

THE

PITTSBURGH PULSE



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NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH REGIONAL CHAPTER, MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, INC.

From the Chair...

I can't believe how quickly the last few months have passed—indeed, the whole year. I am pleased to report that over the past year as a chapter we:

- Provided quality CE classes for our members
- Accepted applications for our newly invigorated Eakin/Shapiro scholarships
- Added to our collection of MLA teleconferences on DVD, which are available for members to earn CE credits at no cost

A major emphasis of the chapter has been to create opportunities for professional continuing education. *We want to make it easy and inexpensive for you to earn those CE credits!*

In keeping with that theme, if you are going to MLA or another professional conference, I encourage you to apply for one of the Eakin/Shapiro Scholarships to offset the costs (see inset on page 7). Need a few CE credits? Borrow a DVD for self-study. Interested in networking with colleagues and learning about new resources, technologies, and professional opportunities? Come to a chapter CE program! Is there a topic you'd like to see addressed? Let us know, or better yet, jump onboard to help make it happen! These opportunities are made available each year through the ongoing efforts of board members, committee chairs, and volunteers, all of whom deserve a big thank you as we prepare to turn over the reins to a new board.

Our Spring 2007 CE should be of great interest to all of us faced with rapidly changing information technologies: what does it mean for our libraries, both in hospitals and academic settings? We look forward to a huge turnout of members at this board's final CE Program and Annual Meeting on April 20.

Thanks for a great year, and I hope to see the entire Pittsburgh Chapter turn out for our Spring CE Program and Meeting!

**Andrea Ketchum, 2006-2007 Chair
Pittsburgh Regional Chapter of MLA**

Spring CE Program and Meeting

By Jan Petrak, Program Chair

Excela Health, Westmoreland Hospital

Join us at the Pittsburgh Regional Chapter Spring Meeting on Friday, April 20, 2007! We will have a business meeting as well as a half-day CE program.

We have invited Wallace McLendon, Deputy Directory, Health Sciences Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, to present "Technology Planning for Health Sciences Libraries." Before joining UNC, Mr. McClendon was a librarian in a hospital library setting and served as an Associate Director at the University of Pennsylvania's Biomedical Library. He's published in the area of digital libraries and has spoken and taught in the areas of emerging technologies. He's currently writing a book on technology planning for libraries for the MLA Books Panel and Neal-Schuman.

Course participants will gain skills to identify emerging technologies that will impact library services. Attendees will develop practical tools to prepare for and optimize these new technologies using a new planning process taught through lecture/discussion and demonstrated through model building and manipulation, case study, and group activities. In addition to gaining a clearer understanding of how technology impacts library activities, participants will also learn strategies for integrating transformational technologies into the library's mission and goals. The course is approved for 4 MLA CE credits.

CE registration and full details about the Spring meeting will be mailed separately as well as posted on the website. The meeting and CE will be hosted by Pittsburgh Chapter member Heidi Marshall at The Washington Hospital in Washington, PA.

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A Time to Vote! Watch for Your Ballot

By Charlie Wessel, Past Chair, Health Sciences Library System, University of Pittsburgh

As Past Chair, my role is to prepare this year's slate of nominees for vacant offices and to send a ballot to chapter members for their votes. This year, there are three vacancies: Chapter Chair Elect/Program Chair, Secretary, and Chapter Council Alternate. Each officer serves on the executive board together with the Treasurer, Chapter Chair, Past Chair, and Chapter Council Representative. A brief description of the vacant positions and the slate of candidates appear below:

Chapter Chair-Elect/Program Chair

This officer's function is to serve as chair of the Program Committee, to assist the Chapter Chair in the performance of all duties and, in the event of the withdrawal or absence of the Chapter Chair, to assume all Chapter Chair duties and obligations. The Chapter Chair Elect/Program Chair shall be a Regular member or Fellow of the MLA and the Pittsburgh Regional Chapter/MLA. The Program Chair becomes the Chapter Chair, after completing one year tenure as Program Chair.

