

The Confluence

Newsletter of the Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter

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President's Message: Maintaining Your Value and Self-Confidence During Change ~ Haley Hodum

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I don't know about you, but change gives me anxiety. Change makes me feel like I am vulnerable to what has happened or is happening, and like everything is out of my control [I admittedly have control issues]. I wonder how I'll fit into-or out-of-the change? Or how the change will impact what I want or need? And when it passes, the change is there, but I have a hard time finding the direction I was heading in before it happened. What happens then, you ask? I obviously fall down a rabbit hole of self doubt.

I recently experienced a number of changes in a short period of time. The one impacting my role as an information professional was a change in leadership at my company. Despite my manager's attempt to calm my worries [for those of you who know me, you are surely amused by the futility of this], I was convinced that while the change was *needed* and was *good for the whole*, it could not possibly be good for me.

Like many corporate information professionals, I don't support one group or one person or even one management agenda or bottom line. In HR's eyes, I may report to one person, but the reach of the web I weave, I mean, the work I do, extends beyond my

group, my segment, and even my Pittsburgh office. How could I make sure that the new leadership would recognize my value?

I realize tips on what to do would be nice here, but I feel much more equipped to provide a few tips of **what not to do** [read: Haley's lessons learned]:

Do not lay low. We have all had a change in leadership or at the organizational level that made us nervous. I think that our natural first reaction is to lay low, when we should be making ourselves even more accessible. One of the information professional's greatest assets is his/her network and a time of a change is a perfect time to expand yours and hopefully gain more advocates.

Do not doubt yourself, or your value. This one is really important, so I'm going to repeat it. Do. Not. Doubt. Yourself. Once the cycle of self-doubt begins, I find that it is hard to stop it. Your doubt could manifest itself in your confidence in meetings, leading projects, making recommendations, or it could go deeper and impact your sense of value and your contribution. Regardless of where it starts, you need to put a stop to it. I found that

reaching out to my mentor at my company, in addition to a couple of my SLA mentors, helped ground me again. Once the doubt passed, I was able to focus on expanding my network, participating on valuable projects, and identifying opportunities.

Do not wait for the change to come to you. If this is an organizational change, as a good information professional, you've probably known it was in the pipeline even before your colleagues did. You've had some time to get used to the idea in your head and analyze [in my case over-analyze] any and all possible outcomes. While this time can be riddled with anxiety or doubts or questions, it is better used in proactively addressing the change and preparing for it. For a change in leadership, you can demonstrate your assertiveness by setting up time with the new leader and discussing some of your projects and goals for the company. For an acquisition or organizational change, you can proactively reach out to members that are now part of your network and essentially market yourself. Or you can work on process improvement so that when those changes occur, your information processes and systems are ready for them.

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Promising Professional Conference Recap: SLA 2011 Annual Conference & Info-Expo Philadelphia - Deb Martin

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the SLA Pittsburgh Chapter for its 2008 dedication to reexamine and redefine the purpose and goals of what we now know as our Promising Professional Award. And, with sincerest gratitude, I thank Denise Callihan for her support and our 2011 Awards Committee for considering my application despite committee turnover and looming deadlines. It is exactly this commitment to excellence that encourages new information professionals to participate more fully in SLA and Chapter activities. Thank you very, very much.

As we all know, well-managed logistics can make or break the success of attending a conference. Therefore, I am ecstatic to report that my very first MegaBus trip and my hoofing it from my SLA-recommended hotel that was way too far away from the convention center did not result in any catastrophes and actually brought about many enjoyable conversations and much laughter. Despite these successes, I highly recommend staying as close to the convention center as possible making it easy to attend the 9pm-12am authors' night or the disco dance party that had your name written all over that disco ball trophy.

SLA's 2011 theme "Future Ready 365! Are you ready today?" lent itself to a conference environment ripe for networking, communicating, and learning from other information professionals. Take a moment while reading this article in the *Confluence* and ask yourself: Are you Future Ready? Is your firm Future Ready?

SLA's Fellows and Rising Stars roundtable identified four pillars of Future Ready: community, collaboration, alignment, and adaptable skills (<http://futureready365.sla.org/07/30/rising-stars-fellows-at-sla-2011/>). The roundtable posed a few questions: Are you continually building upon your

professional community?; How do you coordinate with other departments, for example, to meet your organization's goals?; Do you know your users and deliver information in a user-friendly way?; Are you and your firm positioned for adaptability? These "pillars" helped me neatly package my to-do list and take-aways from this conference.

