



SYNAPSE

NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION INC.

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Fall 2001

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It's been another busy year for ALHeLA, with many changes and new experiences...

- ✓ Instead of having an annual conference in the fall, this year's annual conference was held in March, a joint venture with GHSLA;
- ✓ Two student scholarships were awarded for the conference;
- ✓ A new and colorful brochure was developed by Carolyn Holmes;
- ✓ A new student membership category was added, and the institutional category was eliminated;
- ✓ Three members of the 2001 Executive Committee moved during the year – Joan Lukins, Susan Williams, and Jan Burns;
- ✓ Three new members joined – Jana Jasper Slay, Jodi Upton, and Sylvia McAphee (Student);
- ✓ We are in the process of enlisting the help of an archivist to preserve and organize the ALHeLA archives; and
- ✓ We are working on establishing a conference scholarship for members with limited institutional support.

Thanks to all the members of the 2001 Executive Committee for their work throughout the year. Special thanks to:

- Robert Avant for hosting all the Executive Committee meetings;
- Diane Williams for her continued work with *Synapse* (including her patience with late entries like this column); and
- Lisa Rains Russell and her past-Treasurer colleagues from the University of Alabama for many years of service; with 2002, our treasury will move to UAB.

I'm looking forward to 2002 and whatever it holds for ALHeLA, including our fall conference, planned by Tracy Powell, President-Elect. Watch your email, our website, and future issues of *Synapse* for up-to-date information on next year's conference and other news.

Marian Morris, ALHeLA President 2002

ALHeLA Officers 2002

- President:** **Marian Morris**
Princeton Baptist Medical Center, Birmingham, AL
- VP/President-Elect:** **Tracy Powell**
Univ of Alabama at Birmingham
- Treasurer:** **Martha Verchot**
Univ of Alabama at Birmingham
- Secretary:** **Inga Moten**
Alabama State Univ, Montgomery, AL
- Members-At-Large:**
- Everly Brown** Univ of South Alabama, Mobile, AL
C.J. Bryant St. Vincents's Hosp, Birmingham, AL
Kay Fowler Troy State University at Montgomery

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News from NN/LM and NLM

Basic Medical Library Management <http://nmlm.gov/libinfo/mgmt/>

This web site is for both professional and non-professional librarians new to health or hospital libraries. It seeks to provide instant access to quality resources which will help the medical librarian meet the needs of the patron.

Administration of the Medical Library
Sources of Information for Librarians
Medical Databases
Collection Development and Interlibrary Loan
First Steps for New Medical Librarians
Additional Resources

The Medical Librarian:

This medical librarian job description provides an outline of what a librarian's position could entail. It also gives goals to reach for as you embark into the world of medical libraries.

Ethics and laws in librarianship as established by the Medical Library Association is the code of ethics for health science librarians. These principles for ethical conduct establish a guide from which to work while delivering health information.

From NN/LM Announcements

Happy Birthday MEDLINE! Happy Birthday MEDLINEplus!

(Bethesda, Md.) — It's certainly true that the phrase, "You've come a long way, baby," can be applied to MEDLINE, the National Library of Medicine's premier bibliographic database of 4,500 biomedical journals published in the United States and 70 foreign countries. This month, MEDLINE celebrates its 30th birthday. Its offspring, MEDLINEplus, a source of reliable consumer health information available on the World Wide Web, celebrates its third birthday this month.

In 1971, when doctors dressed in bell-bottom pants relied on trained librarians to do their searches, MEDLINE could "support 25 simultaneous users." Today MEDLINE is the world's largest medical database, accessible to all via the Internet, and it supports users who do 400 million searches each year. It began as a service for instantaneously searching medical literature for workers in medical schools, medical libraries, hospitals, and research institutions. At that time MEDLINE consisted of articles in the top 239

medical journals, 130,000 citations in all. There were search fees, limited access to computers, and cumbersome search engines that excluded public access - and most researchers and physicians as well.

Recognizing the need to help consumers find answers to medical questions, the Library launched MEDLINEplus in October 1998. MEDLINEplus is the Library's consumer-friendly source of up-to-date health information, with countless resources on health and wellness topics. Consumers and health professionals began using MEDLINEplus as the source of the most reliable and most accurate health information available on the World Wide Web. It now receives some 70 million hits each year.

MEDLINE and MEDLINEplus are changing health care delivery and educating patients with information that will make them better informed and ready to participate with physicians in making critical decisions.

The National Library of Medicine, a component of the National Institutes of Health, is home of one of the first Federal Web sites, created in 1994. The Library is the largest such institution in the world, and much of its collection is accessible through its site at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>.

