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ALHeLA Executive Committee 2014

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Welcome to the All New Synapse! How can it be that this year is half over? I, for one, feel like it has barely begun! I am very pleased to welcome Christy Kent from the biomedical library at the University of South Alabama as our new Synapse editor. She has put together a fabulous newsletter for us; I hope you all enjoy it!

Elections were held earlier this year and the executive committee is delighted to welcome some new faces!

Congratulations to our 2014 Officers!

Elizabeth Laera, President
Justin Robertson, Vice President/President Elect
Michael Fitts, Past President
James Gilbreath, Secretary
Errica Evans, Treasurer
Amber Long, Jill Deaver, and Monica Hedge, Members-At-Large

Committee Chairs:
Nelle Williams, Bylaws/Handbook
Susan Smith, Continuing Education
Jie Li, Disaster Preparedness
Kay Hogan Smith, Liaison
Margaret Alexander, Membership

Media Chairs:
Andrea Wright and Justin Robertson, Web Coordinators
Carolyn Holmes, List Moderator

We are still looking for a new Directory chairperson. If you are interested, please contact me.

The Medical Library Association annual meeting took place May 16-21 in Chicago. Many ALHeLA members attended, myself included. ALHeLA was also well represented in both the poster and paper sessions. Andrea Wright, Lee Vocovich, Susan Smith, Kay Hogan-Smith, and Lee Clemans-Taylor all presented posters. In the paper sessions, Valerie Gordon and Pat Higginbottom shared some of their marketing expertise, Adelia Grabowsky spoke on the use of smartphones to answer clinical questions, and I presented on clinical librarianship as a solo librarian.

This year, the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association will be holding its annual meeting in our very own state. To make things easier (and cheaper!), we have elected to hold our ALHeLA annual meeting in conjunction with Southern Chapter. So mark your calendars for the 64th annual SC/MLA meeting, October 26-30, at the beautiful Battle House Renaissance Hotel and Spa in Mobile! Our meeting will take place the morning of October 28 with a dinner and awards presentation to follow the day's activities. SC/MLA has generously offered to extend the member attendance fee to all ALHeLA members who are not SC/MLA members. Conference scholarships will be available. Keep checking the website and the listserv for more exciting details!

Finally, if you have not already done so, please take the time to renew your ALHeLA membership. We need you! Please see our website for more information and the renewal form.

This year is all about new ideas. I welcome your feedback and input. If you’d like to see ALHeLA doing something new – tell me! I hope you are planning on joining us in Mobile for our annual meeting. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Best,

Elizabeth
ALHeLA Executive Board Meeting

By James Gilbreath

Date: March 8, 2013

Members in attendance:
Margaret Alexander
Lisa Ennis
Errica Evans
James Gilbreath
Elizabeth Laera
Jie Li
Amber Long
Susie Smith
Andrea Wright

Call to Order – Elizabeth Laera called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

- Approval of Minutes – Margaret Alexander moves to approve minutes from the March 8th, 2013 meeting. Jie Li seconds the motion. The minutes were approved.
- Introduction and Ice Breaker – Given that there were new members on the executive committee, Elizabeth led the group in introductions and an icebreaker (If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?).

Treasurer’s Report

- Errica sent out the Treasurer’s report yesterday. She received two more memberships since yesterday evening. There may be a few more expenses to come out of the NNLM award for the ALLA exhibit.
- Tried to include with report a report of revenue and expenses for the last calendar year (last 12 months).

