

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

All over Alabama it's back to school time. Kids from kindergarten and up have already returned to school. The school buses are running and the university students start next week. Even if it doesn't feel like fall in Alabama, the fall schedules are upon us and plans are being made. It's time for health sciences librarians to go "back to school" too. In only four short weeks, it will be time for the annual ALHeLA meeting in Mobile. If you haven't already registered, please do so. As usual, we have a great lineup of continuing education and networking opportunities. Our theme this year is ***Celebrate Health Science Libraries: Managing Change!*** Trey Lemley, our Program Chair/Pres. Elect has done a wonderful job in planning a great meeting for us. Our keynote speaker will be Anne Glenzer from the University of South Alabama. The topic of her speech will be "Under Construction - a Guide to Coping with Change." More details about the meeting are provided within this issue of Synapse and online at <http://southmed.usouthal.edu/library/alhela/2009meeting/2009meetinginfo.html>.



Another event will be taking place right before the ALHeLA annual meeting in Mobile. Jie Li (USA) applied for and received funding to host a Planning Meeting for the Alabama Health Libraries Disaster Preparedness and Service Continuity Plan. It has been approved for funding in the amount of \$6,000 from the NN/LM SE/A. More information about that meeting is included in this issue. In addition to Jie, Kay Hogan Smith, Beverly Rossini, Judy

Burnham, and Geneva Staggs all applied for and received grants this year. Most of the funding went towards exhibits at various meetings and events across the state; such as the Alabama Gerontological Society meeting and the 2009 Health Action Summit. Thanks to everyone that participated in these outreach activities.

I'm also happy to report that our last board meeting was successfully held virtually, at least for the majority. A few of us met in Montgomery and many others joined in from across the state. We used voxli.com for the audio portion of our meeting and drop.io to share documents, such as committee reports. A big advantage to both of these services is that they are available free of charge. While it is nice to be able to meet in person with other board members, our jobs don't always allow us to get away for an entire day, and then there's always the issue of travel funds, which many are lacking this year. We hope that the use of this technology will allow those of you in small or solo libraries the opportunity to become more involved with ALHeLA and its projects. I'd like to thank Katy Allen, Paul Mussleman, and Andrea Wright for all the time they spent researching this issue and trying different options.

I look forward to seeing you all in Mobile!

Nelle Williams
President



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2009 Annual Meeting Announcement and News

Celebrate Health Science Libraries: Managing Change

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Alabama Health Libraries Association will be held in Mobile, AL, September 16-18, 2009. There will be two exciting CE courses:

- “Grants and Proposal Writing,” taught by Sheila Snow Croft of the NNLM.
- “The Ropes: Planning Instruction for the Adult Learner,” taught by Dale Prince, also of the NNLM.

The Friday speaker this year is Anne Glenzer, a Learning & Development Manager with the University of South Alabama. An excellent presenter, the topic of her speech will be “Under Construction - a Guide to Coping with Change.”

ALHeLA has financial assistance available for this year’s conference for both students and practicing librarians. Read on for information detailing scholarships and financial award opportunities.

The Meeting hotel is the Hampton Inn & Suites Providence Park/Airport. The hotel has set aside a block of rooms for the conference having a special room rate of \$99. To make reservations at the conference rate, contact the hotel directly at (251) 776-5866 by August 28, 2009.

For registration and detailed information, visit the 2009 Annual Meeting link on the ALHeLA webpage at:

<http://southmed.usouthal.edu/library/alhela/2009meeting/2009meetinginfo.html>. For further information, contact Trey Lemley, Conference Chair, at (251) 460-6888 or e-mail: tlemley@bbl.usouthal.edu.

Conference Attendance Funding Opportunities

1) **Robert Avant Student Award:**

The Robert Avant Student Award was instituted to encourage University of Alabama SLIS students to attend the Alabama Health Libraries Association Annual Meeting. The ALHeLA Annual Meeting offers prospective, new, and veteran librarians opportunities to network with fellow health sciences librarians from throughout the state of Alabama.

The Robert Avant Student Award covers the cost of conference fees, one CE course, housing for up to 3 nights for recipient(s) from outside of the Mobile metropolitan area, and a stipend of up to \$100 total for eligible food expenses.

2009 Annual Meeting Announcement and News (cont.)

Rules:

Entrants must be enrolled in the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) at the University of Alabama.

Submit a 2-3 page essay on one of the following topics:

- How are health sciences libraries managing changes in technology and/or digital content?
- How can hospital or health sciences librarians collaborate with other health care professionals?
- How are hospital and/or health sciences libraries providing outreach or marketing of their services?

Essay is to be submitted to the ALHeLA scholarship committee through Inga Moten, Committee Chair, by email to imoten@alasu.edu, or by fax at (334) 229-1074.

Essays must be submitted no later than **September 1, 2009** and applicants will be contacted shortly thereafter.