The candidate is **SUSAN WALKO**. Susan has been a librarian at the Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh since 1997 and is primarily responsible for reference, end-user support, and collection development. As the library liaison to the Mercy School of Nursing, she serves on the school's curriculum committee. She also participates in the hospital's interdisciplinary Patient Education Committee. Susan earned an MLS at the University of Pittsburgh and previously worked as Executive Director of Northside Reading is FUNdamental, and as a librarian at Allegheny General Hospital and the Health Education Center. She has served the Chapter in various capacities since becoming a member in 1980.



Secretary

The Secretary's function is to maintain an accurate record of all meetings of the chapter and the Executive Board.

This year's candidate for Secretary is **BETTE REMBERT**. Bette graduated from SLIS at the University of Pittsburgh in 1993. She worked at The Washington Hospital and Westmoreland County Community College briefly before becoming St. Clair Hospital's librarian in 1997. Bette has been a member of MLA and the local Chapter since 1993 and previously served the Chapter as its Continuing Education Chair.



Chapter Council Alternate

The Chapter Council Alternate represents the Chapter at the national MLA Chapter Council in the absence of the Chapter Council Representative, and performs such other duties as the Chapter Council Chair may assign between meetings of the Council.

The candidate for Chapter Council Alternate is **MELISSA RATAJESKI**. Melissa, reference librarian at the Health Sciences Library System, acts as the liaison for the University of Pittsburgh's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Her liaison roles include conducting literature searches for investigators proposing to conduct research using animal models. These searches are mandated by the Animal Welfare Act and are reviewable by such federal agencies as the USDA. Ratajeski completed her MLIS in June 2006 via the University of Pittsburgh's FastTrack program, specializing in medical librarianship. Melissa joined the Chapter in 2005.



In March, each chapter member will receive a ballot via the chapter listserv. Please complete and fax your ballot to me at 412-648-8819 ASAP! Please note that our current bylaws do not allow electronic voting, so please do not return your completed ballot via email.

TechLine: Should We Care About Blogs?

By David Brennan, Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary



David Brennan

I often feel some envy for those people who have the time and energy to create and maintain a blog. Of course some people *have to*, and we'll get into that in a bit.

First off, what exactly is a blog? Depends on whom you ask.

Technically speaking, there is nothing different about a blog. It consists of Web pages, links, and files. What differentiates a blog from other Web pages is content and update frequency. The driving force of a blog is currency. With the development of easy blogging tools (such as LiveJournal and Blogger.com) creating a blog is as easy as sending an email. This accounts for blogging's popularity—you don't have to know anything about creating a Web page to have a blog—the tools do it for you. There are estimated to be more than 63 million blogs at present, with 175,000 more created each day (Technorati.com). However, a Gartner study speculates that blogging will peak this year at 100 million, then drop off and level at 30 million (PC Magazine 26:5(17)). The main reason is that while creating a blog is easy, *maintaining* it day after day, unless you're required to, is a pain in the neck. The same Gartner study estimates that there are now more than 200 million "abandoned" blogs.

There are two issues that impact libraries when it comes to blogs—the first is whether or not you should create a library blog. The second is whether or not you can use blogs in the provision of reference services.

Let's take the first one. Blogs, among their other uses, are good tools for promotion and delivery of news items. Think of a library blog as a running newsletter, easier to maintain than a "news" web page. Here is a list of medical library blogs: [http://liswiki.org/wiki/Weblogs - Medical Librarianship](http://liswiki.org/wiki/Weblogs_-_Medical_Librarianship) (including links to blogs by MLA and NN/LM among others). For more general library blogs, look at <http://www.libdex.com/weblogs.html>. A good though dated article on the general uses of library blogs is

here: <http://www.infotoday.com/MLS/nov03/fichter.shtml>

Blogs have also been used to generate an "on-the-fly" FAQ with answers to reference questions (<http://libraryclips.blogspot.com/2005/09/29/library-reference-blogs/>). This approach is useful for patrons and staff, since it saves time in finding the same thing over and over. As with any other project, before you start a library blog, have some clear criteria and structure in place so it doesn't get out of control. Ask yourself some key questions, for example: what content is appropriate? Who is responsible for updating the blog? How often does it need to be updated?