Excerpted from NLM Announcements

For information on anthrax, check out this NLM web site:

MEDLINEplus: Anthrax Information Resources
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/anthrax.html>

SC/MLA Academic Librarian of the Year

Judy Burnham, from the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library, was chosen Academic Librarian of the Year by the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association. The SC/MLA web site states that "the successful applicant will have demonstrated excellence in research, instruction, and or service in health librarianship."

Judy was honored in New Orleans at the annual meeting of the Southern Chapter of MLA. She is an ALHeLA member and a former ALHeLA President.

Congratulations Judy!!!

Alabama Health Libraries Association 2001 Executive Committee

OFFICERS

President

Susan Williams
Providence Hospital Library
6801 Airport Blvd.
Mobile, AL 36685
Phone: (334) 633-1373
Fax: (334) 639-2061
Email: swilliam@providencehospital.org

Past President

Joan T. Lukins, retired from:
Univ of Alabama at Birmingham
Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences

Vice President/President Elect

Marian Morris
Princeton Baptist Medical Center
701 Princeton Avenue SW
Birmingham, AL 35211
Phone: (205) 783-3078
Fax: (205) 783-7076
Email: marian.morris@bhsala.com

Secretary

Tracy E. Powell
Univ of Alabama at Birmingham
Lister Hill Library at UAB Univ Hospital
WP P235, 619 19th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35249-6806
Phone: (205) 934-2275
Fax: (205) 934-1316
Email: trapow@uab.edu

Treasurer/Bookkeeper

Lisa Rains Russell
12279 Brittany Drive
Northport, AL 35475
Phone: (205) 333-9685
Email: slimruss@dbtech.net

Members-at-Large

Inga Moten
Levi Watkins Library
Alabama State Univ
P.O. Box 271
Montgomery, AL 36101-0271

Everly Brown
Univ of South Alabama Biomedical Library
BLB 323
Mobile, AL 36688-0002
Phone: (334) 460-6892
Fax: (334) 460-7638
Email: ebrown@bbl.usouthal.edu

Margo Mead
Univ of Alabama in Huntsville
Salmon Library
Huntsville, Alabama 35899
Phone: (256) 890-6418
Email: meadm@email.uah.edu

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bylaws Committee

Yvonne Kozlowski
Auburn Univ
Cary Veterinary Medical Library
James E. Greene Hall, Room 101
Auburn, Alabama 36849-5606
Phone: (334) 844-1750
Fax: (334) 844-1758
ykozlow@mail.auburn.edu

Continuing Education Committee

Directory Committee

Jan Burns
Medical Library, 142-D
VA Hospital Birmingham
709 South 19th Street
Birmingham, AL 35233
Phone: (205) 933-8101 x6474
Fax: (205) 558-7017
Email: pamelaburns@med.va.gov

C.J. Bryant
St. Vincents=s Hospital
Cunningham Wilson Library
P.O. Box 12407
Birmingham, AL 35202-2407
Phone: (205) 939-7830
Fax: (205) 930-2182
Email: cbryant1@stv.org

Liaison Committee

Membership Committee

Carolyn Holmes
Montclair Baptist Medical Center
Montclair Medical Library
800 Montclair Road
Birmingham, AL 35213
Phone: (205) 592-5640
Fax: (205) 592-5269
Email: carolyn.holmes@bhsala.com

Synapse Editor

Diane N. Williams
Univ of South Alabama Biomedical Library
BLB 316
Mobile, AL 36688-0002
Phone: (334) 460-6893
Fax: (334) 460-6958
Email: dnwillia@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Union List Coordinators

Robert Avant
Alabama Public Library Service
6030 Monticello Drive
Montgomery, AL 36130
Phone: 1-800-723-8459
Fax: (334) 213-3993
Email: ravant@apls.state.al.us

Ellen Sayed
Univ of South Alabama Biomedical Library
214 BLB
Mobile, AL 36688
Phone: (334) 460-7850
Fax: (334) 460-7638
Email: esayed@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Web Coordinator/List Moderator

Patricia Higginbottom
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences
LHL 110, 1530 3rd Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35294-0013
Phone: (205) 934-2230
Fax: (205) 975-8313
Email: phiggin@uab.edu

Alabama Health Libraries Association
Executive Board Meeting
Friday, September 28, 2001

Present: Robert Avant, Everly Brown, Pat Higginbottom, Yvonne Kozlowski, Margo Mead, Marian Morris, Inga Moten, Tracy Powell, Lisa Rains Russell, Ellen Sayed, and Diane Williams.