I found that keynote speaker, Thomas Friedman, had an interesting take on Future Ready. He opened his presentation with the concept that globalization is built around the individual more in this era than in the past. Friedman stated that the most important competitive event is between you and your own imagination; it's the spark of an idea and the pursuit of this idea that makes the difference between individuals. His initial warning was that we need to pursue our ideas today. If we don't, someone else will. This leads us to an underlying truth that we all can speak to: in order to get and keep a job, we must be able to show that we are able to invent and reinvent the position in addition to doing the job. Today's employees create their own opportunities. In the end, Friedman tied this truth back to our integrity by referring to Dov Seidman's book *How*. As Seidman states in his book: "... integrity, passion, humility and truth have become the hard currency of business success and the most powerful drivers of reputation and profitability."

On a lighter note, I found that chapter member advice was invaluable when it came to choosing sessions to attend and what to target in the INFO-EXPO. Once the pressure was off to make the right choices, I actually had the freedom to have fun and enjoy the interactions that resulted. The INFO-EXPO resulted in great conversations with professionals from my old haunts in NY and CA. Just a few examples of sessions that I found invaluable include:

- (1) IEBD networking breakfast – Yan Hong shared her U. of Conn Insurance Law open site which provides resources, statistics, and SEC notes beyond compare (<http://www.law.uconn.edu/school-law-library/insurance-law-collection-research/>);
- (2) 60 sites in 60 minutes – All I can say is Yalzaa! Do you have 5 or 20 minutes per day to volunteer doing something? Check out Sparked which focuses on micro-volunteering. Looking for collaborative space? Work in Google docs or the less familiar Writeboard and iLink. Are you a foodie? Food Spotting, Grub with Us, or Foodista may be exactly what you are looking for. Trying to identify that strange bug on your property or, YIKES, in your home? Ask the etymologists at What's that Bug. Check out the link for a complete listing of this year's sites: <http://www.slideshare.net/iBraryGuy/60-sites-in-60-minutes-sla-2011> ;
- (3) The Career Connection seminar on getting hired in a tough market; and
- (4) Understanding the purpose and changing your approach to Elevator Speeches.

All in all, I made headway with most of my goals. A big-picture goal was to become more familiar with the relationships between chapters and divisions, their differing goals and objectives, and how their work supports SLA's strategic plan. As with any association, understanding the relationships between factions comes with participation. Exposure and involvement are key factors in comprehending organizational interrelationships. The dominant take-away from Philadelphia is that I am blessed to be associated with one of SLA's most successful chapters. Pittsburgh has it going on with regards to setting and accomplishing goals in a manner that evokes participation while maintaining a relatively stable active

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SLA 2011 Annual Conference Recap - Brian Steinmetz

The SLA Annual Conference was held in Philadelphia this year. I attended many valuable and interesting sessions during my time there from June 13th to 15th.

60 Sites in 60 Minutes

<http://www.slideshare.net/iBraryGuy/60-sites-in-60-minutes-sla-2011>

Reviewed popular collaborative websites, such as Watch That Page, Blekko, Google Docs, and Tablet Legal.

Creating Client Luv: What Phenomenal Results Look Like

www.batesinfo.com/extras/assets/SLA-luv.pdf

Mary Ellen Bates discussed the value of adding analysis after completing a search and offered tips on alternative ways to present the final search results.

Elevator Speeches: How to Develop Them

www.batesinfo.com/extras/assets/SLA-elevator.pdf

Mary Ellen covered the need for a 3 second hook, building 2-sentence stories, and using the right words to describe what you do to your users.

The Intelligence Café

This was my favorite session, as it gave me a chance to network with other CI

professionals at other law firms about competitive intelligence best practices and similar challenges they face.

Researching Privately Held Companies: Information Sources and Techniques That Work

<http://www.slideshare.net/8of12/using-the-internet-to-research-private-companies>

Discussed choosing and planning the right analytical framework and using the best secondary sources, including Hoovers, company websites, legal filings, industry and local news, social media, and job sites.