Committee reports / discussions

- Continuing Education – Susie Smith
  - UAB Hosted MLA’s webinar on research and invited everyone to attend. The session was only attended by Lister Hill people due to difficulty in everyone getting away from work.
  - Would love to see future CE be in an online format. Could create our own CEs. Would potentially look something like the MLA online CEs. Rates for MLA CEs are high, according to several present.
- Importance of CE credit for CEs? Elizabeth indicated that it shouldn’t be hard to register session to actually get CE credit for attendees.
- Bylaws – Nelle Williams (no report)
  - Need to elect new board of directors. Positions are for one year only.
  - Really need to get the new bylaws ratified. Have been discussing this since at least 2010.
- Directory – Rosalind Lett
  - Haven’t heard from her. May have relocated to Georgia according to Errica, so may need a new committee chair.
  - When was the last directory published? Errica states it was last updated in 2008. Directory includes useful forms, etc.
  - Potentially offer directory both in print and online. Also could list all the health science libraries in the state. If there were both print and electronic versions, could have it be a printed version of a PDF, so easily updated.
- Membership – Margaret Alexander
  - Renewal notices going out first and second weeks of each month until everyone renews.
  - Will start working on a brochure for recruiting purposes. Hopes to start working on that early this summer. Will send out a draft for suggestions and critiques. Requested assistance for a committee. Maybe about three or four people to assist with project.
  - As renewals are paid, Errica sends that info to Margaret, and she notes renewal date.
- Synapse – No Current Editors
  - Last newsletter went out in Fall, maybe?
  - Will wait to recruit editors before making decision about fate of newsletter.
- Web Coordinators – Andrea Wright and Justin Robertson
  - Looking at HTML5. Cool templates put out by W3C. Good to know what information would be useful for website (e.g. list of health science libraries).
Main problem so far is most frameworks are very image heavy, and we don’t have a great deal of images to use. Don’t want to use stock images. Current webpage is pretty much a list of links. Have to figure out what to do with space in future. Perhaps use website as news source (might have issues with archiving, etc.).

Looking at a summer timeline for a new template (downtime purposes).

- Listserv Coordinator – Lisa Ennis
  Schedule will be too heavy for coordinator, but will remain until a replacement is found.

- Disaster Preparedness – Jie Li
  Encourage people to list library resources on ALHeLA911.org
  Encouraged people to develop one page pocket guide for disaster preparedness resources. Need to be updated each year when resources change, etc. Will send out template so that others may make a guide.

Old Business
- Covered in committee reports.

New Business
- 2014 Meeting
  Will be in conjunction with Southern Chapter (Sunday October 26 – Thursday, October 30) at the Battle House Renaissance Hotel and Spa in Mobile.
  Some ALHeLA members are not members of Southern Chapter. Working with Judy to minimize time other members would have to be down there. Would probably have a meeting at 8 or 8:30 on Tuesday morning. Would have executive committee meeting first followed by a general meeting. Would need time for student awards and a CE to constitute a meeting.
  Could have breakfast at meeting and a dinner on Tuesday night.
  Wants to work with Southern Chapter on cost of attendance for non-Southern Chapter members. Judy will put Elizabeth in contact with those individuals. Separate charge for meeting?

Margaret – since many members are attending anyway, would Southern Chapter charge ALHeLA to have the meeting? Also, could the meeting be held after Southern Chapter? Student might have difficulty coming down in the middle of the week. The day after Southern Chapter would be Friday, October 31st.

Jie Li – since food is expensive in hotel, could use a reception/dinner in a restaurant instead. Could use a party room in a restaurant.

According to Andrea, the price for wireless in a meeting room is $75.00 initially plus a large amount for each additional user.

If meeting is Tuesday morning, the only other thing going on between 8 and 10 is another committee meeting. Margaret proposes Sunday before Early Bird events happening on Sunday evening.

Meeting at MLA
- Elizabeth got a good response, will be putting out more information on listserv about this. Looking for feedback from members.

2015 Joint Meeting
- Last year or year before talked about having a joint meeting every other year. Is this something we want to do?
  Margaret – may want to put feelers out to see what other state organizations would be interested in doing this.
  The Georgia meeting was way out of line with the traditional meeting we had, and this threw off our whole schedule.
  Jie Li – Florida meetings can be very far away, apparently they generally meet in south Florida.
  Errica Evans – If we do it in the fall, will that have any bearing on the Southern Chapter meeting, which is held in the fall. Many other state organizations don’t have their meetings in the fall because of this.
  General feeling that this is worth investigating

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 4:04 PM
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

By Jie Li

UPDATE YOUR DISASTER / PREPARENESS EMERGENCY PLAN

Is Your Library Disaster Ready? Have you instated the disaster preparedness and services continuity plan? Is your plan up to date?

