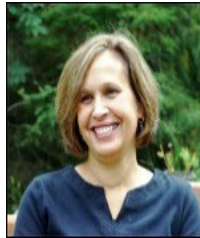


1. *Newsletter of Alabama Health Libraries Association INC.*
2. the point at which a nervous impulse passes from one neuron to another



President's Column



May is one of my favorite months. Along with beautiful spring flowers, mild temperatures, and dramatic Alabama weather, for many of us comes the excitement of preparing for and attending the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting. This year's meeting "Connections: Bridging the Gaps" was a high energy conference, featuring so many ideas on how health science librarians can and do connect with our users, our communities and each other. When I returned, I reflected on how our organization, ALHeLA has been forging connections among health science librarians and our community for 28 years and has accomplished much in the process. This year, the board is reviewing and updating our association by-laws, and expect to present changes to the membership at our annual meeting in the fall. Jie Li continues to represent Alabama on the SE/A RAC Emergency Preparedness Committee, and ALHeLA will support this project in all ways possible as it moves forward.

At our next board meeting, we have decided to experiment with Skype technology as a way to allow those who cannot afford the time to drive to Montgomery for board meetings to

attend them virtually. We hope this technology will allow those of you in solo and smaller libraries the opportunity to become more involved with ALHeLA and its projects. And of course, we hope to see everyone at our annual meeting. This year, we invite you to beautiful Ross Bridge in Birmingham where ALHeLA will meet with Southern Chapter. This promises to be a magical experience! See the conference blog <http://www.lhl.uab.edu/scmla2008> for unfolding details. ALHeLA will meet on Thursday, October 30th for lunch and business. ALHeLA members will be able to register for the entire conference, a one day package, or the ALHeLA meeting alone.

THANK YOU to Lisa Ennis, who is stepping down as co-editor of the Synapse, due to other responsibilities. During her tenure, she and Jason have revitalized the Synapse, and taken it to electronic format. She will be missed! Paul Mussleman will be the new co-editor along with Jason Baker.

Have a great summer everyone.



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ALHeLA & SC/MLA 2008 Joint Annual Meeting Call for Papers & Posters

Making the Magic Flow

SOUTHERN CHAPTER
Medical Library Association

Birmingham, Alabama
2008 Annual Meeting



Visit the 2008 Annual Meeting Blog at
[http://www.lhl.uab.edu/scmla2008/!](http://www.lhl.uab.edu/scmla2008/)

The 2008 Program Committee cordially invites you to submit proposals for contributed papers and posters for the 2008 SC/MLA and ALHeLA joint meeting in Birmingham, Alabama October 26 - 30. We are seeking creative, innovative, and dynamic people to share their experiences, research, and ideas! Whether you are a seasoned presenter or a novice, we encourage you to consider this opportunity.

Proposals are solicited on (but not limited to) the following topics:

Focus on PEOPLE - How do you connect with people? Are you starting a new program? Have you discovered an effective teaching method? How do you market, promote, evaluate, and gauge the quality of your services and programs?

Focus on CAREER - How do you stay motivated and stay “unstuck”? How do you lead when you aren’t a supervisor? Have you got vita/resume/interview advice? Do you have a mentoring experience to share?

Focus on TECHNOLOGY - Are you using an old technology in a new way or a new technology in an old way? Have you discovered any new tips or tricks? How are you using social software to connect with people?

Abstracts will be evaluated on originality, innovation, organization and clarity of presentation, and relevance to improving service or practice.

See next page for submission instructions!

ALHeLA & SC/MLA 2008 Joint Annual Meeting Papers & Posters Submission Instructions

Proposals must be submitted in the form of a structured abstract approximately 300 words in length. You may use the [e-form](#) to submit your proposal or, if the form doesn't fit your needs, you may e-mail your proposal as a Word attachment to Lisa Ennis at lennis@uab.edu. In order to follow a blind review process, all submissions will be stripped of any information identifying the authors or institutions and given to a panel of reviewers. The primary author will be notified of the reviewers' decision by July 15. Additional information (i.e. time, location, setup instructions, etc.) will be sent with acceptance notification.

Those presenting in Birmingham must be registered for the meeting.