As for the second issue, actually *using* blogs for research purposes, the picture gets a little muddier. There are search tools for blogs: Google (<http://blogsearch.google.com>) and Technorati (<http://www.technorati.com>). The same criteria that you use to evaluate a website for accuracy, currency, and authority should also apply to blogs. I'd speculate that a primary use for blogs in reference would be for the most cutting-edge material, things that have not yet made it into the regular literature channels. Other organizations use their blogs the same way that a library would—as a newsletter. Another use would be as content aggregator/current awareness feed. A blog created by feeds from other sources would be a low-maintenance way to skim current material in a given area (obviously a fair amount of setup would need to take place up front to get the right set of sources).

Hopefully, this all-too-brief look at blogs has given you some ideas as to how you might use them in day-to-day library work. Even if you don't have the time or desire to create one, keep blogs in mind as a part of your reference toolkit for answering those "up-to-the-minute" type questions that can't be found anywhere else.



Stethoscoop

By Marilyn Daniels, Latrobe Hospital, part of Excelsa Health

- ◆ Life after librarianship? That is no problem for **BILL SUVAK**, who will be retiring from Mayview State Hospital on Friday, March 23, 2007, after 30+ years. Maybe managing two libraries—one for staff and one for patients—has made Bill a “multi-tasker extraordinaire.” It certainly has not extinguished his energy or enthusiasm. Now that he will have the time, he has more than enough plans for years to come.

First and foremost, Bill and his wife, Norma Lynn, are currently consumed with the details of their only daughter’s wedding. One of two children, including her brother Chad, Callee will be married in September at the Rehobeth Presbyterian Church near Belle Vernon with a reception at the nearby Willow Room. As if that weren’t enough, Bill and Norma Lynn are planning what they hope will be an effortless cruise to Scandinavia around June. Of Slovak descent, Bill is also hoping that they will be able arrange a return trip to Slovakia in the coming years.

Bill will assuredly continue his real estate investments, which he started several years ago in anticipation of this newest chapter in his life. It will “keep me busy doing something worthwhile,” Bill explained in an email. Certainly volunteering for Habitat for Humanity one day a week fits that “Bill” quite nicely, too.

As a state employee, Bill has been prohibited from political involvement (although he has been known to sport signs in his yard during past elections). With that barrier removed, Bill is hoping to become more actively engaged by campaigning for a candidate such as Clinton, Edwards, or Obama.

However, Bill is well aware that politics is a “personal” and “potentially inflammatory” subject. He plans to exercise caution by knowing as much as possible about each candidate before throwing his hat into any ring. Maybe it was his presence at a televised town meeting when Bill Clinton ran for the first time that flamed the fires in this arena.

Known, by me, as the man who introduced me to Bethel Bakery when he hosted a chapter meeting at Mayview, Bill will certainly compensate for any indulgences with an annual ski pass to Seven Springs. Not to let the warmer months slip by, he plans to purchase a pass to South Park golf course as well.

Modest to a fault, Bill expressed mild concern that he had been featured in a previous *Pittsburgh Pulse* article. “Nice” is the word he used to describe the fact that this life landmark would be included in the “Stethoscoop.” From my perspective, it is “nice” to know that despite weathering many challenges during his career, Bill truly exemplifies the fact that retirement is not the end of the line. Yes, chapter members, there is life after librarianship!

- ◆ Those of you who have raised a family certainly understand what it means to work full time and then, at the end of a long day, return home to care for young children. However, I doubt that any of your past or present bottle-feeding duties quite compare with those of **LORI GRAHAM**, Librarian, Jameson Health System Library. Lori’s other hat, that of a farmer’s wife in Harrisville, PA, includes caring for seven beef cows, 21 chickens, one

Continued on Page 5

Share Your News with the Chapter via Stethoscoop!