Most Alabama health libraries have a Disaster / Emergency Preparedness Plan. If you have not already done so, now is the time to update the plan. You may have had staff changes, so make sure that all areas of your Disaster / Emergency Preparedness Plan are designated to the appropriate persons. You may have cancelled and added resources. Your vendor representatives may have changed. These may be the areas that you may want to update. If your library does not have a plan or if you want to update your plan to support a mobile device, you may find templates at http://nnlm.gov/ep/disaster-plan-templates/. For more information about the NN/LM Emergency Preparedness & Response Initiative, visit http://nnlm.gov/ep/.

Photo courtesy of The Vineyard Gazette/Sara Low

Image courtesy of http://www.ready.gov/
IN EARLY 2013, THE FUTURES TASK FORCE WAS CHARGED WITH DEVELOPING A TEN YEAR PLAN DETAILING ACTIONS WHICH MLA COULD TAKE IN ORDER TO FLOURISH.

To date, the Task Force has surveyed MLA reports, plans, and data; undertaken a literature review on the future of libraries and health science libraries in particular; and held an Open Forum at the MLA '14 Annual Meeting. They recently released four draft recommendations: (1) expand the membership base (2) reduce dependence on annual meeting attendance (3) streamline organizational structure (4) establish new positions for MLA governance. The Task Force is currently asking for comments, feedback, and additional ideas from members before they submit Final Recommendations in October 2014. For more detailed information about the draft recommendations and/or to comment on them, visit http://blog.mlanet.org/future/.

Looking for new publishing venues? Most people know that MLA publishes JMLA but some may not know that the Research Section of MLA also publishes a peer-reviewed journal entitled Hypothesis. Hypothesis, which is indexed in CINAHL, focuses on research methodologies and the latest research trends and issues within the LIS community. Potential authors are not required to be members of the Research Section or even MLA. Submitted articles should focus on some aspect of research methodology but can either be educational in nature or an analysis of some aspect of the author's original research. For more detailed information about the types of articles Hypothesis prints and how to submit, see “Proving the Hypothesis: Completing the Transition to Professional Journal” on pages 4-6 of the Summer 2013 issue, http://research.mlanet.org/hypothesis/Hypothesis_2013_Summer.pdf. The next submission deadline is October 5th (publish date-December 2014). Hypothesis is an open access journal and a list with links to each issue is available at http://research.mlanet.org/hypothesis.html.

The next annual MLA meeting will be held May 15-20, 2015 in Austin, Texas. The theme is “Librarians without Limits” and it’s not too early to be thinking about submitting a proposal. Proposals need to be in the form of a structured abstract. Check out this online resource, http://research.mlanet.org/structured_abstract.html for tips about developing a structured abstract and to see examples of abstracts for different types of research methodologies.
AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

IMMUNIZATION helps prevent dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases. To stay protected against serious illnesses like the flu, measles, and tuberculosis, adults need to get their shots — just like kids do. National Immunization Awareness Month is a great time to promote vaccines and remind family, friends, and coworkers to stay up to date on their shots.

How can National Immunization Awareness Month make a difference? We can all use this month to raise awareness about vaccines and share strategies to increase immunization rates with our community.

Here are a few ideas:

- Talk to friends and family members about how vaccines aren’t just for kids. People of all ages can get shots to protect them from serious diseases.
- Encourage people in your community to get the flu shot every year.
- Invite a doctor or nurse to speak to parents about why it’s important for all kids to get vaccinated.

How can your library help spread the word?

- Add information about immunizations to your newsletter.
- Tweet about National Immunization Awareness Month.
- Host a community event where families can get together and learn about immunizations.

(SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH

ONE IN THREE children in the United States is overweight or obese. Childhood obesity puts kids at risk for health problems that were once seen only in adults, like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. The good news? Childhood obesity can be prevented. Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to create opportunities for kids to eat healthier and move more. Make a difference for kids: spread the word about strategies for preventing childhood obesity and encourage communities, organizations, families, and individuals to get involved.