60 Apps in 60 Minutes

<http://www.slideshare.net/joseph.murphy/sla-60-appsmurphybrownjune2011>

Reviewed popular mobile applications, including Reuters News Pro, Google Search, and Mobile RSS.

The Chapter and Joint Cabinets sessions covered changes to unit allotments, the CE task force, and a recent audit of SLA finances.

I also attended the International Reception where I had a chance to meet my coworker in London and SLA

award winner, Sara Batts, and other British librarians.

Attending the SLA Conference is always a wonderful experience - attending informative sessions, networking with fellow professionals, acquiring useful leadership skills, and learning about new vendor products.

Were you unable to attend the 2011 Annual Conference in Philadelphia? Check out what you missed:

* The Virtual Conference Component is now available for purchase:

<http://sla2011.tornado1.com/general-information/virtual-component/>

* Many contributed papers are now available on the SLA Website:

<http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2011/callpapers.cfm>

* Start planning now for next year's conference - Hope to see you in Chicago July 15- 18, 2012!

Promising Professional Conference Recap Continued from Page 2

membership. I look forward to furthering my involvement with the Pittsburgh chapter and identifying relevant divisional opportunities as my career progresses.

As for engaging and enjoyable conversations with SLA members far and wide and just having fun, networking meals, talking with folks in line, and exploring the neighborhoods located between the convention and my hotel provided valuable opportunities. The trip resulted in many new contacts as I met new association members and had great conversations with all kinds of people of interest. Again, I thank our Pittsburgh chapter for providing me with the opportunity to attend the SLA 2011 Annual Conference & INFO-EXPO.

First Timers Share their Conference Experience

Who would have thought the conference would attract so many baseball fans! The Baseball Caucus organized a wonderful event with 2 former major league players and a sports journalist. For my money, the combination of baseball and special libraries is a home run. - **Sarantos Patrinos**

I'm really glad I took advantage of the opportunity to attend my very first conference at SLA 2011 in Philadelphia. For a first-timer, the experience was exhausting but still very rewarding. As a student, the networking opportunities were most advantageous. Lessons learned for next time: comfortable shoes are essential and booking 6:00 am bus trips are not a good idea. I had a wonderful time, learned a lot, met interesting people and I am looking forward to next year. -**Amy Yonick**

I thoroughly experienced everything the SLA 2011 conference at Philadelphia offered: networking, presentations, chapter events, and of course the city itself. As a first timer, everyone was eager to meet me and extend their advice on employment and professional opportunities. I ended up with over 30 cards and a lifetime of LinkedIn connections. Looking forward to the next one in my hometown, Chicago, IL. -**Sarika Sharma**

Award Nominations Sought

It is never too early to start thinking about recognition for a job well done! Every year we celebrate members of our Chapter who have gone above and beyond the call of duty at our Annual Business Meeting/Awards Banquet, traditionally held in December. Keep an eye out for more information from the Awards Team, but in the meantime, please think about nominating a colleague:

Leadership/Pittsburgh Chapter Award

The Pittsburgh Chapter's "The Pittsburgh Chapter Award" is presented annually to recognize a Chapter member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to the Chapter.

Promising Professional Award

This award is intended to encourage new information professionals to participate more fully in SLA and Chapter activities by awarding grants that can be used to defray costs associated with attending either the Annual (summer) or Leadership (winter) Conference of the Special Libraries Association. To be eligible,

the nominee must be a member in good standing, for 5 years or less, of **both** the Special Libraries Association and the Pittsburgh Chapter. Students are eligible, as long as they are members of both.

Lifetime Achievement Award

This award will honor a professional librarian for outstanding achievement and accomplishments reflecting the goals of the library profession. The honoree will have shown extended and sustained periods of distinguished commitment to the Chapter.

Publications/ Authorship Award

This award will be presented to a Chapter member who has made a significant contribution to the published literature or created an important electronic document or tool. Examples include journal articles, conference presentations, book chapters, web pages, and blogs.

Catalyst Award

This award recognizes a member who has provided innovative solutions to issues that significantly affect the mission and values of the Chapter.

Innovation in Technology Award

The technology award is given to a member who has developed methods or tools to streamline and simplify information tasks through the use of advanced technology so as to achieve actionable results.