Contributed papers are oral presentations; a complete text of the paper is not required.

Poster presenters should plan to be stationed at their posters during a one-hour poster session.

Submission E-form

<http://www.uab.edu/lister/scmla/form.php>

Structured Abstract Resources

A structured abstract is a way of organizing your proposal. For more information on writing a structured abstract, please see MLA's Research Section's "[The Structured Abstract: An Essential Tool for Researchers](#)." For information on how to classify research, see "Inventory of Research Methods for Librarianship and Informatics," published in the January 2004 issue of *Journal of the Medical Library Association* and available at [PubMed Central](#). Please also consult the *MLA Style Manual* for guidance on style, spelling, and grammar.

Contact Information

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Lisa at lennis@uab.edu or 205-934-6322.

ALHeLA & SC/MLA 2008 Joint Annual Meeting Scholarships Available!

Scholarship for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support

Don't let a lack of funds hinder your plans to attend the SCMLA/ALHeLA meeting on October 26-30 at Ross Bridge Resort in Birmingham. The Scholarship for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support is available to fund continuing education classes, meeting registration, ALHeLA business luncheon, travel, and/or accommodations for ALHeLA members who might not otherwise be able to attend. Make plans to be a part of this great meeting and apply for funding by September 10, 2008. The application and fact sheet with more information are available at <http://southmed.usouthal.edu/library/alhela/2008alhelaslis.pdf>

Robert Avant Student Award

For students at the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies, the Robert Avant Student Award is a great way to support attendance at a professional meeting. To apply for this award, a student should submit an original essay (not related to a school assignment) to vgordon@uab.edu on one of the following topics: 1) How are health sciences libraries managing changes in technology and/or digital content? 2) How can hospital or health sciences librarians collaborate with other health care professionals? 3) How are hospital and/or health sciences libraries providing outreach or marketing of their services? The winner of this award will receive funding for one CE, meeting registration, and a food stipend. Accommodations at the Ross Bridge resort are also available if the award recipient is from outside the Birmingham metropolitan area. See <http://southmed.usouthal.edu/library/alhela/2008alhelastudent.pdf> for more information about applying for this award.

Congratulations to A'Llyn Ettien

Congratulations to last year's Robert Avant Student Award winner, A'Llyn Ettien, for her selection as an official MLA Conference Blogger. A'Llyn joins an illustrious group of bloggers who will be posting reports on this year's events and programs in Chicago. The posts are available at <http://mla08.wetpaint.com>. You can also check out A'Llyn's own blog, [The Creature from the Health Informatics Class](#).

Annual Meeting: Save the Date!

Please join us at the 2008 SC/MLA (Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association) and ALHeLA joint meeting. The meeting will be held in Birmingham, Alabama, October 26 - 30 at the beautiful Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa.

The theme for this year's meeting is "Making the Magic Flow." The program committee has been busy arranging for speakers and as plans are finalized they will be available on the SC/MLA meeting website - <http://www.lhl.uab.edu/scmla2008/>. Electronic registration (cash or credit) will be available at a later date through this website.

The ALHeLA Business Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 30. It will be possible to sign up only for this event, but I hope you will consider attending the entire conference. There will be several Continuing Education courses available. Since this is a joint meeting there will be many presentations and other events you may attend. Please come out and network with your colleagues from Alabama and the other southern states. I look forward to seeing you all there. Please contact me (nwilliam@cchs.ua.edu) with questions or suggestions.

Annual Meeting: Continuing Education Opportunities

This year ALHeLA's annual meeting is being convened jointly with Southern Chapter MLA in Birmingham beginning on October 26th. The inclusion of ALHeLA into the joint meeting means members will have more choice in terms of their CE's this year. The SC/MLA Program Committee has arranged for six (6) courses with a range of topics for broad appeal. All CE's will be held on October 27th, offering both half-day (4 contact hours) and whole day (6-8 contact hours) courses.

This kind of opportunity does not often come to the ALHeLA membership, and it is hoped that as many members as possible can take advantage of this year's offerings. Watch the conference website at <http://www.lhl.uab.edu/scmla2008/> for registration information.

The list of the Continuing Education options this year in Birmingham follows.