How can National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month make a difference? We can all use this month to raise awareness about the obesity epidemic and show people how they can take steps toward a solution.

Here are a few ideas:

- Motivate teachers and administrators to make schools healthier.
- Ask doctors and nurses to be leaders in their communities by supporting programs to prevent childhood obesity.

How can your library help spread the word?

- Add information about obesity prevention to your newsletter.
- Tweet about National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month.
- Host a community event where families can be active while learning about local health resources.
- Become a partner of We Can!, a national movement to help children ages 8 to 13 stay at a healthy weight.

(This article was adapted from http://healthfinder.gov/NHO/AugustToolkit.aspx#announcement)

(This article was adapted from http://healthfinder.gov/NHO/SeptemberToolkit.aspx#announcement)
MORE IN HEALTH LIBRARIES AWARENESS

AUGUST

Psoriasis Awareness Month
For more information visit the National Psoriasis Foundation
www.psoriasis.org

Spinal Muscular Atrophy
www.fsma.org

Drowning Impact Awareness
www.phoenixchildrens.com/

SEPTEMBER

Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month
For more information visit the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation
www.thegcf.org

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
For more information visit www.curesearch.org

Healthy Aging® Month
For more information visit www.healthyaging.net

Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness Month
For more information visit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society www.lls.org

Newborn Screening Awareness Month
For more information visit www.savebabies.org

National Sickle Cell Month
For more information visit the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.
www.SickleCellDisease.org

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
For more information visit the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition
www.ovarian.org

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
For more information visit the National Prostate Cancer Coalition
http://zerocancer.org/index.html

Cancer Coalition

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month
For more information visit the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
www.recoverymonth.gov

Suicide Prevention Week
For more information visit the American Association of Suicidology www.suicidology.org
In this portion of Synapse, I would like to highlight the shining hard work, dedication, and crowning achievements of our fellow ALHeLA members:

Please congratulate Ms. Judy Burnham, AHIP, FMLA, for being honored with a MLA Fellowship. MLA Fellows are regular members and are elected by the Board of Directors for sustained and outstanding contributions to health sciences librarianship and to the advancement of the purposes of MLA. Fellows may use "FMLA" following their names (source: MLA website). The FMLA designation was announced at the MLA Awards Luncheon and Ceremony on Monday, May 19, 2014 at the annual meeting held at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, IL.

Kay Hogan Smith, UAB, Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, Birmingham, AL, recently published a book chapter concerning Consumer Health. The full citation is:


Way to go Kay! What great strides you are making in the field of consumer health librarianship.

Susie C. Smith, UAB, Lister Hill Library, Birmingham, AL and Emma C. O’Hagan, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, recently published “Taking Library Instruction into the Online Environment: One Health Sciences Library’s Experience” in the July 2014 issue of the JMLA (Journal of the Medical Library Association). I cannot wait to read it! Kudos to the two of you on a job well done!

Finally, congratulations go out to Elizabeth Laera, McMahon-Sibley Medical Library, Birmingham, AL, who published the following poster and paper:


Nice work, Elizabeth! Princeton Baptist is lucky to have you putting them on the map!

ALHeLA is so fortunate to have such devoted and hardworking members who are showing our peers around the country that Alabama has so much to offer in the field of medical librarianship! Hats off to you all!
Let’s start with the most obviously important upcoming conference – the MLA Southern Chapter Annual Meeting in Mobile, October 26-30, 2014! With the theme of “Making a Difference in Health,” the conference features keynote speakers Sheri Fink, Elaine Martin and Ray Weinshenker.

Sheri Fink is author of the bestselling account of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, especially the events at the Memorial Medical Center as staff struggled to deal with life and death decisions in the storm’s chaotic aftermath. Her book is titled, *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital* (Crown, 2013).