Here's How - Contact Marilyn Daniels, Stethoscoop Editor via:

Email: mdaniels@excelsahealth.org

Phone: 724-537-1275

Fax: 724-537-1890

Marilyn Daniels
Director, Library Services
Excelsa Health
121 West Second Avenue
Latrobe, PA 15650-1096

Please include your news item, name, business address, and phone number.

Stethoscoop (continued)

horse, one mule, a half dozen barn cats, and two dogs (Harley, a black husky mix, and Zippy, a beagle). Out of the seven cows, three are calves, ranging in age from 4-6 months, one of which is the bottle- (or bucket-) feeding culprit. Not to be left out of this truly blended family is her husband Herb, whom she married in March 2003, Herb's 25-year-old son David, and her nine-year-old son Garrett. Although she likes to read, her lifestyle gives her little time except for devotional readings, and certainly all of us can understand why.

Still learning the ins and outs of her new position, Lori only started at Jameson in October 2006. However, she brings with her a wealth of experience. A Butler area native, Lori graduated from Slippery Rock University in 1989 with a BS in Education/Library Science. She started working that same year in the Butler Area Public Library (BAPL), where she continued until 1993. While finishing her MSLS at Clarion State University in 1994, which she did in December, she worked as the Lawrence County law librarian. Heading west to Denver with a position as the law librarian at Sherman and Howard LLC in 1995, she served that firm until April 1998, when she moved back to Pennsylvania. Enticing her to return home was a position at EIN, now known as eiNetwork, where she began in April 1998 and remained until 2000. EIN is the bibliographies and internet/technical provider for the non-Carnegie Public Library system libraries in Allegheny County. With her career experiences in cataloging and reference services, it is easy to understand why Lori would say that she enjoys "helping people find information" and making "that information easy to find."

Back to her roots, Lori again took a job with BAPL from 2000 to September 2003. At that point, she took some time off to stay at home until the Jameson job became available. Although the materials may be different, Lori's experiences certainly prove that library skills translate from public to special (law) to (with some prejudice on my part) the even more special medical library field. The chapter is fortunate that she has.

◆ Recently, Dr. Robin Devin, Chair of Public Services and Health Sciences Librarian for the University of Rhode Island Library, had the opportunity to visit Duquesne University to study libraries that face similar challenges to her own. Supported by a Kronick Grant from MLA, her research focuses on campus libraries supporting a doctoral nursing program and school of pharmacy without a medical school.

Information needs of nursing and pharmacy programs are great and would normally be well covered by medical school libraries. Apparently, only five university libraries in the country face the challenge of supporting these programs without the advantage of their companion medical school libraries' resources. Like Rhode Island, Duquesne is one of them. Robin hopes to write a journal article based on her findings.

During her visit, Robin met with *Pulse* editor and Gumberg librarian **DAVID NOLFI** and sat in on library instruction sessions that he taught to students in PT, PA, OT, athletic training and health management systems. She also attended two sessions of the library's mandatory one-credit, freshman information literacy class that was taught by David's colleague Leslie Lewis. She had the opportunity to meet with the director of Duquesne's Pharmaceutical Information center, Dr. John Lech, as well as many of the other librarians at Duquesne. Robin finished her visit with a presentation to Duquesne's library faculty, explaining how librarian tenure and rank are structured at Rhode Island.

Robin is on a sabbatical during the spring semester and plans to visit the three additional locations soon. Even so, of the four places she will have visited by her travels' end, Duquesne is undoubtedly the university that is most similar to Rhode Island. Looking at each other's roles, she and David were both amazed that they are able to do it all!

Speaking of other roles, David and Diana Sasso, Gumberg's Director of Information Services, are

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Stethoscope (continued)

presenting a contributed paper at the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) conference in Baltimore in late March. Their presentation is titled “Librarians as Academic Leaders: Uniquely Qualified for the Job.”

By the nature of their training, professional skills, attitudes, and collaborative work style, academic librarians are uniquely qualified to provide leadership in institutional endeavors. Academic librarians must assertively pursue leadership roles in strategic processes including curriculum planning, assessment, and accreditation. Certainly, if David is an example of their premise, David and Diana are right on target!