Mentoring Award

This award will be presented to a Chapter member in recognition of exceptional contributions in the area of mentoring students and/or practicing professionals in the field.

For more information about any of the awards, or if you would like to nominate a Chapter member for a national award, please feel free to contact Marge Rhodes, Awards Chair (rhodesms@westinghouse.com). You can also learn more about the awards at our website: <http://units.sla.org/chapter/cpit/awards.htm>

The Awards Committee is also looking for members to volunteer for the team. If you are interested in joining the committee and helping recognize colleagues, please contact Marge as well.

Chapter Member Awarded NAHRS Award for Professional Excellence

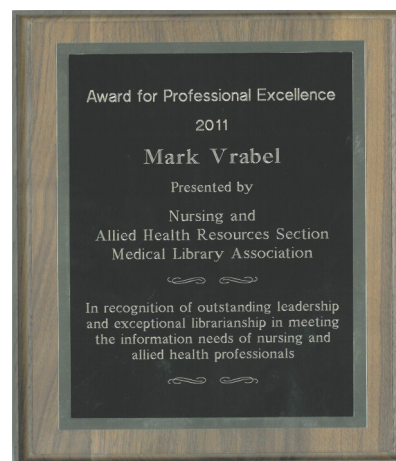
Every year, one of the highlights of the NAHRS (Nursing and Allied Health Resources Section, Medical Library Association) Business Meeting is the presentation of the NAHRS Award for Professional Excellence. NAHRS established the award in 1994 to recognize a member who exhibits outstanding leadership and exceptional librarianship in meeting the informational needs of nursing and allied health professionals. The award recognizes accomplishments in nursing and allied health librarianship, a history of professional publications, conference presentations, service to the nursing and allied health professions and participation in NAHRS and MLA.

This year, NAHRS conferred the Award for Professional Excellence upon **Mark Vrabel** of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS). Mark has been a member of NAHRS since 1999, and is

a distinguished member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals. He is also active in the Cancer Librarians Section of MLA and currently serves as the editor of the *MLA News Calendar*. He joined the Pittsburgh Chapter of SLA in 2010.

Dr. Marlene Cohen, Associate Dean for Research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing nominated Mark. In her letter of introduction, she wrote that Mark's contributions to ONS affect patient care and bedside nursing practice, and that his duties and accomplishments extend beyond the more traditional library realm.

The Honors Committee noted that Mark provides an excellent example to all NAHRS members, demonstrating how a librarian can make significant contributions to his organization's



overall mission. In recognition of his leadership in the profession and excellence in librarianship, NAHRS presented Mark with a \$100 cash award and a plaque. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

New Paths and Horizons ~ Robyn B. Reed

Pondering the future of librarianship can generate a host of emotions ranging from negative feelings to excitement. The need for effective change in a rapidly evolving profession causes librarians to wish for the ability to see into the future or, in desperation, to consult their childhood Magic 8 Ball® for advice.

Entering the field of librarianship during turbulent times is also a challenging venture. Saddled with the typical question of "what do I want to do?" other questions need to be answered such as "what options are there?" I was able to take a closer look at some of these options over the last few months.

This past school year the Health Sciences Library at the University of Pittsburgh, in conjunction with the Department of Biomedical Informatics, offered a one year training program for an individual to learn applications of clinical informatics while gaining experience in a health sciences library setting. I was fortunate enough to be selected for this program and feel that it has provided me with excellent preparation for a future career in librarianship or a similar field.

The Health Sciences Librarianship & Biomedical Informatics traineeship was designed for recent graduates of an MLS program who have an interest in medical librarianship. This direction was a logical possibility of mine when returning to school. My training prior to library school was in medical technology and chemistry as an undergraduate, followed by completing a Master's program in pharmacology. That scientific background led me to work in laboratory research before deciding to change careers.

The traineeship this past year had a number of requirements and opportunities. As part of the program, I earned a certificate of advanced study in Biomedical Informatics. Successful fulfillment of the certificate was contingent upon completing 15 departmental course credits and

finishing a research project addressing a topic of interest to both clinical informatics and health sciences librarianship. To gain more exposure to research in the field, I attended the annual American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) meeting as well as the National Library of Medicine training grant conference. While in the program, I was employed in the Health Sciences library, becoming familiar with its operations and gaining practical experience. This aspect of the curriculum allowed me to learn about several aspects of the library while focusing primarily on reference and instruction services.

