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President’s Letter

Ah, the end of my term approaches...a bittersweet feeling, I must say. I have had the privilege of serving as chapter president for eighteen months as we make the transition to a new officer year. Thanks to Gail Stahl, Brian McGreevy, Ernie Evangelista, and Patty Phipps who have also served an additional six months in their current positions.

Now that new officer terms will begin in January, our holiday party this year will have an added feature: the annual business meeting. We will vote on the slate of nominees, published elsewhere in this issue of Peach State Update. Don’t worry, we’ll just take a few minutes for official business!

Meanwhile, our monthly networking gatherings are off to a strong start. We’re attracting members from other professional associations so you’ll have an opportunity to meet librarians in addition to those SLA members you already know. Thanks to Brian and Casey Long for organizing these get-togethers, held on the second Thursday each month.

In October, twenty-five people packed the conference room at SpencerStuart to hear Greg Notess speak about advanced web searching techniques. We learned ways to go beyond Google and search Ask.com, Live.com, Yahoo!Search, and Exalead. Keep up with all the changes at Greg’s website, Search Engine Showdown (http://www.searchengineshowdown.com)

On January 19 we’re co-sponsoring a half-day meeting with the Atlanta chapter of SCIP, the Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals. The speakers, who have presented at both SLA and SCIP conferences, are Christine Wunderlin and Toni Wilson of MarketSmart Research Services. They will discuss creative uses of publicly available information sources. Don’t miss this exciting professional development opportunity.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Best regards,

Allison Evatt

Dialog, a Thomson business | Allison.evatt@thomson.com | 404-352-0348 |

Peach State Update Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the Special Libraries Association

Peach State Update is published four times a year: March, June, September, and November. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Contributors should submit materials to the managing editor. Documents may be submitted as Word files or in Rich Text Format; graphics should be submitted in jpeg or tiff files. For advertising rates, contact the advertising editor.

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Treasurer’s Report

SLA-Georgia chapter balances continue to steadily increase. These are our September 30 balances for the last four years:

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<td>10,309.67</td>
<td>15,293.34</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Though my term as chapter treasurer ends on December 31, I will prepare our year-end financial statements for submission to SLA headquarters.

Thanks to the program planners, fundraising chairpeople and vendors who supported and, I hope, will continue to contribute to our chapter’s livelihood.

Ernie Evangelista

Library and Information Center | Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta | ernie.m.evangelista@atl.frb.org | 404.498.8927

CHAPTER NEWS:

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Sally Griffin Cook, Heather Morgan and myself, are pleased to submit our slate of nominations for 2007 officers. The proposed slate, to be confirmed by vote of SLA Georgia members at the December 2006 Holiday Party, is as follows:

Irene McMorland for President-Elect
(then President, then Past-President)
Skye Hardesty for Treasurer (two year term)
Marilyn Pahr for Director (new term)

FYI, chapter officers now serve based on the calendar year. Brian McGreevy will serve as President, Allison Evatt as Past President, Patty Phipps as Secretary, Casey Long as Director.

Gail Stahl

Atlanta Knowledge Group Director | THE BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP | Atlanta, GA | Stahl.Gail@bcg.com | 404-877-5224
In recent years, Greg has spoken at many conferences including: Internet Librarian, Computers in Libraries, SLA Annual Conference, Web Search University, as well as at events in Montreal, Stockholm, London, Copenhagen, Sydney, Zagreb, and India.

Greg is a three-time Information Authorship award winner and writes the “On the Net” and “Internet Search Engine Update” columns for ONLINE magazine. His latest book -- *Teaching Web Search Skills* -- was published in August 2006 by Information Today.

**Program Report: Workshop - Measuring Impact: Cost Justification for Information Services**

Speaker: Allison Evatt, Thomson Dialog  
Location: SpencerStuart Associates, Atlanta, GA  
Date: November 14, 2006

The Georgia Chapter arranged a FREE workshop on ROI, which most often stands for “return on investment” but in the case of information professionals, it can also signify a “return on information.” It is difficult to garner support in a modern business setting without having a way to measure one’s impact on the organization and its mission. In other words, the René Descartes maxim “I think, therefore I am” doesn’t apply in today’s working environment. It is hard to justify one’s existence when one can’t measure it properly. The purpose of this workshop was to help SLA members wrap their arms around these numbers and concepts.