- ◆ In late January, former chapter officer **BRAD LONG** started a new position in Syracuse, NY. He is the head of Reference and Liaison Services at SUNY Upstate Medical University. Brad is also an adjunct instructor for Clarion University’s online library science program. Additionally, he is serving as the e-Journal column editor for the *Journal of Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries*.

Prior to his new position, Brad worked for 6 ½ years at Philadelphia’s Thomas Jefferson University, where he spent his most recent two years as the Serials and Electronic Collections Librarian. During his time in Philadelphia, he also served as the Chapter Chair of the Philadelphia Regional Chapter of MLA and as the book review editor for *Doody’s Online Journal*. Additionally, he co-instructed an MLA CE course with the Philadelphia VA’s retired IRB director, Peter Jucovy, MD, a pathologist by training. The course is titled “Communicating with Physicians: For Librarians.”

Prior to his Philadelphia move, Brad was on staff in the Pittsburgh region as the health sciences librarian at St. Francis Medical Center in Lawrenceville and was the director at Ohio Valley Medical Center in Wheeling, WV.

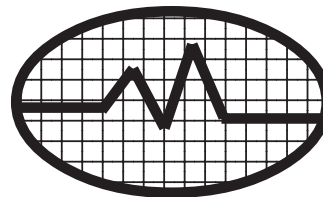
For those of you going to the MLA meeting in Philadelphia in May, Brad looks forward to catching up with friends from the Pittsburgh area.

- ◆ On a personal note, I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to the members of the Pittsburgh Regional Chapter/MLA for their heart-warming contribution in memory of my mother, Louise Piovesan, who passed away on November 3, 2006. I understand that the donation was split between the Norwin Public Library, one of the groups listed in her obituary, and the chapter’s scholarship fund.

My mother was an avid reader. In fact, one of my first memories was of her reading to me. Despite her later-year problems with macular degeneration, she continued to receive books until her death through a NY-based mail service for the visually challenged. Those large-print books plus some specialized lighting and eyewear made it possible for her to do what she truly enjoyed. That’s why I know that libraries were a favorite of hers even before she had a librarian in the family. In fact, she often made donations in memory of family or friends to the Norwin Public Library herself.

An elementary school teacher for many years, my mother certainly valued education. That’s why your donation to the scholarship fund would also have pleased her. Her unflinching support in my own education was a constant for me, so it is nice to know that a portion of this memorial gift will help someone else’s aspirations.

Again, thank you so very much for your generosity. Thanks, too, to those of you who offered support through your phone calls, sympathy cards, or visits to the funeral home. Each has played a role in helping me to cope with her loss. If I have but a small portion of her strength and kindness, I will consider myself fortunate indeed.



Vital Signs: Joni Melnick

By Marcy Brown, West Penn Hospital—Forbes Regional Hospital

When you are the director of a public library, you set the vision and manage priorities for an entire organization. When you are the director of a *hospital* library, you must ensure that your vision and priorities are in sync with the larger organization. Yours is but one of many departments competing for space, money, and other resources. This was a difficult but necessary adjustment that Joni Melnick had to make when she came to Torrance State Hospital after 14 years in a small public library.

Joni has an affinity for public service and uses this daily in her work with patrons. Torrance offers library services to both health professionals and patients, which is rewarding but can be overwhelming. “Psychiatric and medical literature searches were a steep learning curve...made even steeper when trying to help patients at the same time.” But Joni knows how intimidating the library can be for folks who may not have set foot in a library in years. She offers classes for patients to teach them about library services and ways to confidently use library resources.

The Pittsburgh chapter impresses Joni with its members’ willingness to share skills and knowledge with new or solo medical librarians (of which she is both). She knows how important it is to stay connected, and decided that chapter board involvement would be a good way to build and maintain those connections. Joni currently serves as the chapter Treasurer/Membership Chair and will do so until 2008. She also joined national, and hopes to attend MLA '07 *Information Revolution* in Philadelphia in May.