Research has been a big undertaking as part of this training. My certificate project centered on using data from social media to rank online search results, specifically ranking bioinformatics tools to help molecular biology researchers recognize the most highly regarded resources in their field. This work was accepted as a paper presentation at the Medical Library Association meeting in May. I have also been able to pursue two other research projects. One is managing a dental informatics project designing a focused literature collection in that discipline and the other is working on a

collection development project in consumer health. These projects were presented as posters at the American Association for Dental Research and SLA annual meetings, respectively. The next steps include writing manuscripts of these projects.

So, what does all of this mean and what can I do with it? I feel that in addition to academic and corporate options in science and health sciences librarianship that my biomedical informatics knowledge could lead to possibly working with taxonomies, controlled vocabularies or medical standards or maybe aspects of healthcare like electronic health records. While the future is unknown and challenges persist, exploring opportunities both in and out of traditional library settings not only provides options but also allows a view of trends in the field. My training program will end this summer and I believe that what I have learned has allowed me to upgrade my future opportunities from "reply hazy, try again" to "outlook good." Have a great summer!

*a product of Mattel, loads of fun, and still available today!

Welcome New Chapter Members!

April 2011

Sarika Sharma
Christopher Simmons

May 2011

Rebecca Brendel
Heather Brown
Mary Mulard

June 2011

Andrew Koval

July 2011

Katherine DeRusso
Michael Dziabiak
Kathleen Fletcher
Sean Gaffney
Melanie Johnston
Emily Stephens

August 2011

Kathleen Crawford
Ryan Jones
Julia Strusienski

Successful Presentations ~ April Event Recap ~ Brian Steinmetz & Sharon Palchak

On Wednesday, April 20th, 23 chapter members and students met at The Chelsea Grille in Oakmont to discuss tips and techniques for successful presentations with fellow chapter member and guest speaker Sharon Palchak. Sharon is a Customer Education & Training Specialist for ProQuest, a global information services company. The event was generously sponsored by Dow Jones.

Since information professionals are often called upon to provide training on information resources, speak at programs or conferences, and present

information to customers and colleagues, this event was particularly relevant. Topics included how to engage participants and facilitate learning, as well as how to develop a successful presentation style. Numerous attendees shared ideas and personal experiences making the session even more worthwhile. At the end, Sharon reminded everyone to not be overwhelmed by all of the presentation tips and techniques that are available. She recommends keeping an eye out for best practices, adapting successful initiatives and learning what works for you as a presenter.

Have you listened to the [My SLA Podcast](#) yet?

Five episodes have been made available so far - interviewing a variety of our colleagues concerning "SLA Members, SLA Experiences." You can listen here: <http://my.sla.org/?cat=26> New episodes are to be posted weekly.

Do you have a story to share? If so contact share_your_story@my.sla.org to set up an interview or blog post.

Upcoming Programs at the Downtown & Business Branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Thursday Noontime Business Program Series 12:15 - 1:00 PM

Tips for Improving Your Job Search
Strategy - September 8th

Is Avoiding Probate for You? -
September 15th

Sell on eBay, Ship with the Postal
Service - September 22nd

The Spill (BP and the Deepwater
Horizon Explosion) - September 29th

Ready, Set, Speed Network ~ May Event Recap ~ Lynn Berard

What do Speed Dating and Librarians have in common? Fun, food, socializing and the desire to meet 'n greet fellow professionals, and if we get really lucky, to form lasting and enriching professional relationships. On May 25th this year, our local SLA Pittsburgh Chapter hosted a "Networking & Mentoring Fair" at the Mellon Institute Library on Fifth Avenue.

