recently named the new director of the David Berg Center for Ethics & Leadership in the Joseph M. Katz School of Business & College of Business Administration. You can read more about her at: http://www.bergcenter.pitt.edu/people/audrey-murrell.php

Dr. Murrell also distributed an article she wrote called, “Five Steps for Effective Mentoring Relationships”. This informative article is available at: http://nl.walterkaitz.org/FiveStepsInMentoring_Murrell.pdf

Chapter Member News

Brian Steinmetz has recently joined Reed Smith LLC as a Competitive Intelligence Librarian. Good luck Brian!

At a global technical meeting in Warrendale the Heinz technical group from New Zealand officially "adopted" Tim Gaus as a member of their Innovation Team during their presentation - they greatly appreciate the kind of service that SLA members provide. Tim was later presented with a bottle of a 2003 Australian wine as a gift. According to Tim - “It’s nice to have such recognition!” Keep up the good work Tim!

At the end of this term, Kim Gregory will be graduating with her Library Science School Certification from the University of Pittsburgh. Congratulations Kim!

It is with sadness that we report that former Chapter president Mary Jane Volk (1969-1970) passed away in August. Mary received her master’s degree from the Carnegie Institute of Technology, and was the head librarian for the Mellon Institute. A full obituary is available via the Pittsburgh 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!
October Event -
“85th Anniversary of the Chapter, with Special Guest Rebecca Vargha”

On December 5, 1922 the Pittsburgh Special Libraries Association was formed. On October 22nd, members of the Chapter celebrated our 85th anniversary, with special guest speaker SLA President Rebecca Vargha.

The morning of Rebecca’s visit started with a meeting of Chapter officers at the coffee shop of the main branch of the Carnegie Library. There, the officers updated Rebecca on the status of our Chapter, briefing her on the highlights of our events this year, and the plans for the upcoming year.

After the meeting, Chapter representatives and representatives from the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Information Science joined Rebecca on a tour of the SIS library. Afterwards, additional members of the student group were able to join Rebecca and the Chapter members for a luncheon at the Union Grill.

In the evening, our 85th Anniversary Celebration was held at The Posner Center on the Carnegie Mellon University Campus. The Posner Center is home to a rare and historic book and art collection, notable for works on the history of science and classic literature. Displays of the collection were featured in the lovely banquet facilities, lending an all around “library” theme to the event.

Guests at the event enjoyed appetizers and socializing, before sitting down to a buffet dinner. Prior to dessert, Rebecca spoke on her time as SLA President, her vision for the future of libraries, and the importance of SLA to its members.

A commemorative booklet was created to mark the evening, including highlights of the Chapter’s history, past Chapter award winners (as well as National award winners who are Chapter members), and a list of Chapter Presidents. Current Chapter President Rachel Callison wrote a message to the Chapter and it is included here -

Connecting People & Information…
This year marks another milestone in the rich history of the Pittsburgh Chapter. Eighty-five years ago, our founding members met for the first time to “exchange ideas on methods.” Five years later, in October 1927, this same group voted to become an official chapter of the national Special Libraries Association. Since then, our Chapter has been integral in shaping the information and knowledge landscape of Pittsburgh.

By Putting Our Knowledge to Work…
During the 75th anniversary year, Chapter president Bob Sullivan used the SLA research statement of Putting Knowledge to Work to describe our Chapter and stated, “technology was pushing us to re-examine the structure of knowledge and the ways in which information is disseminated.” Technologies allowing us to communicate and collaborate in new ways did emerge. Blogs were born that year [1997] with wikis to follow [2001]. Tagging and sharing images, websites and videos came along in the form of flickr™, del.icio.us [2004] and YouTube [2005]. SLA’s statement was revised in 2003 to include, and emphasize, that it is our role as information professionals that contributes to the success of knowledge work.

To Shape the Future... Together!
The changes, challenges and innovations that the profession will encounter over the next ten to fifteen years is not known. One thing is certain, “Wherever we go, whatever we do, we’re gonna go through it together.” (Gypsy, 1959). Tonight is for reflecting on our past accomplishments and looking toward our future ones, but more importantly, celebrating our present with each other.

Special thanks to all those who made this wonderful event possible - all of the members of the Chapter Board, our fantastic guest speaker Rebecca Vargha, and our event sponsors - CAS, GSI Online/Westlaw, Ebsco, and Knovel - without whom the event would not have been possible.

