

1. *Newsletter of Alabama Health Libraries Association INC.*
2. the point at which a nervous impulse passes from one neuron to another



President's Column

Welcome to another year of ALHeLA, and welcome to our new officers!

After a fulfilling meeting in Orange Beach last September, we are well on our way with planning our next meeting in Tuscaloosa. Stay posted for a great program there. The meeting in Orange Beach was well attended with twenty six registrants, three award recipients, two CE instructors, our speaker and two spouses - a total of thirty four attendees! Charles Wessel's CE course was attended by ten people, while twenty people attended Dale Prince's class. Fortunately, the weather cooperated for our Hawaiian-style Banquet, allowing us to enjoy a pleasant evening on the terrace at Perdido Beach Resort. Thanks to Judy Burnham for getting Hawaiian-style table skirts, which danced cheerfully in the breeze. Dr. Linda Roussel's talk on Evidence-Based Practice was well received. We hope the ideas presented by Linda and the panel inspired you. I want to thank everyone for all their support and assistance (and your patience) with

planning the meeting and for making it a success.

Kay Hogan-Smith is keeping ALHeLA members busy. On February 2nd, representing ALHeLA, I joined Kay Hogan-Smith, Judy Burnham and others in a photo-opportunity with Governor Riley for the GoLocal project. A memorable experience, indeed. Kay also applied for and received a grant sponsored by ALHeLA to exhibit at the Alabama Library Association in March.

Visit our web page for a listing of our new officers and an updated membership brochure. I look forward to working with everyone this year. Let us make it the best year ever!

Ellen Sayed



Alabama Health Libraries Association 2006 Executive Committee

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News Around the State

Health Sciences Library, The University Of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

Dr. Martha A. Ralls has recently joined the faculty of The University of Alabama Health Sciences Library as the new Clinical Information Librarian/Assistant Professor. Dr. Ralls graduated from the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies with her MLIS in August of 2006. In addition, she holds a Doctor of Pharmacy degree (Pharm.D., 1992) from the Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy and a Doctor of Medicine degree (M.D., 2001) from The University of Alabama School of Medicine. She also has previous teaching experience as Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Samford University. One of Martha's roles will be to investigate and develop methods of integrating reference information into the electronic medical record. Martha can be reached at 205-348-1361 or maralls@cchs.ua.edu. The Health Sciences Library serves The University of Alabama School of Medicine Branch Campus in Tuscaloosa.

From left to right:
Alva Lambert (State Health Planning & Development Agency); Annie Brown (APLS); Paul May (SHPDA); Gov. Riley; Gabe Rios (UAB); Ellen Sayed (ALHeLA); Kay Hogan Smith (UAB); Judy Burnham (USA); and Rebecca Mitchell (APLS).



Kay Hogan Smith (UAB) and partners demonstrate Health InfoNet of Alabama for Governor Riley on February 2, 2007.

More News

Lister Hill Library is pleased to introduce two new reference librarians, Paul Mussleman and Nicole Mitchell



Paul Mussleman was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. He attended UAB as an undergraduate where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History in 1995. Before entering Library School at the University of Alabama, he worked as a Physical Therapist's Aide at a clinic in Tuscaloosa. He graduated from the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies in December of 2006. He and his wife have just moved back to Birmingham after having lived in Tuscaloosa for almost nine years.

Originally from Covington, Georgia, Nicole Mitchell received both her B.S (2001) and M.A. (2003) in History from Georgia College & State University. Until leaving for library school, she served as Assistant Archivist for Ina Dillard Russell Library's Special Collections. She found she loved working in the library and wanted to do more! In fall 2005, Nicole accepted one of ten Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) fellowships from the University of Alabama. Receiving her MLIS in December 2006, Nicole also serves as a technology column editor for *The Journal of Hospital Librarianship*.



“Observations of an Outsider”

ALHeLA Annual Meeting
Perdido Beach Resort
Winter 2006

I had the pleasure of attending the 2006 annual meeting for the Alabama Health Libraries Association (ALHeLA) at Perdido Beach, Alabama. It was an honor to attend this annual meeting as the recipient of the Scholarship for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support (SLLIS), and secondly, as I am not a librarian, this was indeed a great honor. I have been involved with ALHeLA and also the UAB Lister Hill Library Go Local Project since 2004, but this is the first annual meeting I have been to.

I became involved with ALHeLA due to the Statewide Planning Meeting on Health Information Outreach that I attended as a representative of the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) in 2004. I have also been a member of the ALHeLA executive board since 2005 and on the UAB Lister Hill Health InfoNet Advisory Board and have been asked to join the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries State Publication Project. Being involved with these various groups has opened many new horizons to me, allowing me to learn more about what a librarian does and how vital the service you provide is to the community. Prior to my involvement with these various groups, I thought, much as the general public does, that librarians were just the people who check out books and work mostly in school systems and public libraries. In the short time I have been associated with these associations, I have gained a new, deeper appreciation for the work that librarians do.

