



# SYNAPSE

NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION INC.

Vol. 22, No. 1

Winter 2003

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I hope your new year is off to a good start! The Executive Committee met on January 24<sup>th</sup> to carry on with the business of the organization, and we are off to a great start! We have several new additions to the committee this year. Michael Fitts, UAB Lister Hill Library, and Susan Gambill, Medical Center East, Birmingham, have joined us as new members-at large, and will be working with Kay Fowler this year. They will be looking at ways to increase interest in and awareness of both the Scholarship for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support (SLLIS) and the Student Scholarship. If you have ideas, I'm sure they would love to hear from you!

Susie Corbett, UAB Lister Hill Library, is this year's Membership Committee chair, while Ellen Sayed, USA Baugh Biomedical Library is taking over the chair of the Bylaws and Handbook Committee. We are very happy that Jana Slay will be staying on to work on the Directory, after her move from Mobile to Montgomery. A complete directory for the Executive Committee can be found in this issue of *Synapse*.

Our Vice-President/President-Elect, Geneva Bush Staggs, is busy on plans for the 2003 annual meeting, to be held in a coastal location. She and her colleagues have been scouting out the possibilities, and will have more details soon. Jie Li, also at USA, will be assisting Geneva with continuing education planning for the meeting. Currently, we are looking at the same week as last year's meeting, the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>. This should be a great time to be at the beach! Check the next issue of *Synapse* for more details.

If you have ideas or suggestions for your Executive Committee, we'd like to hear from you! We are looking forward to another great year for ALHeLA.

*Tracy Powell*  
ALHeLA President

## Annual Meeting to be Held on the Gulf Coast

Our Vice-President/President-Elect, Geneva Bush Staggs, is planning our 2003 meeting on the Gulf Coast. You'll hear more about that in the next issue, but be sure to mark your calendar for September 11-12, 2003. If you're interested in attending an annual meeting, but don't have the funds, check out the following article.

## Annual Meeting Scholarship – SLIIS

ALHeLA has a new scholarship for librarians with limited institutional support (SLIIS). SLIIS will provide funds to attend the annual meeting for a health sciences librarian who is an ALHeLA member.

Be watching for information on this exciting opportunity. In the meantime, you can find out more by going to the website: <http://www.uab.edu/lister/alhela/awards.htm>

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Information Resources	2
ALHeLA Executive Committee 2003	3
ALHeLA Executive Committee Meeting	4

*Synapse* (ISSN 0829-5283) is the official publication of the Alabama Health Libraries Association, Inc. (ALHeLA) and is published quarterly. Please send contributions to the editor: Diane Williams, Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library, University of South Alabama, BLB 316, Mobile, AL 36688-0002, phone: (251) 460-6893, fax: (251) 460-6958, E-mail: [dnwillia@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:dnwillia@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)

---

## Information Resources



<http://www.statehealthfacts.kff.org/cgi-bin/healthfacts.cgi?>

(Listed on the NN/LM Southeastern/Atlantic Region website under the Alabama link)

This new resource from the Kaiser Family Foundation contains the latest state-level data on demographics, health, and health policy, including health coverage, access, financing, and state legislation.

Using **50 State Comparisons**, you may compare data for all the states by choosing one of the following topics:

- Demographics and the Economy
- Health Status
- Health Coverage & Uninsured
- Medicaid & SCHIP
- Medicare
- Health costs & Budgets
- Managed Care & Health Insurance
- Providers & Service Use
- Women's Health
- Minority Health
- HIV/AIDS

Information will be displayed as tables, rankings, graphs, or color-coded maps.

**Individual State Profiles** gives you At-A-Glance information about the chosen state, with contact information and web site addresses. You can also choose one of the above topics to find specific information for the chosen state.



<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/constructitle.html>

NLM has developed a new Fact Sheet: **Construction of National Library of Medicine Title Abbreviations**

This fact sheet discusses the rules currently used by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to construct title abbreviations for items cited in NLM's online services. The majority of these items are journals indexed for MEDLINE® in the PubMed® database. Policies and procedures have changed over time at NLM; therefore it is possible to encounter older title abbreviations that were not established according to these rules.

---

**Alabama Health Libraries Association**  
**2003 Executive Committee**

**OFFICERS**

**President**

Tracy E. Powell  
UNIV OF ALA AT BIRMINGHAM  
LISTER HILL LIBRARY AT UAB  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL  
WP P235  
619 19<sup>TH</sup> STREET SOUTH  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35249-6806  
Phone: (205) 934-2275  
Email: [trapow@uab.edu](mailto:trapow@uab.edu)  
Fax: (205) 934-1316

**Past President**

Marian Morris  
McMahon-Sibley Medical Library  
BAPTIST PRINCETON  
701 Princeton Avenue, SW  
Birmingham, AL 35211  
Phone: (205) 783-3078  
Email: [mmorris@bhsala.com](mailto:mmorris@bhsala.com)  
Fax: (205) 783-7076