Commemorative booklets, favors & centerpieces were created using “SLA purple.”
November Event - “Annual Student Networking Event” - Amy Watson

On Tuesday November 27th, twelve members of the Chapter hosted a group of students from the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Information Science. This year’s annual networking event was held in Oakland, at Joe Mama’s, where a delicious appetizer buffet made mixing and mingling easy.

Several years ago I attended the “First Timer’s Social” at the annual conference, and the fellows took part in a “Bingo” game where a trivia card was created using fun facts about each fellow. We decided to take this concept and make it our own. Below, you will see a sample of the card created for the event, using facts supplied by the Chapter members in attendance. If I do say so myself, we have a fascinating group of people in our Chapter, if these twelve people are any representative sample.

Each student was given a card, as a tool to prompt discussion between them and the members. At the end of the evening, the cards were collected and used to draw three lucky winners for door prizes. (A special thanks to Barbara Spiegelman for her contribution of the grand prize.)

Once everyone had their fill of bingo and appetizers, we settled down for a panel presentation by Denise Callihan (PPG Industries), Sallie Smith (University of Pittsburgh) & Brian Steinmetz (Reed Smith LLC).

Each speaker took time to detail their career paths after graduation from library school (Sallie even brought visual aids!) and stressed several important points. Through all three of their presentations, the themes of the importance of field placements, the benefits of mentoring and creating a solid network, and the importance of being Chapter members, were consistent. After their presentations, we held a brief period of Q&A, and then had dessert.

The evening was a great deal of fun, and a great opportunity, both for Chapter members to emphasize the importance of SLA, but also for the students to start laying a network of professional librarians. Thanks to everyone who attended!
December Event - “Annual Business Meeting, Awards Banquet and Holiday Party”

On the evening of Thursday, December 6th, Chapter members met at The Chadwick Banquet Facility in Wexford in order to close out our programming year. Through the evening's events, we held our annual business meeting and awards banquet, while surrounded with an air of holiday spirit.

After the delicious meal, President Rachel Callison called the meeting to order. Treasurer Sallie Smith gave a brief report on our financial status, and was pleased to report that we are well into the black. The minutes from last year’s meeting had been distributed and were approved. Committee Chairs in attendance all gave reports, which will be available when the minutes are published. Of special note, Amy Watson, in her role as program planner awarded two attendance awards, to Denise Callihan for perfect attendance, and to Brian Steinmetz for near perfect attendance.

Acting for the Nominations Committee, Denise Callihan presented the slate of nominees for 2008. As there were no additional nominees for President-Elect, Treasurer or Director, the membership voted in Donna Beck, Brian Steinmetz and Kim Gregory, respectively. (More information on the slate can be found on page 3 of this issue.)

After adjourning the business meeting, Rachel presented her President’s message, thanking the members of the board who supported her through her year in presidency and bestowing them with a surprise treat of mini-bottles of champagne. A version of Rachel’s speech is included in this issue as her final President’s message. Rachel then presented Amy Watson with a “golden gavel” and Amy presented her message to the Chapter. (Available on page 2 of this issue.)

This has been a spectacular year for the Chapter in terms of awards, and awards chair Ange Pollis presided over the awarding of six awards during the evening, opening with a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson that “Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

The first enthusiastic member of the Chapter to be recognized was John Fudrow. John received the Publication Award, for his creativity and talent in merging technology with information dissemination through online publishing.

The second award was the Innovation in Technology Award, and recognized Rachel Callison and Amy Watson for their creation of the Chapter’s online photo gallery using Flickr.

A Service Award was given to Deb Barker, who was not able to attend the event. Deb has provided important services as the Chapter’s Employment Chair for many years, as well as acting as a member of the Nominating Committee.

The Mentoring Award is presented to a Chapter member in recognition of contributions in mentoring students and/or practicing professionals in the field. This year’s recipient was Earl Mounts, for his work with new professionals in the field.

The fifth award given was the Pittsburgh Chapter Leadership Award. This award recognized Lynn Berard, who personifies what being a special librarian is about. She has been a member of SLA since 1985, and throughout her membership has demonstrated great leadership and dedication to service. Lynn is someone who has made a tremendous impact on our profession, and the Chapter is lucky to be able to count her as a member.