Essay must not be tied to any school assignment.

Essay will be printed in an issue of Synapse and may be presented in person at the annual business meeting (scheduled during the conference).

For more information about the award, see the Robert Avant Student Award Announcement [here](#) or contact Andrea Wright at awright@bbl.usouthal.edu or 251-461-1424. For more information about ALHeLA or the upcoming ALHeLA Annual Meeting, visit the [ALHeLA website](#).

2) Scholarship for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support:

This scholarship is awarded to health science librarians who are current members of ALHeLA and need financial assistance in order to attend the annual meeting. One or more scholarships may be given and amount of the scholarship will be determined by the Executive Committee and will normally cover actual expenses for conference attendance (inclusive registration fee, CE fees, travel and lodging) not covered by applicant's institution. To see the rest of the scholarship rules and to apply click [here](#). Scholarship applications must be turned in by **September 1, 2009**.

News from Around the State

Meeting for Alabama Health Libraries Disaster Preparedness and Service Continuity

Alabama Health Libraries Association's Express Planning and Assessment Award proposal for a Planning Meeting for Alabama Health Libraries Disaster Preparedness and Service Continuity Plan has been approved for funding in the amount of \$6,000 from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) Southeastern/Atlantic Region (SE/A).

ALHeLA will have a meeting to discuss Alabama Health Libraries Disaster Preparedness and Service Continuity Plan. The purposes of the meeting are to:

1. Increase awareness of the need for disaster preparedness and service continuity plan
2. Identify current institutional disaster preparedness and recovery programs within the state
3. Build awareness of resources available among participants to encourage library disaster preparedness and services continuity plans
4. Discuss on the state-wide disaster preparedness and services continuity plan

The meeting planning committee includes Jie Li, Lee Vucovich, Judy Burnham, Nell Williams, Tracy Powell, and Kay Hogan Smith. Representatives from academic and hospital libraries, as well as representatives who handle hospital information needs will be invited. We also contacted Alabama Hospital Association, Alabama Department of Public Health Center for Emergency Preparedness and Alabama Public Library System for ideas how we may help with hospital information needs and distribute consumer health information to public during an emergency. Out of town meeting participants will be reimbursed for round trip mileage, one night hotel and per diem for two days.

The meeting is planned to be held before the ALHeLA Annual meeting in Mobile on September 15 from 1-5 pm and September 16, from 8-11 am at Hampton Inn Providence Park. Dan Wilson, Coordinator of National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan, and Beth Wescott (who will be monitoring and supporting the project) of NN/LM SE/A will be presenting at the meeting, as well. For more information on the meeting please contact Jie Li at jli@jaguar1.usouthal.edu.

LHL Recieves Express Technology Improvement Award

Congratulations to the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham for its Express Technology Improvement Award from the National Library of Medicine. This award enabled the Library to digitize the Birmingham Medical College collection.

News from Around the State (cont.)

This digital collection showcases the records of the Birmingham Medical College, 1894-1915. The archival collection provides an interesting glimpse of early medical education in the South before and after the seminal Flexner Report of 1910, which marked a watershed transformation in American medical education. These materials housed at University Archives consist of a variety of materials, including photographs, published bulletins, class schedules, matriculation and admission cards, diplomas, commencement programs and invitations, and correspondence.



“1904 circa, Students at Work in the Anatomical Laboratory” from UAB Archives, University of Alabama at Birmingham

The digital collection has been posted online in the UAB institutional repository (see <http://contentdm.mhsl.uab.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2FMEDICAL>) thus providing valuable primary resources for historical researchers worldwide. The Lister Hill Library has graciously given permission for AlabamaMosaic to link to this collection so it will be included in the Alabama history resources searchable via <http://www.alabamamosaic.org/>.

The support by an Express Technology grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern/Atlantic Region, has enabled the Library to inaugurate an ongoing program of Institutional Repository development focused on the history of medicine and healthcare in Alabama and the South.

Send request information about the Birmingham Medical College, 1894-1915, collection, to Elizabeth Lorbeer (lorbeer@uab.edu), Principle Investigator of award.

Burnham to Exhibit

Judy Burnham, Director of the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library, will speak about Web 2.0 tools at the Alabama Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association meeting which takes place in Birmingham, Alabama from August 21 to 22, 2009. This presentation was also given by Ms. Burnham at the national American Physical Therapy Association meeting in Baltimore in June, 2009. Dr. Dennis Fell, Chair of the University of South Alabama Physical Therapy Department was a co-presenter with Ms. Burnham in Baltimore. Lee Vucovich of the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham will assist Ms. Burnham at the Alabama Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association meeting in Birmingham.

News from Around the State (cont.)