Workshop Topic: This workshop shows how tracking the use of externally purchased content and services helps define the impact of the Information Resource Center in supporting key business initiatives. This layers on other ROI concepts and offers the “big picture” view on how to justify the IRC’s costs and, ultimately, its existence.

Workshop source: Quantum2 is Dialog’s leadership development program for information professionals. For more, please visit http://quantum.dialog.com.

Allison Evatt is a MLIS Consultant with Dialog’s Graduate Education Program. She works with graduate schools of library & information science. Allison previously worked for Deloitte & Touche as well as Egon Zehnder International as research analyst and information specialist. Allison holds a Master’s degree in information science from the University of Tennessee and a Master’s degree in education from Georgia State University.
Program Report: Creating a Culture for Innovation

A seminar at The Georgia Tech Global Learning and Conference Center, October 19, 2006

Sponsored by GALILEO, Georgia’s Virtual Library, and Thomson Scientific

The challenge and theme of the day was to explore how information professionals can be innovators. Librarians should be creating an environment that encourages creativity and drives innovation. How do we encourage our students to look for the best resources for their projects? How do we ensure that our content is used most effectively? The agenda and notes on each presentation are interwoven below.

Welcome
Merryl Penson, Executive Director, Library Services, University System of Georgia

Opening Remarks
Keith MacGregor, Executive Vice President, Thomson Scientific, Academic & Government

Presentation
Dr. Arthur B. Ellis, Vice Chancellor for Research, University of California, San Diego; formerly Director of the National Science Foundation’s Chemistry Division.

Agenda synopsis: Dr. Ellis will deliver a presentation on how the scientific discovery process encourages a culture for innovation and why all students at all types of institutions need to be engaged in research. Dr. Ellis will also explore how libraries can contribute to an institutional capacity for research and innovation.

Dr. Ellis discussed the cyberstructure employed in these research projects. The use of the Terra Grid enables collaborative work to take place. Visualization tools, data mining, electronic publishing and cyber tools help to manage the research project. Worldwide volunteers donate the use of their computers to run experiment simulations.

Dr. Ellis also discussed Scientometrics, asserting that they may drive partnerships between government agencies and between university departments. He displayed a map of all science disciplines which illustrated the strong and weak areas of U.S. research. Discipline clusters also illustrated the overlap between disciplines by showing cross citings.

The challenge to librarians, according to Dr. Ellis, is to figure out how to imbed themselves in the scientific community on their campus. Librarians need to guide these undergraduate researchers to the tools and resources they need to gather the information necessary to lead them to innovative thinking.

Best Practices and Challenges Panel
Agenda synopsis: This session will offer best practices and challenges for engaging learners and fostering discovery, creativity, and innovation.

The Instruction Loop: Teaching, Facilitating, and Learning Together
Monica Pereira, Reference Librarian, Science Library, University of Georgia

Monica’s talk focused on effective student instruction to insure that learning happens. For further information see her website at http://pokey.myweb.uga.edu/Col_200610/9/coi_index.html.

Supporting & Sustaining Innovative Classrooms of the Future
Lori Ostapowicz Critz, an Information Consultant at the Georgia Tech Library and Information Center

Dr. Wendy Newsletter, Director of Learning Sciences Research, Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, Georgia Tech

This talk focused on the innovative approach to learning that is used in the Georgia Tech freshman course in Biomedical Engineering. The students are divided into teams of eight and each is assigned a facilitator. This Problems Based Learning approach poses a problem to the students for which there is no one solution. The students have four weeks to come up with their solution and make a presentation to the class. This technique promotes lifelong learning. The library provides a place for the groups to meet and study,
computer labs to allow students to develop reports and presentations, and a presentation studio in which to practice and critique their presentation. Lori helps guide students to the books, print and e-journals, necessary to gather information about the problem. The course does not use a textbook.