Designed on the model of a "fun fair", the main reading room held event stations: a SLA information table; a technology play area with iPad2, Droid phone, and 2 types of e-readers; a give-away business card station; a warm-up networking bingo game with prizes; and an area to conduct Speed Mentoring. Speed Mentoring is a game modeled after speed dating, focusing on quick-hit information, time-efficient networking and the methodical pursuit of a mentor. Also, the most critical to all successful soirees, yummy hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

The highlight of the evening seemed to be high energy around the Speed Mentoring activity. All mentee participants were asked to come with copies of their resumes, and at least ONE professional strength and weakness to jump start conversation. The perfect ambiance of the Mellon Institute Library Reading Room permitted the set-up of long board room tables with chairs on both sides of the table. Professionals were asked to sit on one side of the long table, with mentees seated on the opposite side. For this activity a timer was utilized to "start the conversation" with the opposing partner, each couple being given 5 minutes to get to know each other. As the bell rings, the mentee side of the table rises and moved down one chair. The conversation begins again, and so on, until in about 50 minutes each mentee would have met 10 professionals they had not known before!

Was it a perfect matchmaking activity?

For some perhaps, giving them an introduction to multiple potential mentors they could call upon in future for a favor, a lunch, or perhaps an internship or a first professional job. The sky is the limit, and based on the enthusiastic conversations I witnessed and the generous advising of our members, I couldn't stop smiling. It was a productive and fun event for all, with attendance at around 25.

As a follow-up to this May event, several of our SLA chapter members attended the annual SLA June conference in Philadelphia. There we witnessed several of our event mentees interviewing for jobs, networking, and presenting poster sessions! We are very proud of our student members and we wish them well in their unlimited fantastic journeys as information professionals. Heck, this was so rewarding, let's do it again next year

Editor's Note: In the Spring issue of the Confluence, members of the chapter board were asked to submit either an example of why they find their SLA membership valuable, or a favorite memory of their involvement in SLA. For this issue I contacted some of our former leaders and long time members for their contributions.

I have so many memories of SLA conferences and meetings and activities outside of Pittsburgh - SLA sponsored events - that it is difficult to name a single memory or even a few. I would have to say the greatest appeal and value, looking back, has been the culmination of all these and the friendships that have been developed as a result of being involved.

If I had to name a few memories, the first one that comes to mind is from the annual conference in New York City. We were in attendance at one of the big Dialog parties, and it was the end of a loooooong day. I was so tired, and we were all standing around listening to Three Dog Night (or some other "old" band that had been relegated to playing at annual SLA-type conferences), watching Bob Sullivan cut the rug, and John DiGilio and I ended up with some mechanism on our noses, just being silly because we were so tired. I do believe a picture exists of this silliness. (Ed. Note: See below!)



(L-R) John DiGilio and Kim Gregory at the end of a long day at Annual Conference in 2003

I also remember a panicked feeling when heading to Nashville for the annual conference held in the Grand Old Opry Hotel (I likened it to the Mother Ship). I was staying with Denise Callihan, as usual. I got to the airport early, and got to the gate (the last gate at the airport mind you) in plenty of time only to find the gate had been changed at the last minute.

Sooooo, I ventured over to the correct gate, boarded the plane, but didn't see one single Pittsburgh Chapter member on the plane even though there was a slew of us going. So, I'm waiting and waiting and waiting...and then slowly, everyone showed up looking frazzled and out of breath from their jaunt through the airport to catch the flight! It was crazy-busy at the airport that morning, so everyone got jammed up in the check-in and security lines, except for us seasoned travelers who checked in online and pre-printed our boarding passes, and managed to cram everything into a carry-on! Whew, was I glad to see Denise that morning.... - **Kim Gregory**

"That's a big check!" is an often heard phrase when visitors come by my office at the Engineering & Science Library at Carnegie Mellon University. The 48 ft wide and almost 2 ft high novelty check sits above my desk. I was presented with it in Denver at SLA's annual conference in June 2007, when I received the IEEE Continuing Education

Stipend Award at the Engineering Division Business Meeting and Luncheon. As the story goes, I ran into our dedicated Pittsburgh Chapter couple, Alice Bright and Bob Sullivan, in the Colorado Convention Center shortly after the luncheon with the big check in one hand and an overstuffed conference bag in the other. After they congratulated me, I was lamenting that I couldn't take the check home on the plane and that it would probably cost

too much for me to ship it. Bob chimed in that I should go to the IEEE booth in the Exhibits hall and see if IEEE would be willing to mail it to me. Following his suggestion and thinking that it wouldn't hurt to ask, I made my way back to the IEEE booth where they were more than happy to take my address and ship it to me. Once I received it at home, I needed to take it out of the envelope in order to fit it into my car to get it to my office. With the urging of fellow member and former office mate, Lynn Berard, I brought it into work. It sat in my office for over about a month until I received the real check for \$1,000! The money covered expenses for the conference and continuing education class. The day-long class that I ended up attending was *Chemistry for the Non-Chemist Librarian* - that's a story for another time--involving a molecule kit and assembling red and black balls. I have a lot of wonderful SLA memories, but this one stands out. The check is a great conversation starter piece and reminds me that I can always seek out Pittsburgh Chapter members for "professional" advice. - **Donna Beck**