Elaine R. Martin is Director of Library Services, Lamar Soutter Library, and Director, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region, at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester. Dr. Martin’s research interests include biomedical informatics, assessing the information needs of the public health workforce, evidence-based public health, “e-science” and organizational development.

Ray Weinshenker is a “Certified Laugh Therapist” from Mobile who aims to treat the “chronically serious” among other patients for whom humor may be a panacea. Ray will close the 64th Chapter meeting with laughter!

The conference setting and housing will be the historic Battle House Resaissance Hotel and Spa. Continuing education opportunities include courses in systematic reviews, mobile apps for public health, grant writing and bioinformatics. For more information see the conference web site at [http://www.scmla.org/home/2014](http://www.scmla.org/home/2014).

Also, don’t forget that ALHeLA will be hosting its own meetings in conjunction with Southern Chapter at this event, most of which will take place on Tuesday, October 28th. Stay tuned for more information about those meetings!

Besides library conferences, this column will be highlighting health professional and consumer health events and meetings of interest to librarians, particularly for exhibiting purposes, one of which is the Alabama State Nurses Association annual meeting in Tuscaloosa October 2-4, 2014 ([http://alabamanurses.org/?page_id=12384](http://alabamanurses.org/?page_id=12384)). If you know of any promising health events you’d like the ALHeLA Liaison Committee to help publicize, please email Committee Chair Kay Hogan Smith at khogan@uab.edu. Remember, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern/Atlantic Region, provides regular exhibit award funding to support a medical library booth at these events! Check it out at [http://nnlm.gov/sea/funding/exhibit.html](http://nnlm.gov/sea/funding/exhibit.html)!

http://www.scmla.org/
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
By Patricia Higginbottom

Elizabeth Laera, AHIP, ALHeLA Member since 2010

First professional (and current) position: Hospital librarian at Princeton Baptist Medical Center, Birmingham, AL

Education: BA in history (with minors in Italian and anthropology) and MLIS from the University of Alabama

Favorite website: Annie’s Eats and Go Fug Yourself

Please describe your current position: In the span of one day, a solo librarian might be a translational researcher, a copy repairer, a mail clerk, a teacher, an editor of presentations, a technology coordinator, and a secretary. From collection development to electronic resource management to expert searching, a solo librarian wears many hats. Not only do I help users navigate the often tricky waters of medical literature database searching, as a solo hospital librarian I choose the database, purchase the database, manage the database, search the database, consolidate the database, and give users full text copies of whatever information they need. I serve attending physicians, residents, nurses, pharmacists, administrators, and other allied health professionals. I am also a clinical librarian and join the hospitalist teaching rotation twice a week for table rounds and sometimes I accompany the team to the floor for bedside rounds. I answer point-of-care questions, take notes to answer more complex questions, and listen out for topics that might benefit from further knowledge in the form of a review or practice guidelines.

What do you find most interesting about your position? I love that my job is different every day. There are always new research questions to answer and no day is complete without some sort of e-resource crisis.

What has been your biggest professional challenge? Reinventing the library. When I started working at Princeton, the library had been without a librarian for six months and was about to be relocated to a much smaller location in the professional office buildings. I had to overcome the space issue, the distance issue, and figure out how to reestablish the library as an essential part of the hospital. I’m still working on that.

How did you become interested in medical librarianship? I’m an accidental medical librarian. I was unemployed when graduated from library school and ended up taking a part time job with a former professor who was doing some consulting work at a local hospital. To make a long story short, I ended up becoming the librarian at that hospital!

What was your background before you became a medical librarian? I was a student. I never intended to be a special librarian, let alone a medical librarian. I had planned on working in academic reference, perhaps as a subject specialist in history or social sciences.

What would you be doing if you weren’t a librarian? I’d be a chef and restaurateur. Or possibly an anthropologist. Or maybe a historian. I have a lot of interests!