Ethical Concerns for Health Science Librarians, taught by Southern Chapter member Priscilla Stephenson, moves beyond rights to privacy, confidentiality and intellectual freedom that already concerns the librarian's every day into ethical concepts and issues specifically relevant to the health science librarian. The course will use a variety of methods to introduce its participants to various codes, including MLA's Code of Ethics for Health Sciences Librarianship, and the codes' applications. Working both in groups and individually, participants will learn the difference between an ethical dilemma and an ethical situation while also being able to apply a decision-making model to the situations to resolve them. This course has been approved for four (4) contact hours.

Annual Meeting: Continuing Education Opportunities Cont.

Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice in a Magnetic World, a course from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), combines the two most significant movements in current nursing - evidence based practice and magnet recognition - into one course. Tailored for health science librarians with a nursing patron base, participants will learn how evidence based practice impacts the nursing workflow and how to apply evidence based knowledge. The instructors will reveal how this practice fits into the fast growing move towards hospitals achieving 'magnet recognition'. This course is currently approved for four (4) contact hours.

Gaining Leadership Skills Without Formally Supervising People, led by Natalie Kay Reed, focuses on leadership goals and how to gain supervisory experience in current career positions. Using the experiences and qualification expectations outlined by the MLA's task force of the Library and Management Section, the course helps participants identify the leadership opportunities in current environments - in and out of the library setting. Participants will create a personal action plan and a timeline to obtain the leadership experience they chose. This course has been approved for four (4) contact hours.

Technology Planning for Health Sciences Librarians, a course from Wallace McLendon, will lead the participants through identifying the emerging technologies that will impact library services while also developing practical tools to prepare for and optimize these technologies. Introducing a planning process through lectures/discussions and demonstrations through model building and manipulation, case study and group activities, participants gain an understanding of how technology impacts library services and activities as well as strategies for integrating technologies into library mission and goals. This course is approved for six (6) contact hours.

Geeks Bearing Gifts: New Technology Trends, a course from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), taught by Dale Prince, will guide participants through the myriad of technology trends affecting libraries. With a 'can-do' focus, the course is a fun, fast-paced and informative introduction to and update on technologies, such as (but not limited to) RSS, spyware, developments in mobile computing, blogs and wikis, social bookmarking, and radio-frequency identification. The course is intended to be an encouraging first step into technology integration, structured to provide an introduction and discussion on the impact of technologies and its affect on library services. Dale will present brief vignettes and demonstrations of the technologies for consideration. This course has been approved for eight (8) contact hours.

Easy to Read Health and Wellness Material for Consumers, a course from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), led by instructor Beth Wescott, is a hands-on introduction to the principles of teaching the adult learner, the elements of effective easy-to-read materials such as design and layout, and their practical applications. The course pays close attention to communication dynamics, guiding the participants towards providing understandable, easy-to-read health information for consumers and how to adapt or add resources for low-literate adults. The course will outline adult coping skills where low literacy is concerned and review the disconnect between the health care providers and health information seekers, the success of 'plain language' initiatives and the importance of text, type, graphics, vocabulary, space and layout for low-literacy audiences. The course also discusses available published materials for low-literacy audiences as well as how to write your own material and/or ways to partner with other advocacy organizations. Participants are asked to bring examples of their efforts to reach this patron group as well as information they need to be written in an easy-to-read manner. This course is approved for four (4) contact hours.

News from Around the State

University of South Alabama Biomedical Library

Library director **Judy Burnham**, along with Dr. Dennis Fell, served as supervisors for a student research project “Mapping the Core Journals of Physical Therapy Literature,” conducted by Melanie Buchanan, Heidi Horchen, and Joel Scherr. This study has been accepted for presentation at the 2008 Physiotherapy Congress of the University of Pretoria Centenary in South Africa.

Assistant Director for Hospital Services **Geneva Bush Staggs** will serve as PI on a grant received by the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library to participate as a pilot site in the 2008 Health Information Literacy Research Project, part of the National Library of Medicine and Medical Library Association’s research into health care provider and administrators’ awareness and understanding of health information literacy and of its value in support of patient care.