Stars and Stripes

USA Biomedical Librarians Andrea Wright, Beverly Rossini, and Judy Burnham provided library instruction this summer for the second year to high school students enrolled in the 2009 STARS (Student Training for Academic Reinforcement in the Sciences) and STRIPES (Special Training to Raise Interest and Prepare for Entry into the Science) programs. These enrichment programs are managed through the University of South Alabama Center for Healthy Communities' Center for Excellence and are funded through a grant from the National Center on Minority and Health Disparities. Lee Ann Kendrick, Project Manager at Center for Healthy Communities, facilitated the program; Dr. Hattie Myles, Assistant Dean for Educational Enrichment in the Department of Special Programs at the USA College of Medicine served as director.



USA Center for Healthy Communities STARS student records a public service announcement about dating violence at Cumulus Broadcasting in Mobile after participating in library instruction at USA Baugh Biomedical Library during the summer of 2009.

Thirty students from Mobile County Public School successfully competed for an opportunity to participate in this year's program. These students demonstrate an interest in math and science and a desire to become health care providers.

The 2009 curriculum focused on researching diseases and chronic conditions prevalent in family health histories and presenting the research to peers. Students also used their newfound research skills to write public service announcements about dating violence and teen obesity for Cumulus Broadcast Systems in Mobile, Alabama. Two students later recorded the announcements at the radio station. The PSAs will air on local Mobile radio stations (WDLT 98.3 and OK Gospel 900) during the remainder of 2009 as part of a health awareness campaign initiated by the University of South Alabama Center for Healthy Communities.

Congratulations on Tenure Appointment

Clista Clanton, Education Coordinator at the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library, has received tenure and has been promoted to Associate Librarian.



News from Around the State (cont.)

DREAM

The USA Baugh Biomedical Library served as a resource for the College of Medicine's DREAM (Diversity, Recruitment, and Education for Admission into Medicine) program. The second and third year college students have a DREAM of becoming a physician and worked in an intense and rigorous summer preparatory curriculum in the basic medical sciences and the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The Library provided a tour of the facility, instruction in and access to library resources, and provided study/computer lab space for the twenty students participating in the 2009 program.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes
Alabama Health Libraries Association
Executive Board Meeting
Friday, April 24th, 2009
Montgomery, AL

Present: Trey Lemley, Paul Mussleman, Robert Britton, Inga Moten, Andrea Wright, Nicole Mitchell, Lisa Ennis, Nelle Williams (President), Jason Baker, Jana Slay, Erica Evans.

Call to Order—Nelle Williams 10:35am

Introduction—round table

The minutes from last annual business meeting in October 2009 have been lost. Marian Morris had taken the minutes for that meeting and had them saved on her computer at work. Last December she, along with many other employees, was laid off from her position at Princeton Baptist Medical Center, and was unable to get the ALHeLA minutes from her work computer before leaving.

Treasurer's Report: Nicole Mitchell

The balance on page 3 of the Treasurer's Report as of Monday April 20, 2009 is \$4800.00. She expects to pay out 2 grants with this balance before being reimbursed. Beverly Rossini and Geneva Stacks have obtained NLM grants, and ALHeLA will pay these out and be reimbursed with the NLM funds when they arrive.

The members discussed the grant activity and noted that the ALHeLA membership has been actively and successfully applying for grants this year.

(Troy University's Rose Parks Library staff informed our group that Skype is blocked on the campus network but it can be unblocked for our meeting with some advanced notice. Jana Slay can contact them before hand on our behalf to make these kinds of arrangements.)

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (cont.)

The members discussed that certain agencies pay for membership in order to receive the newsletter which isn't necessary since it is publicly available online. Contacting these institutions to inform them that membership is not their only option has proven difficult.

There has been a low number of membership renewals to date. The present membership doubled checked their status. It was noted that ALHeLA accepts cash and checks for membership dues.

Bylaws: Lee Clemans-Taylor is not in attendance, but reported earlier that there are no Bylaws updates. She is still looking at re-filing bylaws. The best course for ALHeLA is still unclear. Having established a procedure earlier last Fall, Ms. Clemans-Taylor still needs to contact original founding members before determining the organization's best course forward. The executive membership is in agreement that something must be done with some urgency. We have money in the treasury to re-file if need be. An amendment might be easier than reincorporating. The executive membership needs to re-visit this issue and offer guidance to the ByLaws Committee members.

Directory: Jana Slay reported that 2009 is the off year for the directory. Members should contact Jana if extra copies are needed.

Liaison: Kay Hogan Smith submitted a report in her absence. The Alabama GoLocal web stats have decreased following a larger, broader pattern. The NLM cannot account for the decreased web traffic.

Ms. Hogan Smith in her report proposed that ALHeLA purchase some exhibit panels with the remaining grant money.

The "Our Bodies" exhibit in Mobile has ended and while no confirmed visit statistics are available, members who served as attendants at the exhibition reported observing very decent attendance and suggested that its location might have been a deterrent for more visits.

