

ghsla *UPDATE*

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Spring/Summer/Fall 2004

Greetings from the President

My thanks to all of you who joined us at the GHSLA annual meeting at Emerald Pointe March 11-13. I hope you all enjoyed the meeting, and returned to your libraries with something useful from it. Meeting planning is a far greater undertaking than I previously appreciated, and I owe a big "thank you" to everyone who helped me put it together:

- ◆ Paula Christian, whose hard work soliciting donations from our vendor partners helped us put together a great meeting;
- ◆ Our Webmaster and Miriam Libbey speaker Marilyn Barry;
- ◆ The Program Committee:
 - Kate Rehkopf (who was especially helpful in locating a computer classroom)
 - Mary Fielder
 - Roxanne Nelson, who provided moral support and advice from her own experience as meeting planner
- ◆ Jane Bridges, Chair of the CE Committee, who helped arrange our CE offerings, and even helped present the popular "Techno Tips" class;
- ◆ Mia White, Chair of the Miriam Libbey Committee, for selecting our outstanding speaker;
- ◆ Carolyn Brown, for leading an exciting and interactive strategic planning session;
- ◆ Tara Douglas-Williams, for helping me keep all the finances straight;
- ◆ Many of our members were part of the program, introduced our speakers, or helped in innumerable other ways:

Susan Lee
Rita Smith
Miriam Hudgins
Elizabeth Marvel

Sandra Franklin
Amy Harkness
Karen Bonney
Peter Shipman

See Greetings, continued on page 5

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Why we fail, why we succeed

Lee McCarley

Recently I had the privilege of presenting a seminar to our sister organization, the Atlanta Health Sciences Library Consortium [AHSLC]. While I was there, Pamela Queen introduced me as the current President of GHSLA. The person seated next to me remarked that he was unaware that I held this position. I replied, "Yes, and it amazes me, too—I was just graduating from the University of Alabama MLIS program in 1997."

On another occasion, I was complimented about some work I had done for a faculty member here at Mercer, and I told her "It is easy to look good here; I work with so many talented folks in the Medical Library & LRC, and we all work so closely together, that each of us looks good because none of us work alone. When you ask one of us for help, you are really getting the whole team."

I don't point these incidents out to blow my own horn. Truth is, I am merely 6 years out of an MLIS program; I am stilling learning this profession. I work with librarians—even some without the MLIS degree—who know more about librarianship than I am ever likely to learn. How then does someone like me become the President of an organization such as GHSLA? It has to do in part with the incredible opportunities I have had since I came to Georgia in 1998. I have had the privilege of meeting, learning from, and working with some of the finest members of our profession, and I have had patient help every step of the way.

To a greater degree, though, I have had some great opportunities because of the *nature* of our profession. When you cut through the technology, the titles (are you a *librarian* or *knowledge manager* or *informationist*?), the objectives (supporting education, research, clinical care, patient education)—in short, all the things that make this work anything but boring, what we do is this: *we help people*.

It's our greatest, and sometimes our most limiting, attribute.

Who is likely to work long hours running an understaffed and underfunded department alone, just to make sure health care providers



have the services they need? A librarian. Who will take the extra time to make sure that student is really comfortable using the advanced search features in that database? A librarian. Who will take on the often thankless work of cataloging and technical services, because without organization there is no useful information? A librarian. Who can you count on to help out in a pinch? A librarian.

I think it is safe to say none of us chose this profession for the money, power or prestige. Gather 100 librarians in a room, and ask them why they do what they do, and you'll get 100 variations on the theme "for the personal rewards I receive from helping others." This attitude extends not only to our patrons, but to our professional colleagues. It's what makes an organization such as GHSLA work so well as a center of creativity, learning, and networking. It's what allows someone like me to experience the amazing opportunities I have had.

But it can also be a hindrance. Many (not all) of us are not good marketers. We become so busy in the culture of helping others that we don't blow our own horns—even when it is appropriate, and maybe useful. We don't spend time providing evidence to measure or support the library's ROI for the hospital. We have a hard time finding time to provide benchmarking data because we are so busy doing the work that generates that data. Just show us what needs doing, and let us get to work. After all, *dadgummit*, we didn't get into this line of work to be PR hacks or bean-counters! But the truth is, we need to incorporate those skills into our repertoires, too.

Almost all of use have experienced or heard a colleague talking about shrinking budgets, staff cuts, outsourcing, and worse. I don't think we risk losing our focus if we begin to do better jobs of letting others (i.e., people who are not

lucky enough to be librarians) know what we do and how well we do it. Helping is part of our profession. But if we fail to make our work and our value known, if we fail to be in the "thick of things" at our various institutions—by attending administrative meetings, by making sure the institution knows ways we have "done good," by finding unique and creative ways of marketing ourselves and our services to our users—then we stand in danger of making ourselves irrelevant.

I am amazed and grateful to the librarians who have given me the opportunity to learn and do so much so early in my career. I am a librarian—and proud of it. I just believe we all need to be proud at a slightly higher volume; after all, we have a lot to offer!

Greetings, from page 1

- ◆ And a special thanks to all our vendors, especially EBSCO Information Services for providing our conference "tote bags."

We are looking forward to an exciting meeting next year. Mark your calendars now for our 2005 meeting, to be held March 17-19 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education in Athens. You can take a visual tour of the facilities at <http://www.gactr.uga.edu/conferences/tour/>

We are pleased to be able to schedule the meeting into the weekend again this year, so that attendees won't have to miss a day of work if they want to attend a C.E. class. Mia White, Program Chair, has assembled her committee and is already planning an exciting program, so look for more details soon. Remember, make GHSLA work for you by working with GHSLA. Please volunteer to serve on a committee or stand for election—there are many ways to get involved. Keep us posted on your activities, continuing education needs, or anything else that interests you. Your input counts!