As one of nine national hospital-based libraries chosen to participate in this research, USA Biomedical Library will help to develop and test a multi-format health information literacy curriculum to be given to health care providers. Ms. Staggs and Outreach/Information Resources librarian Beverly Rossini will offer the curriculum to USA health care providers with the intent of increasing knowledge of health information literacy issues, increasing patient and provider use of NLM and other consumer resources, and promoting the role of librarians as key providers of health information literacy resources and support.

According to the Institute of Medicine nearly half the adult population in the U.S. has difficulty accessing, understanding, and using health information. To address this problem the Joint Commission calls for hospitals to raise awareness throughout their institutions about the impact low health literacy and limited English proficiency have on patient safety and to train health care providers to respond appropriately to patients with literacy and language needs. Hospital-based librarians are in a unique position to help health care providers and their institutions meet the health information literacy needs of patients and consumers.

The overall goal of the MLA research project is to increase awareness of health care providers’ knowledge of health information literacy issues and the NLM tools and resources for increasing health literacy levels that are available to them and their patients.

Health Information Literacy is the set of abilities needed to: recognize a health information need; identify likely information sources and use them to retrieve relevant information; assess the quality of the information and its applicability to a specific situation; and analyze, understand, and use the information to make good health decisions.

News from Around the State

Health Infonet News

ALHeLA funding helped Kay Hogan Smith and Michael S. Fitts exhibit Health InfoNet at this year's [Alabama Public Health Association Conference](#) in Birmingham.



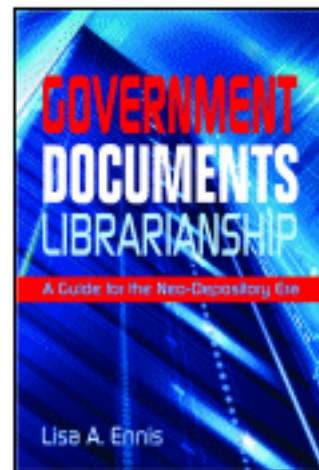
News from Around the State

UAB Lister Hill Library News

Lisa A. Ennis, Systems Librarian, was recently awarded the Alabama Library Association's College, University, and Special Libraries Division's Outstanding Professional Publication Award for 2008 for her "exemplary record of publication and contribution to the profession, especially her book, *Government Documents Librarianship: A Guide for the Neo-Depository Era*."



Jodi Kuehl presented Lisa with a certificate and cash award courtesy of EBSCO.



Membership Dues Reminder

If you haven't sent in your membership dues for this year, please consider renewing! The membership runs from January to December and is just \$15.00 for regular membership and \$5.00 for students. For more information, visit the the [Membership Information](#) page or contact [Martha Verchot](#), the Membership officer, or any of the other ALHeLA officers.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Alabama Health Libraries Association
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, February 8, 2008

Members Present: Lee Vucovich, Valerie Gordon, Lisa Ennis, Nicole Mitchell, Jana Slay, Pat Higginbottom, Nelle Williams, Justin Robertson, Trey Lawley, Paul Mussleman, Lee Clemans-Taylor, Paul C. May, Jason Baker

1. Call To Order & Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes - Paul May

The question was asked whether or not the minutes should be sent to the members of the committee. It was recommended to send the minutes to Ms. Vucovich. Mr. May requested the ability to send the minutes via e-mail.

3. Treasurer's Report - Nicole Mitchell

As of 1/31/08, the balance was \$6205.34. The names have been corrected. There was a question as to which is for the grant. The committee was informed that money has not been received for the grants from NNLM, but that they have already prepaid to some of the groups.

4. Committee Reports

a. Bylaws - Lee Clemans-Taylor

There was an idea to post the minutes of meetings to the ALHeLA website, and the question was asked as to whether or not there were any problems with the idea from any of the directors. Lee Clemans-Taylor, Marian Morris, Nicole Mitchell, Geneva Bush Staggs, and Lisa Russell will work on the director's list. There was a proposed change for a vote, then a change. The question was asked if a Board of Directors was needed.

For the handbook, questions were raised about whether or not to add scholarships, the directory, achievements, and/or minutes to the handbook. It was put forth that perhaps the names of the positions of the board members should be listed in the handbook instead of the names of the individual members. It was suggested to remove mail to distribute for Synapse.

