



SYNAPSE

NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION INC.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Congratulations to Tracy Powell and Pat Higginbottom for putting together a terrific annual meeting. The meeting offered useful continuing education courses, interesting keynote speakers, opportunities for networking with colleagues, nice accommodations, good food, and a business meeting that ended right on time -- A successful meeting in all respects! We enjoyed a higher than average attendance, and I think everyone came away from the conference having had a positive experience.

Kay Hogan Smith is the recipient of the 2002 ALHeLA Achievement Award! Kay's nomination cited her many contributions to ALHeLA and the medical librarian profession, including serving as ALHeLA President in 1997 and as Coordinator of the Health InfoNet of Jefferson County. Kay is currently a Reference Librarian at UAB's Lister Hill Library; before coming to UAB, she was the Medical Librarian at Baptist Medical Center Princeton. Congratulations Kay!

Our 2003 officers were elected during the business meeting. (Information on the slate of officers can be found elsewhere in this issue of *Synapse*.) Before we welcome new members to the Executive Committee in January, I want to thank everyone serving on the 2002 Executive Committee -- C.J., Diane, Geneva, Inga, Jana, Jodi, Kay Fowler, Martha, Robert, Yvonne, and especially Pat and Tracy. (Pat served as Continuing Education Committee Chair, Web Coordinator, Discussion List Moderator, and Nominating Committee Chair; and Tracy, as Vice President / President-Elect, worked tirelessly all year on preparations for our annual meeting.) You've all worked diligently to complete your duties this year, and I truly appreciate your efforts on behalf of ALHeLA.

During the next year, I hope we are able to increase our membership numbers, continue work on the archives and add the archivist position to our handbook, and award the first scholarship for members with limited institutional support (providing funding to attend the 2003 annual meeting). Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. I now look forward to serving as Past-President and in seeing what wonderful things are in store for ALHeLA under the leadership of Tracy Powell.

Marian Morris
ALHeLA President

ALHeLA Achievement Award

The purpose of the ALHeLA Achievement Award is to honor an individual for outstanding service to ALHeLA or to the medical library profession.

Kay Hogan Smith has been awarded the 2002 ALHeLA Achievement Award. Among other things, Kay is a former ALHeLA president and Coordinator of the Health InfoNet of Jefferson County. She is a Reference Librarian at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Congratulations

Kay Hogan Smith

2002 ALHeLA Achievement
Award Recipient

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Letter from Kay Hogan Smith

To my ALHeLA friends:

It was with a deep sense of honor and humility that I greeted the news that I had been chosen as the most recent recipient of the ALHeLA Achievement Award. That I might be considered deserving of such a distinction by my peers brings me great joy and satisfaction, particularly in view of my profound admiration for so many of you and the wonderful contributions you all make to our profession. I will certainly treasure this award for the rest of my life, as I will the many friends I have found in ALHeLA. Thank you!

Kay Hogan Smith

UAB Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences

NLM/AAHSL Leadership Fellows Program

In response to the confirmed need for future leadership in academic health sciences libraries, the National Library of Medicine/Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries Leadership Fellows Program has been created. This program is designed to:

- Introduce academic health sciences library managers to leadership theory and practical tools for implementing change at organizational and professional levels.
- Develop meaningful professional relationships between fellows and current directors, through mentoring partnerships.
- Expose fellows to another academic health sciences library under the guidance of their mentors.
- Create a cohort of learners who will draw upon each other for support throughout their careers.

Congratulations to ALHeLA member Pat Higginbottom, who has been selected as one of the inaugural participants in the 2002-2003 NLM/AAHSL Leadership Fellows Program. Pat was one of five fellows, chosen from among 35 applicants.

NLM/AAHSL Leadership Fellows Program
<http://www.arl.org/olms/fellows/>

Great Time Had by All at Annual Meeting

Thirty-seven colleagues from around the state met at the 22nd annual meeting of the Alabama Health Libraries Association, held September 12-13, 2002, at the beautiful Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. These two days were spent learning how to “Work Magic Through Communication”, while enjoying great food, networking, and of course some shopping!



Thursday's schedule included 3 half-day continuing education offerings, which seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by all. In the morning, 8 attendees worked with E. Scott King to improve their Spanish language skills, while 18 others heard Pat Wagner discuss the “Communication Mistakes Only Really Smart People Make”. This class was enlivened by a rousing performance of “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes”, in Spanish, by the participants of the morning's other class. Twenty-three attendees resisted the lure of the Galleria that afternoon, and benefited from Pat Wagner's session on “Communication as a Tool of Influence”. An added bonus for the die-hard students was an afternoon snack of hot pretzels, Cracker Jack and chocolate.

Thursday evening's banquet at the Wynfrey provided delicious fare for the 26 attendees. Door prizes given away that evening included the 5-volume Encyclopedia of Nursing and Allied Health, courtesy of Gale, and other goodies provided by the Alabama Sports Medicine Institute and Baptist Health System. Every registrant for the

meeting received a variety of giveaways in their conference bags from donors such as UAB University Hospital, UAB Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, UAB Spain Rehabilitation Center, and Baptist Health System.