What do you think is the most interesting issue in librarianship today? I think the Affordable Care Act is going to have a tremendous (indirect) impact on libraries. The first is negative: most hospitals are seeing their Medicare reimbursements decrease which means less money for expensive departments like the medical library. Librarians must constantly prove that they actually help the hospital save money; luckily with meaningful use, electronic health records, working towards lower readmission rates and shorter hospital stays, the librarian has ample opportunities to get involved and continue to prove relevance. It’s a big challenge but I have no doubt that today’s librarians can rise up and save their libraries.

What are you most proud of? Creating and maintaining the clinical librarianship program. It is difficult to do because I’m a solo with very little extra time, but because it has a much more direct impact on patient care, it’s extremely rewarding.

Whom do you admire? My dad. He came to this country at 16, learned English, put himself through school working as a carpenter, and then helped his brothers and sister through school as well. He was a very successful in his career until his field was impacted by the economy and he was laid off. My dad is not one to take things sitting down, so he has jumped from job to job, finding new passions along the way. He’s owned a restaurant, sold luxury cars, and worked as a financial planner. Somewhere in there he managed to put me through school and become an American citizen.

What other organizations are you involved in? I’m on the continuing education committee for MLA and the hospital librarians committee for Southern Chapter. I’m also helping to develop a CE class with the Clinical Librarians SIG. I’m also in a young adult literature book club with friends from library school.

What do you do for exercise? Yoga. I take a class once a week and do more at home with videos. I love it and learning the breathing techniques have reduced my stress level tremendously.
CELEBRATIONS

By Inga Moten

Lynn Fortney

Lynn Fortney, a founding member and first president of ALHeLA, has recently retired from EBSCO Information Services. Known for her knowledge and innovation at EBSCO, she is also known in the region for earning a Master’s degree from the Emory University Division of Librarianship and working in the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System, University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences Library, and Lister Hill Library of Health Sciences at UAB. Lynn has served in many leadership roles with ALHeLA, Medical Library Association, Southern Chapter/Medical Library Association, and in 2011 was named a Fellow of the Medical Library Association. At EBSCO she was awarded the first Daniel T. Richards Prize for Writing Related to Collecting in the Health Sciences as she co-authored “Index Medicus Price Study, 1998-1999.” Always a librarian, crediting her successes to librarians she has worked with and other information industry leaders, Lynn has rounded out an impressive career. Check out these articles highlighting her career.


Andrea Wright

Andrea Wright has been promoted and will receive tenure with the rank of Associate Librarian at the Baugh Biomedical Library at University of South Alabama. The tenured position begins in August 2014.

Robert Britton

Robert also has been promoted and will receive tenure with the rank of Associate Librarian at the Baugh Biomedical Library at University of South Alabama. The tenured position begins in August 2014.

Also, Robert and his wife, Lily, welcomed their son, Greywen Joshua Britton, into the world on July 2, 2014; 8 pounds, 6 ounces. All is well.
This being my first issue as editor for Synapse, I would like to personally thank everyone who contributed. Adelia Grabowsky, Sylvia McAphee, Kay Hogan Smith, Pat Higginbottom, Inga Moten, Elizabeth Laera, and James Gillbreath, thank you and welcome aboard as our new columnists! I also want to thank Robert Britton for guiding me through this transition. I hope everyone enjoys the new format.

With this transition of Synapse, I couldn’t help but equate my own transition from a librarian in a public library to a medical librarian. The first four months have flown by, but began with a steep learning curve, complete with challenging terminology, an ocean of new acronyms, and a new appreciation for the Google calendar. Between work and family, it is my new best friend.

I’m learning to speak PubMed – exploding subheadings and qualifier hierarchies and all – and trying to get used to the idea that someone’s life may literally hang in the balance as I try to determine where a clinical question lies on the background-foreground continuum! Luckily, I am surrounded by seasoned professionals who are always eager to offer suggestions to help resolve my queries. And likewise, I will rely on you all to offer suggestions on ways to make this publication great!

For our next issue, we will resume Synapse’s regular publishing schedule, which would make article submissions due on September 1st. Be thinking of special feature articles you can write on special projects at your library. Also, please submit pictures with your articles, both of yourself and of the projects you are working on.

I look forward to working with all of you in the future!

Regards,

Christy