The annual meeting is scheduled for the last week in October. Changes are requested to be finished before the end of August, so that all of them can be put into the handbook. A list of proposed changes will be made and sent out for approval per Ms. Taylor.

b. Continuing Education - Katy Allen (not present)

Nelle Williams led discussion. Question was raised how to incorporate to Southern Chapter to allow ALHeLA to do one course. It was suggested that Ms. Allen work with Mr. Baker on this topic.

c. Directory - Jana Slay

It was proposed to e-mail out all necessary forms to save on postage and mailing supplies. The proposal was accepted.

d. Liaison - Kay Hogan-Smith (Not Present)

Lee Vucovich led discussion. Grant funding was discussed. There should be a total of 5 exhibit

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (Draft) Cont.

grants per year. Since last October, grants for Health InfoNet were given out for: Southern Women's Show, Workshop in Jasper. Paul Moss from the Southern Research Society Confirmed for Birmingham, NNLM presentation, February 21-23 at the Sheridan Civic Center. Brought a preliminary schedule for the conference. The title of the conference is "Health Disparities". Kay Hogan-Smith got \$800 for Health InfoNet water bottles. Ms. Smith applies to NNLM for for ALLA (Alabama Library Association) Annual Meeting. Ms. Smith, Ms. Vucovich, and Ms. Williams will be attending the meeting. Coming up Geneva Bush Staggs will exhibit and Gabe and Kay Smith and Martha will be doing an exhibit for the Chinese New Year.

e. Membership - Martha Verchot (not present)

Nicole Mitchell led discussion. Nothing had come in about this topic. Ms. Vucovich will send Ms. Verchot a reminder to gather information.

f. Synapse - Lisa Ennis and Jason Baker

Ms. Ennis led discussion. Schedule will be published on Synapse 3 times, reflecting 1 prior meeting and 3 future ones, with Winter currently being the past meeting, Spring, Summer, and Fall being the current ones.

Bylaws revisited

Should the committee change the minutes to bylaws? This topic can be approved at the annual meeting.

g. Web Coordinator - Justin Robertson

The domain name was renewed this year for \$28.00. The question was raised as to whether or not to post Library jobs on the site. It was proposed to post a link to the Southern Chapter's site. The committee was informed that a web design is being considered.

h. List Moderator - Paul Mussleman

List was moved from USA to UAB. Sent the list for the officers.

i. Members-at-Large - Valerie Gordon & Trey Lemley

Valerie Gordon led discussion. The award will be named the Robert Avant Student Award. It was decided to leave the decisions on what the topics would be to the members at large, and that there will be 3-5 topics in total. The procedures will be amended and sent to Lee Clemans-Taylor. There was a question as to how many and what awards should be included this year. Only one award will be awarded this year unless Due to the meeting of the Southern Chapter. Registration, accommodations for 3 nights for Per diem for meals will be discussed. Hotel will be paid for only for out of town applicants. The requirements for the awards will be that 1) they have to be an applicant at an Alabama University Library School, or 2) that they have to be a resident of Alabama going to a library school somewhere. There was a question as to what ALHeLA can pay for. It was decided to check with Dr. McCall about SLIS funding travel. Set to Federal mileage rate and set to furthest distance in state to attend the meeting round trip. Discussion was raised about Libraries with limited in state support. No less than above minus what Institutional support exists. Members at large will make decisions about applicants.

5. Old Business

None

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (Draft) Cont.

6. New Business

2008 Combined Southern Chapter/ALHeLA meeting - Nelle Williams & Pat Higginbottom

Recap of meeting information: CE day will be October 27th, the meetings will end October 30th, at the Ross Bridge Resort in Hoover. ALHeLA will have a lunch business meeting and work with CE? (check with Dr. Stephen McCall). Question was raised as to whether or not an exhibit fee had to be paid. Answer was yes, but that the booth might be free, or at least for less. Katy Allen and Jason Baker will work on the CE information.

NLM Disaster Readiness Plan

Jie Li as a representative for Alabama NNCM will be the rural coordinator. By the end of February there should be one person for the state of Alabama. Lee Vucovich will forward the email to the members of the committee. The steps of the process will be 1) apply for funding, 2) ask Jie Li to report to the executive committee, 3) use Synapse, 4) make a blog. It was recommended to add this topic to the agenda for the next meeting, and perhaps to make a committee in regards to the disaster plan.