And the final award of the evening was a brand new award - this being the first year that a Chapter member was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was bestowed on a professional librarian for outstanding achievement and accomplishments reflecting the goals of the library profession. The honoree has shown extended and sustained periods of distinguished commitment to the Chapter in all spheres of Special Librarianship. Though he was unable to attend, it was an incredible honor to recognize Bob Sullivan with this award. Bob is a dynamo as both a legal and business information professional, and again - the Chapter is blessed to be able to count him among our numbers.

In all, it was a lovely evening, recognizing the passing of a fantastic year. May 2008 be as great for all members of the Chapter as 2007 has been!
Where SLA Has Gotten Me - Update from a Student Member - Steve Ely

In late November 2006, as an LIS student at Pitt’s School of Information Sciences, after most of a semester of barely any involvement with SLA or the SLA Pitt Student Group (SLAPSG), I saw the leadership void that SLAPSG was facing for 2007 and decided to take responsibility for ensuring that SLAPSG remained active and that Pitt’s LIS students stayed connected with SLA. Suddenly, I went from nearly no SLA involvement to very active involvement over the latter two thirds of my MLIS. A year later, I’m working as a corporate librarian in a very good job that I have as a direct result. After hearing the news of this, Amy asked me to recount it for the newsletter both to remind active Chapter members of the impact the group has and to encourage other members to get involved in mentoring and being mentored.

Since August 13, I’ve been working as an Information Management Analyst for Hess Corporation in Houston, TX, supporting the information needs of geologists and engineers in the exploration and production aspect of the oil industry. Beyond my SIS courses and the experience I gained from internships and jobs while at Pitt, it was the SLA Conference in Denver this summer that led to this position basically falling in my lap.

After involvement with a number of different Chapter members and special libraries over the first half of the year, I was eager to make the most of the national conference in June. Walking from the convention center after the opening session of it, Lynn Berard told me of all the job opportunities she encountered years earlier when she attended her first SLA conference. As encouraging as that was, though, it seemed circumstances might be different by now, and I didn’t want to take anything for granted. Indeed, there did seem to be fewer recruiters doing formal interviews, and while I took advantage of what there was, it ultimately was the informal networking that paid off for me.

On that first night of the conference, I went to a Business and Finance Division open house reception directly from the enjoyable and valuable Chapter meetup at the Rock Bottom Brewery. I met a few different people there, but the standout was a woman from Hess. I hit it off with her and another friend of hers from Houston who was there, and we hung out for a while on a couple of subsequent nights of the conference. We stayed in touch afterward, and she asked if I was interested in coming to Texas for a contract position, filling in for her normal reference, research, and document delivery role while she took on a special project for the coming eight months. It was an excellent opportunity, so I sent her my resume, and she ultimately plugged me right in without my even needing a formal interview.

It’s been going well so far. She and the rest of the department have been great at acclimating me to the job; it’s a terrific working environment, the pay is good, and the work itself is interesting and engaging. I’m dealing with a range of internal customers and vendors and gaining a lot of valuable experience. One of the things I enjoy about this role is something probably familiar to most corporate librarians, the range of varied tasks. I do reference, document delivery, literature searching and bibliography creation, acquisition and purchasing, cataloging, circulation, training and instruction, vendor relations, collection management, and some technical support. The knowledge I’m gaining on each of these roles should benefit me whether I stay in this or a similar environment or move into a more specialized role in a larger library.

While further opportunity with Hess now seems likely after this contract is over in the spring, the impermanence of the role is actually appealing to me right now, because I’m not planning to settle in Houston permanently and so am looking at the possibility of applying this experience elsewhere as early as next April or May. (On that note, if any of you hear of something interesting as that time approaches, I hope you’ll keep me in mind.) Either way, while I hope to get back to a place more like Pittsburgh than Houston, I’m certainly glad to have an enjoyable, meaningful, and—not insignificantly—well-paying librarian role.

Anyway, it’s absolutely clear that there’s no way I’d have this if it weren’t for the conference, so I figured you’d all be happy to hear that. Also, that means I wouldn’t have it without SLA (obviously), which means you folks, so thanks. Many of you individually, and the Chapter generally, were great, and I sincerely hope more students at SIS continue to take advantage of everything SLA offers them.
When we joined Bayer, then Mobay Chemical Co. – the MO in Mobay from Monsanto (the U.S. chemical giant based in St. Louis, MO) and the BAY from Bayer, (the German chemical giant based in Leverkusen, Germany) -- the 2 companies that originally formed this chemical company -- it was the mid-1970’s, and Bayer had become the sole owner of Mobay. The businesses in the U.S. that were run from Pittsburgh then were, and still are, the polymers businesses – raw materials sold to make resins; as well as the major staff departments in the U.S.