On Friday morning, the group heard about Urban Legends from Joyce Cauthen, founder of the Alabama Folklife Association. A lively discussion took place as the audience shared their experiences and asked questions of Joyce and Pat Wagner. One of the most amusing items of the morning was the hoax involving the Giant Cat; for more information (including a picture!), visit www.truthminers.com/truth/the_giant_cat.htm.

We wrapped up our meeting with the annual business meeting over a wonderful lunch at the Wynfrey. Highlights included an introduction to the EFTS system for ILL payments by Toni Yancey of the NN/LM (for more information, see <http://library.uhc.edu/efts/>), the presentation of the ALHeLA Achievement Award to Kay Hogan Smith, and an acknowledgement of appreciation to Marian Morris, for her extended work on behalf of ALHeLA as president. Full minutes of the meeting are located elsewhere in this issue of *Synapse*.

Many thanks go to Pat Higginbottom, CE Chair, Marian Morris and Carolyn Holmes (goodie provider extraordinaire), our presenters, and of course the vendors who provided support to the meeting. The annual meeting offers a unique opportunity for us to get together, learn from each other, and reaffirm our common goals and interests. I hope we will see you all at next year's annual meeting. If you have suggestions for the meeting, please contact Geneva Bush Staggs, ALHeLA's Vice-President/President-Elect and conference planner for 2003.

Tracy Powell
Vice-President/President-Elect, 2002

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ALHeLA Business Meeting

Friday, September 13, 2002
Meeting, *Working Magic Through Communication*
Winfrey Hotel, Birmingham

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 12:30pm by Marian Morris, President.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting on June 14, 2002 meeting were approved as written.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report covering January 1 - September 11, 2002, was submitted by Martha Verchot and approved as written.
4. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Bylaws / Handbook** – No report provided.
 - b. **Directory** – Jana Slay provided new inserts for the ALHeLA Directory to members in attendance. Inserts would be mailed to absent members.
 - c. **Liaison** – No report provided.
 - d. **Membership** – Jodi Upton reported ALHeLA has 7 new members with a total of 53 members (52 regular, 1 student) for 2002. New members include Paula Barnett Ellis from Jacksonville State University, Barbara Clotfelter from Birmingham Public Library, Michael Fitts from UAB Lister Hill Library, Gerald D. Jackson from UAB School of Medicine-Huntsville, Jean Liddell from Auburn University, Sheila Snow-Croft, a University of Alabama graduate student, and Rita Wehby from UAB Lister Hill Library.
 - e. **Synapse** – Request made by Diane Williams for information and photos for publication in Synapse.
 - f. **Web Coordinator** – Report submitted by Pat Higginbottom that stated additions made to the ALHeLA website as updates of the following; the list of Officers, the Handbook, the student grant, and new information about the Scholarships for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support. The number of hits during the past 12 months totaled 1,286.
 - g. **Members-At-Large** – Geneva Bush Staggs requested that the membership take a critical look at The Scholarship for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support (SLLIS) application on the ALHeLA web page and submit comments. There were no applicants for SLLIS for this annual meeting.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. **2002 Annual Meeting** – Tracy Powell reported there were 37 total attendees for the annual meeting; registration for individual events was as follows : “Communication Mistakes Only Really Smart People Make” -- 18, “Spanish for Health Care Professionals” -- 8, “Communication as a Tool of Influence” -- 23, Speakers and Business Meeting -- 29. There was less vendor support for this meeting than for ones in the past.

6. **New Business**

- a. **Nominating Committee** – Marian Morris reported. Members of the 2002 Nominating Committee are Pat Higginbottom (Chair), Judy Burnham, and Sondra Pfeiffer. The 2003 Slate of Officers was presented and accepted. The new officers for 2003 are Geneva Bush Staggs, President Elect; Inga Moten, Secretary; Kay Fowler, Michael Fitts, and Susan Gambill for Members-at-Large.
- b. **ALHeLA Achievement Award** – Kay Hogan Smith was awarded the ALHeLA Achievement Award. In her absence, Tracy Powell accepted.
- c. **EFTS** – Toni Yancey, one of the region’s NNLN representatives, presented the electronic Fund Transfer System, Inc. (EFTS) as a document delivery network that was being recommended to member libraries. EFTS operates out of the University of Connecticut with over 600 participating medical libraries, mostly located in the northeast US. NLM will begin participation in January 2003. A pamphlet was included in each registrant’s packet.
- d. **Appreciation Award** – Tracy Powell presented Marian Morris with an appreciation award from the membership for her hard work and dedication during the past two years as President.
- e. **Thank you** – Everyone thanked Tracy Powell and Pat Higginbottom for their work on this annual meeting. Thanks also to Nancy Clemmons for being our conference photographer.

7. **Announcements** – No announcements were made.

8. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Inga Moten, Secretary*

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