Like many librarians, Joni loves to read! She started a monthly book discussion group at Torrance, which motivates her to read titles that she otherwise might not. Joni’s undergraduate degree is in English. Her fondness for the written word extends to writing as well as reading, and to good dialog on TV. *Sex and the City* was one of her must-sees of recent years. She practices yoga for relaxation and appreciates beach vacations when she can get away. A lifelong Indiana County resident, Joni daydreams

about relocating to the beach but realizes that she will likely settle close to her college-age daughter’s final destination. She enjoys movies and points to the locally-inspired *Wonder Boys* as one of her favorites.

Joni sees herself remaining a librarian for the foreseeable future, but also points to several professional challenges. First, there is a widely-held misunderstanding that access to electronic information can take the place of a library and a professional librarian. Secondly, in a financially-driven clinical environment, librarians must remain vigilant for ways to measure and demonstrate their effectiveness. And finally, because of Pittsburgh’s reputation for excellence in biomedical research and practice, academic and hospital librarians in the region need to lead the field in career development and finding new opportunities to use their skills.

Eakin-Shapiro Scholarship Deadline Extended to March 30!!!

Going to MLA National or another conference??? Need money??? There’s still time to apply for one of two 2007 Eakin/Shapiro Scholarships:

1. For a student enrolled in the ALA-accredited master’s degree program at either Pitt or Clarion University
2. For a member in good standing of the Pittsburgh Regional Chapter of the Medical Library Association

Applicants for the 2007 awards should submit a letter of application and a resume to:

Dr. Ellen Detlefsen
School of Information Sciences
University of Pittsburgh
135 N. Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
ellen@sis.pitt.edu

Scholarships will be awarded and checks presented at the Spring Meeting on April 20, 2007!

Health Information Literacy: rEvolution in Roles Session at MLA '07

By Judy Burnham & Julia Shaw-Kokot, Co-Chairs

Planning Group for Health Information Literacy Plenary Session

Medical librarians often serve two roles. One role is as a member of healthcare teams providing quality patient information, and the other is working with patients and their families to understand the information provided. There is often a disconnect between the two groups.

How often? According to the recently reported National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) data only 33% of people with graduate degrees and 4% of high school graduates were health literate in 2003. To see the full report, go to <http://nces.ed.gov/naal/>.

What does this mean for members of the healthcare teams? What does this mean for the patient population?

MLA '07 in Philadelphia offers a look at the role of the medical librarian in improving health information literacy, providing resources created for people who need help with health information, developing new roles and partnerships to meet these literacy needs, and helping to assure that patient education resources are culturally and linguistically appropriate. The Health Information Literacy: rEvolution in Roles session will be held on Wednesday, May 23rd from 10:30 am to 1 pm.

Janet Ohene-Frempong, the session's keynote speaker and a founding member of the Partnership

for Clear Health Communication, and a panel of librarians, moderated by Amy Frey from the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain, CT, will talk about their experiences in the field. Panel members are Micki McIntyre, developer of the HealthyNJ website (www.healthynj.org) and partner with Newark Public Library and La Sala Hispanoamericana; Andrea Kenyon, who works with the Philly Health Info project (www.phillyhealthinfo.org); Dr. Lynda Baker, PhD, a faculty member at Wayne State University specializing in health information; and Marge Kars, manager of the Bronson Health Sciences Library, HealthAnswers (<http://www.bronsonhealth.com>), and the Bronson Referral and Information Center at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, MI.

Come to the session early, or stay a little longer, and see a group of posters highlighting exciting and innovative health information literacy projects from around the country. Also, before and during the sessions, short video vignettes will present even more ideas. After the session, Beth Wescott will be offering CE 3127 Easy to Read Health and Wellness Material for Consumers: Recognizing It, Finding It, Writing It, and Rewriting It. Sign up early!

MLA is also inviting public librarians to join us. There's more, but you will have to join us in Philadelphia to find out everything!

Pittsburgh Chapter Members Participating in MLA '07!