First the Memories:

- I don't have any specific memories of my first attendance at Pittsburgh Chapter meetings. That was toooooo long ago! However, I do have this warm sense of being sincerely welcomed and thinking to myself, "These are my kind of people!" - Some years later I was job hunting and had applied to the Library of a Division of a major Pittsburgh area employer for a position they had advertised. If I recall correctly I had already had an initial interview & was waiting to see if I'd be called back for a second one. There happened to be one of our usual dinner-meetings of the Pittsburgh Chapter at that point and who shows up for the meeting but a number of the staff of the IRC, the director, and their boss. Nothing would do but that I had to sit with them all and socialize throughout the evening. We had a very good time as I recall. It wasn't until years later, after I had moved on to another position, that it was pointed out to me (I can be

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WVU Evansdale Campus Construction Projects Include Library Renovation - Mary Strife

This part of the campus is slated to have six new buildings by 2014, with three more buildings being demolished. With the support of the deans of Engineering & Mineral Resources, Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Design, Creative Arts, Human Resources & Education, and Physical Activity and Sport Sciences, the Evansdale Library gets another chance to change things up. We will make this a more technological library with a substantial part of the collection going to the depository. We will move the current teaching space and add an additional teaching room. We will also

get one of the things students asked for during the last renovation---a full cafe with food and beverage. We will work with faculty and graduate students from the Interior Design department to run focus groups for students and faculty so we can incorporate their needs. There is no time line at this point but it is sure to be a very exciting project.

Volunteer Opportunity

Casey Sirochman is the new Director/Head Librarian of the Carnegie Free Library in Connellsville, PA, and is looking for volunteers: "After twenty years, our collection has finally been weeded for the first time and books have been pulled from the shelves that were not checked out since the 1980s. Additionally, the collection has not been bar coded and the old card catalogue system is still used and only a minority of books have been catalogue using Athena and ascension numbers. Further, a special room of rare archives is located on the second floor in a room not fit archival materials. Finally, the most challenging problems of course is the lack of financial support from the community and beyond in addition to a staff of only four full time professionals. Needless to say, if anyone is interested in helping or assisting with any tasks, I would have several tasks that could be done from a distance. I have already been in touch with several of the local Universities and Two-year schools in the area and I am going to attempt to get several interns to assist me with preserving and updating this long standing institution." If you are interested in helping her with the library, please email Casey directly at casey.sirochman@gmail.com.

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These aren't ground-breaking and I'm sure they're not new concepts to many experienced professionals, but we have experienced and will all experience change throughout our professional careers. Reminding yourself to get out there, to be confident in your role and the value you bring, and to address the change head-on will help you stay maintain your value and your self-confidence during the change.

Chapter Member News & Highlights

The University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences Alumni Society (SAS)'s has elected **Nancy Alstadt** as their new president. Learn more about the Alumni Society here: <http://www.ischool.pitt.edu/alumni/connect/joinus.php>

Congratulations to **Amy Yonick**, who has accepted the position of Medical Librarian at LECOM at Seton Hill in Greensburg. Good luck!

Kim Gregory will start a new position as Law Librarian at K&L Gates in late August. Congratulations on your new role!

Christine Slippy has accepted a new position with Alcoa that takes advantage of the background and experience she gained at her two previous positions; first as research and development information specialist at Concurrent Technologies Corp where she concentrated on assisting engineers in support of developing solutions and products in response to problems presented by various clients and then in the librarian position that she held at U.S. Steel where she concentrated on researching steel manufacturing processes, marketing and corporate business support. Good luck Christine!

Due to the Le Cordon Bleu Institute of Culinary Arts school closure, **Casey Sirochman** has traded her special culinary library for the life of public librarianship as the Director/Head Librarian of the Carnegie Free Library in Connellsville, PA. Please see her plea for volunteers on this page.