Currently the company running the polymers businesses is called Bayer MaterialScience (BMS); and the company containing the staff departments is called, Bayer Corporate Business Services (BCBS). Both are located in Robinson Township. These represent multinational businesses which require library and research support. Bayer has grown in the U.S. by acquiring other companies. The polymer plants that Bayer supported at its height were a large plant on the Ohio River in New Martinsville, WV; and a large plant in Baytown, TX, near Houston. Smaller plants were located in Newark OH (plastics); Berlin, CT (films); Sheffield and Deerfield, MA (polyurethanes); Newton, MA (electronic chemicals); Chicago IL (cellulosics); Addyston, OH (ABS plastics); South Charleston, WV (polymers); Sarnia, Ontario, Canada (rubber); etc. One of the BMS acquisitions in 1999 was to purchase the polymers business of Lyondell which brought to BMS a plant in South Charleston, WV and a technical research center there and patents on IMPACT technology for manufacturing polyols. Then later, in 2005, BMS spun off the chemicals and rubber divisions as a separate company, Lanxess.

All of these changes, and other changes as well, required coordinated library services. In 1989 Bayer formed the ILCC (Interlibrary Coordinating Committee) which brought together at least one librarian from each of the many U.S. libraries – West Haven, CT/Wayne, NJ (Pharma), Tarrytown, NY (Healthcare Diagnostics); Elkhart, IN (Diabetes Care); Morristown, NJ (Consumer Care); Shawnee, KS (Animal Health); Kansas City, MO/ RTP, NC (Crop Science); Pittsburgh, PA (BMS); Edgewater, MA (Diagnostics); and 2 Canadian libraries—one in Toronto, Canada (primarily Healthcare) and one in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada (rubber); and the 2 main libraries located in Germany—Leverkusen, Germany (Chemicals) and Wuppurtal, Germany (Healthcare).

One of the first things that we did as a committee was to obtain an integrated library software system for all Bayer libraries worldwide. The first system was Datalib, based in Reston, VA; and the latest system (a GUI) which we are still using today is ALEPH by Ex Libris. This committee continues to operate and meet annually to guide library policy and form contracts with vendors that allow us to leverage our library dollars. Some of the contracts that the Pittsburgh BMS Library participates in are: SciFinder with CAS/STN; Micropatent; CAS/STN Express; and Chemical Economics Handbook with SRI International. Other contracts that our Pittsburgh BMS Library has by itself are with: Knovel for eHandbooks and Property Databases; Profound (now MarketResearch.com) which contains searchable market studies; Westlaw – an enterprise contract for databases in the areas of U.S. case law, full-text patents, full-text news/business sources, and environmental databases; Dialog Classic; and Directory of Chemical Producers by SRI International. We have Factiva.com and OneSource.com business databases.

Our library maintains a HomePage on the web from which our clients can access the databases we purchase directly from the main BayerNet HomePage. We have a large end-user searcher community at Bayer. We provide passwords and training for our employees on these databases. Often, we host vendor training sessions for them at our Robinson Township campus.

Our library also handles the BMS Laboratory Notebooks that number >11,000 upon which our patents are based. We handle the ordering, borrowing, and cataloging of books and videos, and indexing of all internal research reports. We handle ILL requests/document delivery – all this for our site in Pittsburgh and for our plant sites. We concentrate on reference questions and retrospective online searches, running >400 retrospective searches per year. They include patent searches, health and environmental searches, technical searches, and marketing searches to support our sales staff. The marketing searches also include Piers import and export searches that track our customer’s and competitor’s products as they are imported and exported to/ from the U.S. The BMS Library issues a weekly patent alert on polyurethane and polycarbonate topics. The library is also involved in quarterly Intellectual Property meetings.