Creating an Appreciation for Science
Dr. Jimmy Wedincamp, Jr., Chairman, Mathematics and Science Division, East Georgia College.
This talk discussed various undergraduate research projects in which he has involved students at his two year college. He, too, uses the problem-solving approach. He partners with industry to involve students in solving real life problems. Among the research problems his students have tackled are the study of parasites on white-tailed deer in Southeastern Georgia, and the comparison of proprietary and standard bait formulations for attracting the yellow jacket.

All of these excellent presentations made for an exciting, thought-provoking day.

Joanne Tobin

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Member Perspective: My SLA Journey: Carolina to Georgia
I first learned about the Special Libraries Association in September 1991 during my first year at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The following year, I was elected Treasurer of our SLA student chapter. A decade later, Joanne Tobin, SLA Georgia chapter president, asked if I could complete Terry Bennett’s term as treasurer. Due to a job change that took Terry out of state, he had resigned as treasurer. Now, five years later, it’s time to pass on chapter records, financial statements, check book and software.

I look back on my tenure with great pride. As reports have noted since 2001, our treasury increased its balances. I appreciate the collaborative efforts of the executive boards under the leadership of Joanne Tobin, Gail Stahl and Allison Evatt. While sponsoring such speakers as Gary Price, Janice Lachance, Sue Henczel, Rebecca Vargha and Greg Notess, we contained costs and still presented interesting programs. The chapter also supported the second and third South Atlantic Regional Conferences (SARC). We increased opportunities for networking and more recently offered members greater value for their SLA fees.

The times ahead are indeed exciting! The association is the process of expanding and reaching out to a wider global audience. Our chapter migrated from a print version of the Peach State Update to an electronic version. We continue to investigate the use of electronic payment methods. As many of you already know, in today’s world, the only constant is CHANGE. I look forward to changes in our work and profession since they will help me to enhance my skills as a librarian. My SLA journey isn’t over; I’m just turning a corner in the road. May our paths continue to cross. Go Tar Heels!

Ernie Evangelista

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Announcement: Book - Rethinking Information Work

[EDITOR’S NOTE: I received an e-mail from the author of the following book, Kim Dority, an independent information professional focusing on information strategy, research, and online content development. In addition to being a member of the Rocky Mountain SLA chapter, she has also developed and is teaching a course for the University of Denver MLIS program called “Alternative Career Paths for Library Science Students.”]

The book was recently mentioned by SLA’s executive director, Janice Lachance, in the October Connections “Janice’s List.”


G. K. Dority & Associates | kimdority@gkdority.com | 303-660-1310

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Chapter 7: Growing Your Career
Chapter 8: Thriving on Change
Chapter 9: Creating Your Career Map
Chapter 10: Improvising Your Career

Description

Today, information work offers you an unprecedented number of career options. Leading you through a process of planning the information career of your choice, it shows you how to determine what type of work would be most fulfilling to you, explores what types of work are available to those with an LIS-based skill set, and helps you create an action plan for accomplishing your career goals and reaching your professional potential.

Taking into account the inevitable shifting priorities that occur throughout one’s career, she emphasizes tools for lifelong career resiliency, rather than a rigid commitment to a single career goal. Thus, this is a book you will turn to again and again throughout your career. With numerous tables, worksheets, lists, and extensive bibliographies of recommended resources for further study, both print and on the web, you have everything you need to begin this exciting journey.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Ever thought you’d like to volunteer to help with SLA Georgia Chapter events, but weren’t sure what was needed - and didn’t want to over-commit???

There are lots of tasks that don’t require lots of time - such as:

• Take photos at a meeting
• Write a summary of a program
• Suggest a topic or speaker
• Help to organize a program
  • Speak at a program
  • Host a program

Yes, successful SLA programs need lots of people - but just a little time from each one.

Contact Allison Evatt  404-352-8053 if you would like to know more.