Guest: Martha Verchot

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:45 am by Marian Morris, President.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the June 15, 2001 Executive Committee meeting were approved as written.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented by Lisa Rains Russell, Treasurer. The balance as of 9/28/01 was \$11,113.63. This balance does not yet reflect the expenses of the 2001 joint meeting with GHSLA.
4. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Bylaws:** No report
 - b. **Directory:** No report
 - c. **Membership:** Marian Morris reported on behalf of Carolyn Holmes, membership chair. The organization currently has 58 members, 1 of which is a student member.
 - d. **Synapse:** Diane Williams, *Synapse* editor, reminded the board that the deadline for submissions is in 2 weeks.
 - e. **Union List Coordinators:** Robert Avant announced that after November 1, 2001, the Alabama Public Library Service will no longer maintain the Alabama Union List of Serials.
 - f. **Web Coordinator:** Pat Higginbottom has updated the Executive Committee information on the ALHeLA website, making the email addresses active links. The handbook information has also been updated. The site has had 350 hits in three months. All ALHeLA members with valid email addresses have been added to the organization's online discussion list.
 - g. **Nominations:** Diane Williams presented the slate of candidates developed by the Nominations Committee for consideration:

Vice President/President-Elect: Tracy Powell
Secretary: Inga Moten
Treasurer: Martha Verchot
Members at Large: Everly Brown, CJ Bryant, Kay Fowler

Members of the Nominations Committee were Diane Williams, Geneva Staggs, and Yvonne Kozlowski.
 - h. **Members-at-Large:** No report.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. **Scholarship for Members with Limited Institutional Support:** The committee, made up of the Members-at-Large, has been looking at similar scholarships offered by other organizations. For the most

part, they require that an application and an essay be submitted. Most provide a given dollar amount and require participation at the meeting. For the ALHeLA scholarship, a more practical award might be to pay for all meeting expenses, since they vary widely. Awardees would be asked to provide receipts for meeting expenses and would then be reimbursed. The 2002 Members-At-Large will continue work on this project.

- b. **2001 Annual Meeting with GHSLA-Update:** Marian Morris reported that final financial numbers from the joint meeting have not yet been received. Preliminary numbers indicate that total meeting expenses were around \$7600 for both organizations. Marian will continue to update the Executive Committee as new information becomes available.
- c. **Update on Archivist Agreement:** Yvonne Kozlowski reported that Tim Pennycuff has given her lots of information regarding the archives project. Any agreement with Tim cannot be finalized until June 2002, when the Archives Advisory board will have an opportunity to review and approve it. Tim will develop the agreement with our input. ALHeLA will have to pay for acid-free books and files, and pay a fee for the archivist to put the files in archival order.

6. New Business

- a. **Election of 2002 Officers:** A vote was held on the slate of candidates presented by the Nominations Committee. A total of 28 votes were cast, 12 in person and 16 by proxy. Margo Mead moved that the slate be accepted by acclamation; Lisa Rains Russell seconded the motion. Terms for the new officers will begin in January 2002.
- b. **Student Scholarship Competition for Fall 2002 Conference:** Marian Morris requested that Lisa Rains Russell, Martha Cook, and Nelle Williams continue to work on this project for 2002. The competition will be advertised in the spring, and the 2002 meeting will be held in mid to late September 2002.
- c. **Providence Hospital Library Situation:** One of ALHeLA's members had expressed concern to Marian about Providence Hospital's decision not to hire a full-time medical librarian. The Executive Committee discussed this decision and how it affects other medical libraries in the area.
- d. **2002 Executive Committee Meetings:** The meetings of the ALHeLA Executive Committee will continue to be held at the Alabama Public Library Service. We are most appreciative of the hospitality of Robert Avant and APLS. The first meeting of the new year will be held in January.
- e. **Other**
 - i. **New Treasurer:** The election of a new treasurer necessitates a revision to the membership brochure. Marian will look into having new brochures made before the January meeting.
 - ii. **Proposed ALHeLA Handbook Changes for 2002:** The following changes to the handbook will be discussed and voted on next year:
 - elimination of the position of Union List Coordinator
 - elimination of the position of Bookkeeper and ensuring that the description of the Treasurer position is up-to-date
 - addition of the Archivist position

7. Announcements

- a. Lister Hill Library is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its dedication on October 22, 2001 at 1:00 pm.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy E. Powell
Secretary

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Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library
University of South Alabama
BLB 316
Mobile, AL 36688-0002