So, as we in the U.S., are now are paying over $90 per barrel for crude oil, the material from which plastics feedstocks are derived, the future for our libraries and our company’s products still looks quite bright. And, for sure we know that information technology is the future for our country and its businesses.
Curtain Call, Continued... - Rachel Callison

Continued from Page 1

Curtain calls are more than ‘taking a bow’ - it’s when the audience ‘calls out’ for individuals to return to the stage in order to be recognized by the audience for their performance. For their time, energy and excellent work this year—a standing ovation is in order for the ‘top’ Executive Board and Committees members of 2007. Up with the house lights…cue the credits…in alpha order:

Executive Board:  
Denise Callihan one of our ‘multiple hat’ wearers for her roles as Director, Consultation Chair and member of Nominations Committee  
Earl Mounts for being Past President & Awards Committee  
Esther Nathanson for serving as Director  
Amy Watson another member who donned several hats; as President Elect, Bulletin Editor and Program & Events Chair -- and for being an incredible sounding board for all things.  
Sallie Smith for keeping us in the black as Treasurer  
Marge Rhodes for recording our meetings as Secretary  

Committee Chairs:  
Deb Barker for acting as Employment Chair  
Donna Beck for serving as Student Relations Chair  
Lynn Berard for acting as Network & Mentoring Chair  
John Fudrow for being our Membership Chair  
Ange Pollis for serving as Awards Chair  
Betsey Tuttle for acting as Discussion List Moderator  
Sheila Rosenthal for being our Archive Chair  

And last but not least … Eve Wider for acting as Nominations Chair and who, along with new member Jamie Yoder and Denise, did a great job in pulling together a superb and experienced slate of candidates to serve on the Executive Board starting in January 2008; which segues nicely into introducing our new ‘cast’ of officers for 2008: Donna Beck (President Elect), Brian Steinmetz (Treasurer) and Kim Gregory (Director) who will be joining Amy Watson (President), Denise Callihan (Director), and Marge Rhodes (Secretary) on the Executive Board. I wish you all a long run and a show stopping 2008.

Oscar™ website: http://www.oscars.org/aboutacademyawards/awards/index.html  
Margaret Herrick Library website: http://www.oscars.org/mhl/  

It's not too soon to plan ahead!  
Check out these wikis on upcoming SLA Conferences!

SLA Leadership Summit 2008 - Louisville KY  
http://wiki.sla.org/display/LS2008/Welcome

2008 SLA Annual - Seattle WA  
http://wiki.sla.org/display/SEATTLEATTEND/Home

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The Confluence is the newsletter of the Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter. The next issue will be published April 7, 2008. Article submission deadline is March 24, 2008. Please contact Amy Watson at with any submissions, or issues or concerns relating to the newsletter.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIIP 2008 Conference: Keynote, General Session Speakers Set

BATON ROUGE, LA
October 18, 2007—The Association of Independent Information Professionals (AIIP) announced today that Jaclyn Kostner, Ph.D. will present the keynote address at the association’s annual conference in 2008. The conference—April 30 to May 5 in Pittsburgh, PA—will feature the theme “converge. connect. communicate.”

Kostner will focus her speech on helping AIIP members and others to grow their businesses by using communication, collaboration and connection. Kostner is founder and CEO of Bridge the Distance, a Colorado-based firm that helps clients improve communication in virtual settings. She is author of four books on virtual communication, including her latest, "MEGAprenuer: Breakthrough Practices of the Next Generation Entrepreneur."

“Communication is about relationships,” explains Kostner. “When relationships are virtual, much of the interaction that builds relationships is missing or is filtered away. If we want to be successful, we have to intentionally build significantly more interaction designed to grow trust, rapport, and our connectedness—when people are not face to face.”

Kostner’s address will discuss how entrepreneurs such as AIIP members can take their businesses to the next level—including finding and retaining customers—in a world where collaborators are not in the same building, the same state or even the same country.

“We feel that Dr. Kostner’s outstanding expertise will help our members—and other entrepreneurs—succeed in this global economy,” says Jocelyn Sheppard, Ph.D., conference coordinator and principal consultant of RedHouse Consulting Inc.

In addition to the keynote, Kostner will be one of three general-session conference presenters. Her session will offer a set of 10 tools business owners can use to enhance communication and collaboration. Other presenters include: Raul Valdes-Perez, Ph.D., CEO of Vivísimo, who will speak on “Entrepreneurship in the Information Age” and David Farber, Ph.D., distinguished career professor at Pittsburgh’s Carnegie Mellon University, whose topic will be "Social Networking, Communications Technologies and the Information Professional."

About AIIP

AIIP, www.aiip.org, is the industry association for independent information professionals. Its membership consists of more than 500 business owners from countries around the world whose firms provide information-related research and consulting services across a wide variety of industries. Some of the vertical industries AIIP members work in include scientific, medical, pharmaceutical, regulatory, information technology, education, financial services, manufacturing, non profits and life sciences.