Communication within the group

Currently there are only physical meetings and the ListServ. It was suggested that someone should look into an inexpensive web meeting format by the meeting scheduled for June. It was recommended to keep the current four meeting format. The next meetings, April, July, and the annual Meeting in October, are all on Fridays.

8. Announcements

USA has hired two new librarians.

Survey presented from the last meeting (handout)

9. Meeting Adjourned 12:30 pm - Nelle Williams, Lisa Ennis.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 1st, 2007
Montgomery, AL

1. Ellen Sayed, Chair called the meeting to order.

2. Check previous minutes

Lee Vucovich - addition to donations on previous minutes

Jana Slay - Change Troy State to Troy

Motion to approve and seconded - Passed

3. Treasurer Report - Sylvia McAphee

Ms. McAphee was unable to attend. Ms. Sayed stated that the treasurer's report would be sent to the Board via e-mail.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Cont.

4. Committee Reports/Discussion

a. Directory - Ms. Slay

b. Liaison - Judy Burnham

Ms. Burnham was unable to attend. Justin Robertson will assist with Go Local at Andalusia. A list will be done for other meetings. Lee Clemans-Taylor, Mr. Robertson, Paul Mussleman, will assist with the list. Mr. Robertson will design bookmark for materials for packages.

c. Membership - Martha Verchot

Ms. Verchot was unable to attend. The list will be given to ADPH. Want to send institutions only. Bylaws are to have an opt-out. A copy of the form will be sent to Mr. Robertson. Ms. Slay - Motion to only distribute institutional information rather than individual information, Ms. Clemans-Taylor seconded. Motion passed.

d. Synapse - Lisa Ennis and Jason Baker

Synapse should be done three times a year. Projected first date August 1st, then every four months thereafter. Try to have done before fall meeting. Check with chair approximately two months prior to release of next issue. Mr. Robertson - Motion - schedule for Synapse should be flexible for summer. Nell Williams seconded. Motion passed. Minutes of meetings should be in newsletter.

e. Bylaws - Lee Clemans-Taylor

Board of directors change - bylaws. Table to Ms. Clemans-Taylor as a question to clarify with only Board. Ms. Slay will handle through e-mail.

f. Web coordinator - Mr. Robertson

Website is in good shape. There is a possibility that it could be redesigned. There will be links added to the site for Job listings.

g. Discussion List - Mr. Robertson and Michael Lindsey

There were some issues with the Discussion List earlier but they are now fixed and it is functional

h. Nominations - Cindy Mitchell

Asked Tracy and Genny to serve on the nomination committee. Both the treasurer and president-elect positions are up. Current president and chairs.

i. Continuing education - Ms. Williams

"It's not the apocalypse" - 5 hrs, Patient Safety Resource Seminar - 4hrs

j. Members at large - Valerie Gordon, Marian Morris, Katy Allen

How many scholarships are able to give? Themes can update? Mr. Lindsey did a listing for limited support.

5. Old Business

ALHeLA Achievement Award - Check with Genny?

6. New Business

Annual Meeting - 2007 - Ms. Vucovich

Wed afternoon - SLIS event, light supper provided

Thurs - CE, Banquet with keynote speaker - Dr. Elizabeth Aversa

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Cont.

Fri - CE, meetings and lunch, collaborations not panel, have collaborations of 3 people, change to morning and afternoon

Kay - Health information, not promotional supplies. How to fund? ALHeLA - 1/5, UAB - 1/5, USA - 1/5, APLS - agreed to 2/5 - \$700 annually total. Put on agenda for meeting to vote.

Get Photo with State Health Officer for Synapse report from Kay.

7. Adjourn

From the Editors

Friends!

I've had a wonderful time editing *Synapse* but the time has come to move on to other things. Not to worry though! Jason is staying on as editor and has solicited the aid of the very capable Paul Mussleman to carry on with the newsletter. In the meantime keep an eye on *Hypothesis: The Journal of the Research Section of MLA* for exciting developments!

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve and hope to see you all at the conference in Birmingham this October!

Sincerely,

Lisa