You can contact me at President@ghsla.org or Mia White, 2004 Program Chair at Programs@ghsla.org

Lee

**Mark your calendar
for March 17-19**

GHSLA 2005

**Georgia Center for
Continuing Education,
Athens**



**For more information, see:
<http://www.gactr.uga.edu/>**

GHSLA 2004

Librarian Eye for the Clinical Guy: Mission-Oriented Professional Development



Minutes

Annual Meeting Georgia Health Sciences Library Association

Friday, March 12, 2004
**Emerald Pointe Resort and
Conference Center**
Lake Lanier Islands, Georgia

President Roxanne Nelson called the meeting to order at 8:40am and welcomed everyone to Lake Lanier. The minutes of the 2003 Annual Meeting were reviewed. Mia Sohn White made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Tara Douglas-Williams. The minutes were approved by the membership by voice vote.

Officer and Committee Reports

Vice-President

Lee McCarley announced several room and location changes for the Continuing Education offerings and encouraged attendees to fill out the pink comment forms to assist future planning.

Treasurer Report (Revised)

GHSLA balance as March 15, 2004 \$18,457.79

RECEIPTS

Memberships – 2004 \$45.00

Event Tickets \$55.00

Vendor Donations \$800.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Copy Reimbursement \$48.00

Supply Reimbursement \$19.02

Gift Certificate \$50.00

Service Charge \$4.50

KSL Island Expenses \$8,446.32

TOTALS

CREDITS \$900.00

DEBITS -\$8,567.84

FUNDS AVAILABLE AS OF MAY 14, 2004

\$10,789.95

OUTSTANDING CHECKS

CE Honorarium \$275.00

KSL Islands \$8446.32

TOTAL \$8721.32

Secretary

Peter Shipman – none.

Miriam Libbey

Mia Sohn White thanked Marilyn Barry, the GHSLA Webmaster, for presenting this year's lecture.

UPDATE

Miriam Hudgins reported that Three issues were mailed and posted to the GHSLA website: Spring/Summer 2003, Fall 2003, and Winter 2004. Studio Designs did the printing of the newsletter. Thank you to those that contributed content to the newsletter.

Parliamentarian

Pamela Queen verified that all GHSLA meetings are being conducted according to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

Webmaster

Marilyn Barry commented her past year's work had consisted in large part of maintenance of an already-outstanding site. She thanked Lee McCarley, GHSLA's previous webmaster, for his numerous enhancements. Lee's redesign and addition of the listserv capability, members-only section, scrolling menu, Miriam Libbey page and other features have vastly improved the site's effectiveness.

Marilyn reported the following activity this year:

- 1) All members were added to the listserv. Since the list is so low-traffic, Marilyn hopes members have no objections. To request removal please contact Marilyn.
- 2) The board agreed to host the Atlanta Health Science Libraries Consortium (AHSLC) web site. AHSLC had requested GHSLA's help as it is losing its free hosting service and has no treasury. The board agreed since GHSLA uses less than 25% of the space allotted by its hosting service and the AHSLC agreed to GHSLA procedures and terms.
- 3) Linda Garr Markwell's 2002 Miriam Libbey Lecture PowerPoint presentation was posted to the site. The lecture contains many references to Miriam Libbey.

Marilyn thanked web committee members Amy Harkness, Lee McCarley and Cathy Woolbright.

Program

Lee McCarley thanked Kate Rehkopf, Jane Bridges (Continuing Education), Susan Poorbaugh and Mary Fielder (Grants presentation), Karen Bonney (door prizes and Tech Tips presentation), Paula Christian (liaison with vendors), and Roxanne Nelson for their assistance with the annual meeting.

Consumer Health

Elizabeth Marvel thanked the members of the committee and noted a highlight was a breakout program August 1, 2003 at the GOLD/GALILEO Annual Users Group Conference "Consumer Health @ your library™" in Athens. The program 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.

Membership

Amy Harkness reported GHSLA membership stood at seventy-six members, with eight of the new members attending the annual meeting. An Honorary Membership was approved by the Executive Committee for Eloise Foster. Letters of support were received from Jocelyn Rankin (former GHSLA member), Chief, CDC Information Center, and Dr. Stephen Koplan (GHSLA member), Educational Initiatives, Faculty Instruction at Georgia Perimeter College. Ms. Foster served at Emory University in the 1970s, served as MLA President in 1988-1989, and had also delivered the Miriam Libbey Lecture to the Association in 1993. She was also director of the American Hospital Association library in Chicago for many years. There are eight honorary members of GHSLA.

Continuing Education

Jane Bridges thanked the members of her committee and urged members to fill out their evaluation forms. The forms constituted the starting point for the committee to offer meaningful continuing education courses.

Strategic Planning

Carolyn Brown thanked the members of her committee and announced the committee would meet later today at Lanier.

AdHoc Bylaws

Cathy Woolbright and the committee were still

hammering out Bylaws changes and it the committee's work was not completed and ready for membership review at this time.

Nominating

Paula Christian received no nominations from the floor for officers. This slate of 2004-2005 GHSLA officer candidates was announced:

President: Lee McCarley
Mercer University School of Medicine

Vice President: Mia White
Emory University

Secretary: Kathy Davies
Medical College of Georgia

Treasurer: Tara Douglas-Williams
Atlanta Medical Center

Parliamentarian: Kate Rehkopf
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UPDATE Editor: Miriam Hudgins
Mercer University School of Medicine

Webmaster: Marilyn Barry
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The slate of candidates was approved by voice vote.

Other Business

Announcements: Carolyn Brown noted it was Mia White's birthday.

Motion was made by Pamela Queen to adjourn, seconded by Mia Sohn White. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10am.

Respectfully submitted by:
Peter Shipman



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