**Vice-President / President-Elect**

Geneva Bush Staggs  
University of South Alabama  
Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library  
Mobile, AL 36688-0002  
Phone: (251) 460-6890  
Email: [gbush@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:gbush@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)  
Fax: (251) 460-7638

**Secretary**

Inga Moten  
Levi Watkins Library  
Alabama State University  
P.O. Box 271  
Montgomery, AL 36101-0271  
Phone: (334) 229-1074  
Email: [imoten@asunet.alasu.edu](mailto:imoten@asunet.alasu.edu)

**Treasurer**

Martha Verchot  
UNIV OF ALA AT BIRMINGHAM  
LISTER HILL LIBRARY OF THE  
HEALTH SCIENCES  
LHL 119  
1530 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE SOUTH  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35294-0013  
Phone: (205) 934-2230  
Email: [mverchot@uab.edu](mailto:mverchot@uab.edu)

**Members-At-Large**

Michael S. Fitts  
UNIV OF ALA AT BIRMINGHAM  
LISTER HILL LIBRARY OF THE  
HEALTH SCIENCES  
LHL 115  
1530 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE SOUTH  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35294-0013  
Email: [fitts@uab.edu](mailto:fitts@uab.edu)

Kay L. Fowler  
Troy State University Montgomery  
252 Montgomery Street  
Library  
Montgomery, AL 36104-3425  
Phone: (334) 241-9576  
Email: [kfowler@tsum.edu](mailto:kfowler@tsum.edu)

Susan Gambill  
Medical Center East  
Library  
50 Medical Park Drive East  
Birmingham, AL 35235  
Phone: (205) 838-3393  
Email: [sggambill@ehs-inc.com](mailto:sggambill@ehs-inc.com)  
Fax: (205) 838-3773

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Bylaws/Handbook**

Ellen Sayed  
University of South Alabama  
Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library  
BLB 212  
Mobile, AL 36688-0002  
Phone: (251) 460-7850  
Email: [esayed@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:esayed@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)  
Fax: (251) 460-7638

**Continuing Education**

Jie Li  
Medical Center Library  
University of South Alabama  
2451 Fillingim Street  
MOBILE, AL 36617-2293  
Phone: (251) 471-7855  
Email: [jli@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:jli@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)  
Fax: (251) 471-7857

**Directory**

Jana Slay  
Troy State University at Montgomery  
252 Montgomery Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
Phone: (334) 241-8602  
Email: [jslay@tsum.edu](mailto:jslay@tsum.edu)

**Liaison**

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

**Membership**

Susie Corbett  
UNIV OF ALA AT BIRMINGHAM  
LISTER HILL LIBRARY OF THE  
HEALTH SCIENCES  
1530 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE SOUTH  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35294-0013  
Phone: (205) 934-6322  
Email: [scorbett@uab.edu](mailto:scorbett@uab.edu)  
Fax: (205) 934-3435

**Synapse Editor**

Diane N. Williams  
Biomedical Library  
University of South Alabama  
BLB 316  
Mobile, AL 36688-0002  
Phone: (251) 460-6893  
Email: [dnwillia@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:dnwillia@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)  
Fax: (251) 460-6958

**Web Coordinator / List Moderator**

Pat Higginbottom  
UNIV OF ALA AT BIRMINGHAM  
LISTER HILL LIBRARY OF THE  
HEALTH SCIENCES  
LHL 110  
1530 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE SOUTH  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35294-0013  
Phone: (205) 934-2230  
Email: [phiggin@uab.edu](mailto:phiggin@uab.edu)  
Fax: (205) 975-8313

---

## *ALHeLA Executive Committee Meeting*

**Friday, January 24, 2003  
Alabama Public Library Service  
Montgomery**

Present: Susie Corbett, Michael Fitts, Kay Fowler, Marian Morris, Inga Moten, Tracy Powell, Ellen Sayed, Jana Slay, Geneva Staggs, Martha Verchot, Diane Williams