On a personal note, Casey recently gave birth to her first child, Brady McCoy Sirochman (April 5, 2011). She has relocated to Uniontown with her husband and new son. Congratulations Casey on all of your exciting changes!

Committee Members Needed!

Have you thought about being more involved with the Chapter, but aren't sure where to start? Committee membership is a great first step!

Learn more about the current teams here - <http://units.sla.org/chapter/cpit/officersmembers.htm> - and feel free to contact any of the chairs for questions about what each of the teams do, and what you can learn from them! All of the committees are looking for new members, so come join in the fun!

SLA-CPIT
Special Libraries
Association-
Pittsburgh Chapter

[http://www.sla.org/
chapter/cpit/
index.html](http://www.sla.org/chapter/cpit/index.html)

The Confluence is the newsletter of the *Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter*. The next issue will be published in December. Article submission deadline is December 5th, 2011. Please contact Amy Watson at with any submissions, or issues or concerns relating to the newsletter.



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really dense sometimes!) that I was being given the once-over to make sure that I was compatible with the staff and acceptable to all. I passed muster and had a great time working with them for several years.

- Being President of the Pittsburgh Chapter when we celebrated our 75th anniversary with a special party at the Heinz History Center. There were guests from other Chapters and SLA Headquarters as well as the main speaker and local politician, Frank Lucchino. It was an honor to be part of the team who brought that celebration to fruition.

- Being part of the initial group of members who met at the Annual Conference to create the Legal Division. Later being asked to run for Chair-Elect-Elect of the Division and actually being elected. (There was competition.) Working with the Legal Division Board for those years and helping to create the programs for the Annual Conference was certainly a great learning experience and a highlight of my career.

- Being selected as the first recipient of the Pittsburgh Chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award. I was going through a health crisis at the time and could not attend the ceremony. However, I can tell you that not only did it provide an honored cap to the many years of my involvement with this Chapter, but it gave me an important boost of encouragement when I was going through a very hard time

in my life. There's no way I can adequately express how important this has been, and is, for me.

Now the Benefits:

- NETWORKING!
NETWORKING!
NETWORKING! - locally, nationally and internationally! I could never have succeeded in this field without the connections I have made through SLA.

- Lifelong friendships! You people aren't just folks with whom I work and share the same profession. You share the highs and lows of life with me and are truly my friends! I might never have met you if it weren't for SLA.

- Jobs! A number of the positions I have held were the direct result of my involvement with SLA.

- Travel! Attending the Annual Conference has enabled me (and sometimes my family) to visit cities in the USA & Canada that I might otherwise never have seen.

- Learning! Speakers at local programs; sessions at Annual Conference & Pre-Conference Training Courses; webinars and other online opportunities; and the hands-on, practical experiences of various leadership roles from committee membership on up have all made me a better and more informed professional.

- Happiness! Now don't roll your eyes. With those Memories and those Benefits, how could I not be a happier person? - **Bob Sullivan**

There are so many favorite memories of my involvement in SLA that it is difficult to

condense them to a short list.

The Pittsburgh Chapter was organized in 1922 and has a rich history. My favorite era was the happenings in the 1990's. Memorable events include:

- The 1990 SLA National Conference that was held in Pittsburgh. Our Chapter proudly hosted many events highlighting the city. One fun event was a chartered bus trip to lunch at Tambellini's sponsored by the United States Book Company located in Squirrel Hill.

- The grand celebration in April 1997 of the Chapter's 75th Anniversary held at the Heinz Regional History Center. Bob Sullivan officiated as Chapter President and shared the stage with SLA National President, Judy Field and Frank Lucchino, Chair of the Commission on the Future of Libraries in Allegheny County.

- In 1999, the Pittsburgh Chapter pulls off the triple triumph with SLA International Awards given to three of us, Ange Pollis, Barbara Speigelman, and Lynn Berard. This may very well be a singular accomplishment in the history of SLA!!!

- On a professional level, my membership provided a "human resource" of knowledgeable colleagues who were always willing to share their expertise.

- On a personal level, the camaraderie and lasting friendships that I have made is priceless!!! - **Ange Pollis**

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