Greetings from the President

Hope everyone had a good summer. Here at Mercer the new academic year has brought us 60 new medical students and several dozen new masters students in public health and marriage and family therapy. Fall is a busy time for all of us in health sciences library settings – getting back into the swing of things; working with new students, faculty and staff; attending professional meetings; planning meetings of our own; traveling to exhibits; and supporting doctors and nurses and members of our respective communities. And then there’s the great advantage of autumn here in Georgia: the cooler weather!

Plans are progressing for our own annual meeting in March of 2004. Lee will share additional information as we come closer to the big event.

Have you been to the GHSLA website lately? Our Webmaster (Webmistress?) Marilyn Barry has added a number of new photos from the Savannah meeting (see http://www.ghsla.org/meetindx.shtml), and has included the 2003-2004 membership directory, compiled by our membership chair Amy Harkness. The membership information on our site is for members only and not for the general public, so you will need our username and password for access. If you’ve forgotten them, email any of the officers or board members.

I mentioned in the last issue of UPDATE that several of our members would be offering a session “Consumer Health @ Your Library” at the 2003 GOLD/GALILEO meeting held at the Georgia Center in Athens. That meeting was on August 1, and I was pleased to be able to attend – and take lots of photos! Look for those pictures in this issue, and also be sure to check out the report of the session by our Consumer Health chair, Elizabeth Johnston. The group did a terrific job, and

See Greetings, continued on page 4
GaIN Celebrates 20 Years
By Rita Smith

Mercer Medical Library welcomed over 80 attendees at the 20th Anniversary GaIN Meeting & Technology Awareness Conference, held October 30-31, 2003 at the Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, Georgia.

The meeting marked the 20th anniversary of GaIN, the Georgia Interactive Network for Medical Information. The primary objective of the conference was to increase awareness of technology applications and tools among health professionals and health sciences librarians in the state.

Activities for the conference included a keynote address by Carol Jenkins, MLS, AHIP, Director of the Health Sciences Library at UNC - Chapel Hill. Ms. Jenkins is principal investigator for the NC Health Info project (http://www.nchealthinfo.org), a statewide online directory linking consumers to authoritative medical information as well as local providers and services.

Other conference events included vendor exhibits, sessions on technology tips, National Library of Medicine training in the use of PubMed and the NLM Gateway, and a reception to celebrate GaIN’s 20th anniversary and National Medical Librarians’ Month.

At the reception, former and current librarians at GaIN’s original institutional members (1983-86) were recognized. Those attending the meeting were: Maxine Blair (St. Joseph’s Hospital and Candler General Hospital, Savannah); Jane Bridges (Memorial Medical Center, Savannah); Liz Cox (Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Albany); Mary Fielder (Candler General Hospital, Savannah); Susan Leik (Colquitt Regional Medical Center, Moultrie; John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, Thomasville; and South Georgia

See GaIN, continued on page 4
Consumer Health @ Your Library

By Elizabeth Marvel

Several GHSLA members participated in a panel discussion on August 1st at the GOLD/GALLILEO Annual Users Group Conference. This year’s conference “Collaborative Sharing: The Whole World @ Your Library” was held at The Georgia Center for Continuing Education in Athens and highlighted collaborative trends in library resources. The attendees were from academic, public, and special libraries from around the state.

Our breakout program “Consumer Health @ Your Library” focused on the different roles of health sciences librarians in Georgia, the ways in which we collaborate and the services we provide, as well as the variety of reliable consumer health resources available.

Carolyn Brown, Kathy Davies, Mary Fielder, Amy Harkness, Elizabeth Johnston (Marvel), and Pamela Queen were included in our panel of experts. A special thanks to Pat Herndon for Arranging for GHLSA to have a presence at the conference. The program was a great success!

(L-R:) Elizabeth Marvel, Amy Harkness, and Pamela Queen share their wisdom.

Other panelists include (L-R:) Kathy Davies, Mary Fielder, Carolyn Brown, and Pat Herndon.

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The 2003-04 Member Directory (and much more) is available at www.ghsla.org (password required for some services.)
fielded lots of questions from the audience, which consisted of public and academic librarians from all over Georgia. Thanks to Liz and the rest of the presenters: Carolyn Brown, Kathy Davies, Mary Fielder, Amy Harkness, Pat Herndon, and Pamela Queen. They made us look GOOD, and were excellent ambassadors for GHSLA and health sciences libraries.

Several members of the Executive Committee will be looking at the GHSLA bylaws, which need a bit of updating. Cathy Woolbright is serving as chair of the Bylaws Revision Ad Hoc committee, so contact her with any thoughts you may have. They are available for review at http://www.ghsla.org/bylaws.shtml

Enjoy the rest of the fall!

Roxanne