Membership: Erica Evans reported that 10 membership dues have been collected for 2009. She will use the ALHeLA listserve and send individual notices to people in an attempt to remind people to renew.

Synapse: Paul Mussleman did not know the last meeting minutes were lost and had been waiting on them before publishing the next issue of Synapse. Andrea Wright will submit more information about the USA Facebook project as well as other of their web 2.0 projects. He reiterated that there are now 3 issues a year, and the current issue is the last one until the fall.

Web Coordinator: Andrea Wright has been introduced to the web maintenance process established by Justin Robertson and will assume that responsibility for ALHeLA. Updates can be sent to both Andrea Wright and Justin Robertson. The ALHeLA job listings link to the SCMLA website.

Listserve: The listserve was updated and handed to Lisa Ennis to moderate. The website should be updated to reflect Lisa Ennis as the listserve coordinator instead of Paul Mussleman. Currently, there are some spam problems which Lisa is already sorting through.

Continuing Education: Robert Britton has narrowed the selection to 5 or 6 courses and will need to further narrow to 2-3 courses for the conference. He is considering having one full day and 2 half days courses. Some course options are *Easy to Read Health*, *Intro to EBP*, *Nursing on the Net* (Tina Yowtse), *Duct Tape My Warts*, *Grants and Proposal Writing Class*, *Docline*. Robert can send the group an electronic survey with Andrea's help. All the NN/LM courses are free, even travel costs. Neither can the NN/LM instructors accept honorariums. ALHeLA can give them a gift though. There was some discussion as to the timeline

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (cont.)

for confirmation. Jason Baker offered that at the very latest Robert should give the instructors at least a month before the meeting in order for them to make their travel arrangements. Robert should contact the instructors as soon as possible for availability and then again at least a month before to confirm and to remind them to make travel arrangements. He further suggested creating a calendar to help workflow this process for future members. SC/MLA CE committee calendar is online and can be used as a model. The executive membership thinks the *Grants and Proposal Writing Class* seems to be a top contender. Survey will confirm this.

Members-At-Large: Inga Moten, Andrea Wright and Margaret Alexander (not present). The executive members clarified to the current Members-At-Large the duties. One responsibility is to award the Robert Avant Student award and the Scholarship for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support award. Student award gives 1 CE course, conference registration and hotel accommodation but no travel. The ALHeLA Manual has a rough timeline for these Members-At-Large to follow.

Old Business: virtual board meetings

Katy Allen, Paul Mussleman and Andrea Wright reported that USA has broadband issues right now. There are new fiber optics, but there is also the added stress of the new Voice over IP phone system. Testing suggested that the new fiber optics have not helped matters for USA. Katy Allen, Paul Mussleman and Andrea Wright will test again, including other web services, and they will report back to the group.

New Business:

Annual Meeting 2009: Trey Lemley reports the annual meeting will be in Mobile. He asked for input from the executive members about the dates. The executive members suggested before October 1st, but the last part of September might be best. This was the general consensus considering the SC/MLA annual conference is late October this year. Trey Lemley presented several venues he was considering and asked for input from the group. USA facilities can be reserved; some require paid reservations; Baytreat, which is on the bay but the meeting facilities might not be technically good enough, for a day session, or the Battle House, recently refurnished and offering a \$129/night group rate. Trey also asked for input on selecting Stillwater as a possible venue. The group discussed these options and offered suggestions to Trey.

Nicole will send Trey the budget for the Tuscaloosa conference to give him some idea of the financial parameters in which to plan this conference.

Trey reported that he is considering having a Wednesday - Friday meeting.

Trey will explore the Battle House as the meeting's venue contingent upon available funds. He will also approach vendors for possible contributions.

Announcements:

Jana Slay has a new cataloger with 28 years of experience starting at the end of June.

USA had a book drive that raised over 900 book donations for children and women.

Alabama State University library will be in a temporary location for at least 2 years during construction of a new library building. .

USA hospital library moved; the Health Information Resource Center now on the 3rd floor.

Disaster preparedness brochures are available

Meeting Adjourned at 11:45am.

From the Editors

Good Day ALHeLA,

Once again Paul and I enjoyed editing this issue of Synapse. Keep the stuff coming, please feel free to send items and ideas as they occur, don't wait for the call. We hope to see you all in Mobile. We hope the Fall finds you prepared for anything that you know you will be meeting. Here at Lister Hill we are all gearing up for the flood of fall orientation sessions, new students registering at the library, and other educational sessions. We are also preparing posters and sessions for Southern Chapter.

Enjoy,

Jason and Paul

Remember to Visit: <http://southmed.usouthal.edu/library/alhela/2009meeting/2009meetinginfo.html>

What would you like to see in your Synapse!?

We want to hear your suggestions!

Email Paul at jpmussleman@uab.edu

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