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by Tracy Powell, President.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes for the Business Meeting on September 13, 2003  
Minutes were approved as written.
3. **Introductions of New Committee Members:** Introductions were made by all members present with mention of absent members, also.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** **Martha** Verchot reported the balance as of 1/24/2003 was \$4636.73. A \$0.96 discrepancy in the bank's favor is under review. An email has been posted to the ALHeLA membership list that contains a correction in the zip code of the forwarding address for members who intend to mail 2003 membership dues.
5. **Committee Reports**
  - a. **Bylaws:** Ellen Sayed, Chair. Corrected to Bylaws Handbook Committee. No Report.
  - b. **Continuing Education:** Jie Li was recognized as the new Chair. The past CE Chair, Pat Higginbottom, provided the new chair with copies of the CE evaluations from the 2002 Annual Meeting.
  - c. **Directory:** Jana Slay, Chair. No Report.
  - d. **Liaison:** Robert Avant, Chair. No Report.
  - e. **Membership:** Susie Corbett, Chair, reported that so far there are 5 memberships for 2003. She is particularly interested in enlisting new librarians as they move to Alabama. A suggestion was made to contact staff at libraries that serve health sciences as indicated by ILL use, as a method for publicizing ALHeLA to potential new members. It was suggested that the Membership Chair communicate regularly with the Web Coordinator/Discussion List Moderator to have new members added to the discussion list promptly.
  - f. **Web Coordinator:** Tracy Powell reported for Patricia Higginbottom, Chair. The ALHeLA site reported 402 hits in 2002. The 2002 Annual Meeting Highlights and the 2003 Executive Committee links have been updated. The ALHeLA discussion list will continually get updated with new members.
  - g. **Nominations:** Marian Morris, Chair. No report.
  - h. **Members-At-Large:** Geneva Staggs reported that there was no feedback from the membership for suggestions of better promotion of the SSLIS scholarship. The Executive Committee was charged with thinking through solutions for better outreach to other information professionals that may have an interest in ALHeLA.

---

## 6. Old Business

- a. **2002 Annual Meeting Final Report:** The ALHeLA hosted 37 registrants with a bottom line expense of \$3693.67 to the organization. Vendor support was off this year. Though attendance was good, the organization did not meet its lodging commitment with the annual meeting hotel. Tracy Powell distributed a financial summary for the meeting, and a summary of evaluation results.
- b. **ALHeLA Archives:** No formal agreement is yet in place for the ALHeLA archives to be managed by UAB archives. Documents that have been handed over to Tim Pennycuff are in a protected UAB location, and are accessible to ALHeLA, but cannot be organized at this time. Materials can be added as needed.
- c. **ALHeLA Scholarships:** The Members-at-Large are charged with publicizing and awarding the SLLIS scholarship, and the committee discussed ways to increase awareness of this opportunity for our members. It was suggested that the Members-At-Large could take on the publicity piece of the Student Scholarship as well, and work to clarify and improve the publicity and application process. Members-At-Large could publicize the Scholarship during the spring semester before University of Alabama graduations and while students are available, providing sufficient time for a currently enrolled student to respond as well. The committee discussed including recent library school graduates in the eligibility for the award. The evaluation of entries and awarding of the prize would remain with the committee of members in Tuscaloosa, which has included Lisa Russell and Nelle Williams. After discussion, the committee approved the recommendation.
- d. **Other:** No other business.

## 7. New Business

- a. **Invitation to meet with Florida in 2005:** ALHeLA has been invited to meet with the Florida Health Sciences Library Association (FHSLA) for their 2005 annual meeting. The FHSLA meets in the spring, and this timing for an annual meeting would necessitate changes in the ALHeLA business calendar. Discussion suggested that the advantage of networking with the Florida participants could be facilitated by requesting reciprocal membership of the FHSLA for those who want to attend either or both annual meetings, and providing the same for FHSLA members to attend ALHeLA meetings. Tracy Powell will follow up with the FHSLA officers.
- b. **MLANet:** Marian Morris reported that MLA has contacted her regarding permission to add ALHeLA's web site link to its list of affiliated organizations. This would facilitate professional networking and be considered a mechanism of outreach to persons seeking an organization of health information professionals in Alabama. It was decided that the organization would respond positively to the request.
- c. **Other:** Under the direction of Kay Hogan Smith, Health InfoNet is now known as Health InfoNet of Alabama and has expanded to include Shelby County. A NLM grant has allowed for core reference collections in consumer health in Jefferson County public libraries. A new subcontract from National Network of Libraries of Medicine will provide for outreach to minority populations. A copy of UAB's newspaper, the *Reporter*, which highlighted Health InfoNet, was shared for everyone's information.

Geneva Bush Staggs provided an update for the 2003 Annual Meeting. The tentative dates are September 10-12 for a site in coastal Alabama. She along with Diane Williams and Ellen Sayed

---

visited the Beachside Resort in Gulf Shores, Island House and Hilton Garden Inn in Orange Beach, and the Grand Hotel in Fairhope. The room rates for all accommodations could get priced at less than \$100.00 per night. The Meeting registration will remain \$75.00 with the understanding that the financial goal is to break even. Advantages and disadvantages of each meeting location were discussed. Geneva will price each of the facilities, consider the advantages and report back to the Committee.

**8. Announcements**

- a. Geneva Bush Staggs has received an NLM grant to promote Medical Librarianship at the Alabama Libraries Association meeting in Mobile, April 1-4. She requested participation from medical information professionals who have unique positions or work environments to participate in a panel discussion
- b. Question was raised as to whether any library was considering hosting the MLA teleconference, "Get Hip to HIPAA: Health Information Professionals and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act." There were no commitments at this time.

**9. Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Inga Moten, Secretary*

---

*Synapse*  
Newsletter of ALHeLA Inc.  
Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library  
University of South Alabama  
BLB 316  
Mobile, AL 36688-0002