The meeting in Perdido Beach offered a deeper insight into the difficult task that librarians and particularly medical librarians face day to day as they help not only medical professionals but laypersons as well. Being in the information technology arena, I knew that continuing education and training was necessary to keep abreast of new technologies and advances, however, I did not know that it was of even greater importance to librarians. I learned during the weekend that a health librarian is part healthcare professional, part information technologist, part teacher and part guidance counselor. The two continuing education courses that were offered were very helpful to me as a non-librarian as I was exposed to many new technologies during the “Geeks Bearing Gifts” course and also saw the difficulties that librarians face when asked for health statistics during the “Number Number Who’s Got the Number?” course.

During the conference I also noticed all of the hard work and dedication of the various members of the association from the contributions of the editorial staff of the newsletter *Synapse*, to all of the work that Ellen Sayed endured to put together such a successful and informative meeting. I believe that all members of ALHeLA should attend the annual meetings as often as they can so that they can meet their colleagues from around the state and learn how things are being done in different arenas. I sincerely want to thank ALHeLA for allowing me the opportunity of attending and hope that I will be able to attend in the future.

Paul May
Recipient of Scholarship for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support (SLLIS)

New Member Spotlight

Trey Lemley is the new Information Services Librarian/Evening Supervisor for the Baugh Bio-medical Library of the University of South Alabama. In addition, he is the library liaison to the departments of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Comparative Medicine, and Pharmacology in the USA College of Medicine.

Trey is an honors graduate of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science of the University of Texas at Austin, where he was inducted into Beta Phi Mu and Phi Kappa Phi. He graduated from the Indiana University School of Law and attended medical school at Des Moines University. He was a Reference Librarian at Austin Community College and an intern at the Texas State Law Library, both in Austin.

Finally, Trey is a classically-trained musician. He is an organist at several churches in the Mobile area and also serves as Adjunct Professor of Fine Arts at Spring Hill College where he teaches piano.



ALHeLA 2007 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars!

The ALHeLA Annual meeting will be on campus in Tuscaloosa, AL from **Wednesday, September 26th through Friday, September 28th** at the Four Points by Sheraton Tuscaloosa Capstone.

Plan to arrive by 4:00 on Wednesday to participate in a networking event for SLIS students. If you would like to help plan the event, please contact Lee Vuovich, lvucovi@uab.edu. Also, watch for some changes in the scheduling.

The membership has requested that two CEs be offered, one on each day. Plans are underway to provide at least one hands-on session on new technologies. Please send suggestions for other CE topics to Nelle Williams, nwilliams@cchs.ua.edu.

Award Announcements

TWO award opportunities!

Nominate someone for the ALHeLA Achievement Award and encourage students to submit an essay for the annual meeting Student Scholarship!

ALHeLA Achievement Award

This award honors an individual for outstanding service to ALHeLA or to the medical library profession through service, leadership, or research.

Guidelines:

- The ALHeLA Achievement Award Committee shall be the Executive Committee.
- Requests for nominations shall be published in *Synapse*. Letters of nomination should be sent to the president and must be received by the deadline given in *Synapse*.
- The Executive Committee members are excluded from nomination for the award during their terms.
- The Committee shall review the nomination petitions and make the selection.
- The award may be given annually but is not necessarily given each year.
- ALHeLA reserves the right not to grant this award based on the decision of the judges.
- The award shall be presented at the ALHeLA Annual Meeting.

Please submit letters of nomination to the president by June 30, 2007.

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Awards continued...

Student Scholarship

This award provides a library school student with free registration, two nights lodging, and one CE course for the annual ALHeLA meeting. Registrants must be enrolled in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alabama or be a permanent resident of Alabama enrolled in an accredited program.

Guidelines:

1. Submit a 2 to 3 page essay on one of the following topics:
 - a. Social networking tools impact on health sciences libraries.
 - b. Outreach and marketing ideas for health sciences libraries.
 - c. Managing, accessing, and preserving digital content.
2. Essay must not be tied to any assignment in the Medical Libraries course at UA.
3. Essay will be published in the fall issue of *Synapse*.
4. Essays are to be submitted to the ALHeLA president by July 30, 2007.

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Last year's co-Student Scholarship winner, Paul Mussleman, enjoys Orange Beach!

From the Editors

Hey everybody! Jason and I hope you like this issue! We also hope that you all take the time to nominate someone for the achievement award and encourage a student to apply for the scholarship!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Tuscaloosa this September!

Please continue to send us ideas and comments about Synapse; don't wait for a call for items just send us your news and ideas as they strike!

Lisa & Jason
Co-editors

Check out the
Tuscaloosa Convention & Visitors Bureau!

What would you like to see in your *Synapse*!?

We want to hear your suggestions!

Email Lisa at lennis@uab.edu

or Jason at jbb42@uab.edu