We hope you get a chance to see your colleagues' work at MLA '07!

- ★ The University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Library System's Melissa Ratajeski is presenting a poster titled "Reduction Search Strategies for Animal Research." It will be on display Monday, May 21, 2007, from 2—3 p.m. Her objective states: "The Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) suggests using a two phase approach when conducting literature searches for animal research alternatives. Phase one combines the concepts of reduction and refinement into a single strategy. This poster will present novel strategies that search for the reduction concept independently of the refinement concept and the retrieved results will be examined."
- ★ Barb Folb and Ahlam Saleh of the Health Sciences Library System (HSLs) will be presenting the poster "Qualitative Evidence Guiding Modification of a Local Health Department Library Program." It will be available for viewing Tuesday, May 22, 2007, from 1—2 p.m. The poster will be on board number [40], in the category of: Outreach. The poster presents the results of a series of focus groups Barb and Ahlam held at the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) in order to assess changes needed to improve the library services and resources HSLs provides the ACHD.

MLA's Leadership and Management Section

Helping to Create New and Better Leaders

By Brian Bunnett, Chair, Leadership and Management Section Membership Committee

"Leaders are born, not made." We've all heard this hackneyed expression at some point or other. Is there some inborn, indefinable quality that sets leaders apart from the common run of humanity?

It is safe to assume that the many members of the Leadership and Management Section (LMS) do not think so. Or, rather, they believe that there is such a quality, but it is neither inborn nor indefinable. This quality is called application, or assiduity, or preparation. Its distinguishing characteristics are hard work, lifelong learning, and good mentoring.

This view of leadership is, on some level, discouraging. It suggests that we must exert ourselves, that we put forth an effort. We can't just lead effortlessly and naturally, as we might have liked to imagine previously.

If leadership is something that has to be worked at then at least there is the LMS to make this task a little less burdensome. The LMS exists in order to

provide opportunities for its members to learn the skills they will need to become, or remain, effective leaders and managers. Membership in the section is open to all MLA members. If you do not work as a manager or administrator, but think that your career will take you in this direction, then you are certainly encouraged to join the LMS.

Doing so is sure to be of benefit. The LMS allows its members to network with colleagues interested in leadership and management by promoting research and professional development activities. It accomplishes this goal through programs and symposia held at MLA annual meetings, through *The Leading Edge*—its excellent newsletter, through its listserv, and through social events and business meetings.

More information about the LMS is available on its web page at: <http://www.lms.mlanet.org/>. An application form is available at: http://www.lms.mlanet.org/join_us_form.html



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of the Medical Library Association

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DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES IS MAY 25, 2007

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Middle Atlantic Region Announces Availability of Awards

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), Middle Atlantic Region (MAR) is accepting applications from MAR network members (full and affiliate) for awards that support access to health information for libraries, consumers, health professionals and in particular those reaching underserved populations; enhance the capacity of libraries to share resources, strengthen network member librarians' skills in the use of NLM databases and increase the visibility of the NN/LM and NLM products and services.

Awards are for network members to conduct or obtain training, host conferences, and conduct outreach that raises the awareness of health information resources available to health professionals, consumers, and librarians.

Deadline for applications for all awards is March 30, 2007.

Training Awards

For members to support a workshop, technology fair or forum, or other professional educational activity that will assist network members in developing their skills and knowledge and enhance their abilities as participants in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM). Multiple awards to a single institution are possible.

Online Training Development

For members to support the development of instructional programs that improve the knowledge and skills of librarians, health care providers, and other groups. Courses are to be delivered over the Web. Access to the Web technology is available through MAR.

Online Training

For members to support online instruction that will assist network members in developing their skills and knowledge and enhance their abilities as participants

in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM).

Exhibit awards

For members' participation at venues that promote health information resources. Funds support registration and fees, travel, and related expenses. Members can promote their local library resources while promoting the National Library of Medicine.

Outreach Conference Awards

To fund two conferences: one on health disparities and one on health literacy. The goal of these awards is to identify regional issues in health disparities and information literacy by involving key players, including staff of public and health sciences libraries, community or faith-based organizations, and research institutes that can inform, educate, and potentially build partnerships within the region.

For more information, or to apply for an award go to: <http://nnlm.gov/mar/funding/>

NN/LM Membership Renewal or Join as a New Member

It is time for all member libraries to renew their NN/LM membership for 2006-2011. Membership is free and includes many benefits, including application for the above mentioned awards. To renew a membership please visit the MAR website and follow the five easy steps. To join as a new member please visit the MAR website to review the benefits and requirements for membership.

Renew a full or affiliate member agreement:
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Help Wanted!

By David Nolfi, Chapter Newsletter Editor, Gumberg Library at Duquesne University

After 12 years as your editor, I have decided to seek a new challenge and opportunity. Earlier this month, I was elected Program Chair of MLA's Nursing and Allied Health Resources Section. I will begin my position starting with the MLA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, thus, the June issue of the *Pulse* will be my last.

If you would like to serve as editor of the *Pulse*, now is the time to volunteer. I encourage you to contact Chapter Chair Andrea Ketchum to express your interest. If you would like to get a better idea of what is involved, I would be happy to answer your questions. This is a great time in the life of our chapter, and the incoming editor will have the opportunity to take the *Pulse* in new and exciting directions. I for one look forward to being a reader!

I have seen the Pittsburgh Chapter experience good times, bad times, and ultimately rebirth. Through it all, I have counted myself fortunate to work with so many excellent chapter officers and members. I marvel at the commitment of all who have given of their creativity, time, and hard work to make our chapter a success. I particularly consider myself fortunate to have had the help of the newsletter's regular contributors along the way, and would like to acknowledge their many contributions and express my gratitude:

Marcy Brown

Despite currently serving as MLA Books Panel Chair, teaching distance courses, and fulfilling many other commitments, Marcy has written two different columns for the *Pulse* during my editorship: "Changing Lanes" and "Vital Signs." Both columns have been ways to help Chapter members learn a little more about each other. I often received compliments about these columns both from the readers as well as the subjects of the columns. Marcy's crisp writing style and understated sense of humor have been a welcome addition to the *Pulse* for many years.

Cindy Robertson

Although Cindy is no longer a member of our chapter, she was the one member of the newsletter committee who pre-dated me. Despite my long tenure as editor, Cindy served four editors before I

began the job! Her dedication to the newsletter and the chapter was amazing, given that she did much of her work in the face of many personal difficulties. I always enjoyed the way that Cindy wrote Stethoscoop and helped to put a warm, caring face on the *Pulse*.

Marilyn Daniels

Marilyn quickly volunteered to fill the Stethoscoop position when Cindy stepped down. Although Marilyn makes writing this column look easy, I can tell you that it's quite challenging because you need to convince your colleagues to share their stories. She has succeeded in showing a different side of Chapter members' lives, and we have all benefited from her efforts. Working with Marilyn has shown me how deeply she cares about the chapter, and I enjoy our regular conversations about the column and other matters.

David Brennan

David's commitment and dedication to the chapter and the newsletter are an inspiration. He has served us in so many ways: as Treasurer, Membership Chair, Chair, columnist, and more ways than I can list here. His willingness to serve has been all the more incredible in view of the changes in both his professional and personal life during this time. When I started as editor, David was the first to volunteer to help. His contributions to the *Pulse* were a constant. I have a great appreciation for David's kindness, sense of humor, creativity, and ability to spot important technological trends.

Therese Nolfi

Finally, I would like to thank my wife who has been married to the *Pulse* almost as long as she's been married to me! If that doesn't qualify her for sainthood, I'm not sure what would. Although her name is not always listed, she has been involved in every issue of the *Pulse*. Her support has included proofreading, mailings (in the early days), encouragement, and putting up with interruptions of our personal life. We mailed our very first issue the day that we closed on our house in 1995. If that's not understanding, I'm not sure what is. I count my blessings every day to have her in my life.