

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

We are fresh from wrapping up the 2012 ALHeLA Annual Meeting at the Levi Watkins Learning Center on the campus of Alabama State University (ASU) in Montgomery. The Annual Business Meeting was a success with the focus on realigning the organization and activities to reflect the objectives. A panel discussion, "Best Practices for Promoting Library Services and Resources," with Cedric Davis (ASU), Valerie S. Gordon and Patricia Higginbottom (UAB), and Geneva Bush Staggs (USA) with Andrea Wright as moderator provided insight to current and suggested practices and perspectives that libraries could utilize. ASU Archivist, Dr. Howard O. Robinson, presented a history of events of the modern civil rights movement in Montgomery with vignettes as the movement encompassed ASU.

Newly elected Executive Committee members for 2013 are:

Michael Fitts, President
Elizabeth Laera, Vice President/President Elect
James Gilbreath, Secretary
Sybil Bullock, Member-At-Large
Adelia Grabowsky, Member-At-Large
Monica Hodge, Member-At-Large
Margaret Alexander, Membership Chair
Susan Smith, Continuing Education Chair



In addition to the officers for 2013, ALHeLA has a newly elected Board of Directors. We welcome all of our new volunteers to the Board; Lee Clemons-Taylor, Nelle Williams, Kay Hogan Smith, Sylvia McAphee, Susan Smith, Michael Fitts and myself.

ALHeLA continues to uphold its objective of sharing health science information resources and services in Alabama with the member participation in the staffing of Health InfoNet exhibits around the state.

I acknowledge two of our more notable librarians, Geneva Bush Staggs and Judy Burnham; Geneva as Southern Conference Medical Library Association Hospital Librarian of the Year and Judy as an inspiring librarian featured in the [November 2012 issue](#) of *SE/A Currents* [ed. note: see articles below for more info on Geneva and Judy.]

ALHeLA moves forward with planning of the 2013 Annual Meeting as a joint session with the Georgia Health Library Association at Pine Mountain, GA. Save the dates, March 7-9 and make plans to attend.

Inga Moten, President
Health Sciences Librarian
Levi Watkins Learning Center
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Alabama Health Libraries Association Executive Committee 2013

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ALHeLA Annual Business Meeting

November 2, 2012

Levi Watkins Learning Center, ASU

The Business Meeting was opened by Inga Moten, President, at 9:00am

Review and Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the November 3rd, 2011 meeting were approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report – Errica Evans

A printed version of the treasurer's report was provided to all attendees. The balance as of 11/2/12 was \$7,785.55. As of 11/2/12, \$435 was received in the form of dues and \$3,152 had been awarded from exhibit awards from the NNLM and Lister Hill. \$3,000 from the NNLM Exhibit Awards remains outstanding. Projected revenue for the year was \$6,587.50.

Reports:

Bylaws/Handbook – Lee Clemans-Taylor, Nelle Williams

- To be in accordance with the old bylaws, we were required to elect a new ALHeLA Board of Directors. Nominations were taken from the floor and attendees voted. Results were assessed and announced at a later point in the meeting. The new bylaws will be voted on at the next business meeting.

Continuing Education – Michael Fitts

- CE possibilities were discussed including courses on bibliometrics and systematic reviews. The new chair of the CE committee will coordinate with the Georgia Health Sciences Library Association.

Disaster Preparedness – Jie Li (absent)

- Discussion: There were 3 disaster preparedness classes with PJ Grier from the NNLM in 2012 which were well attended. Lister Hill and USA also signed memorandums of understanding in 2012 in order to act as backup collections for one another in the event of a disaster

Membership – Errica Evans

- Membership was discussed in the treasurer's report

SYNAPSE – Robert Britton, (absent), Emma O'Hagan

- SYNAPSE is to be published November 15, 2012

Board Members at Large – Elizabeth Laera, Susan Smith, Andrea Wright

- There were no scholarship applicants for the meeting. The members at large arranged the panel for the meeting

ALHeLA Annual Business Meeting

November 2, 2012 (cont.)

Web Coordinator – Justin Roberts, Andrea Wright

- Nothing to report

Listserv – Lisa Ennis (absent)

- There were some recent issues which are now resolved. There were no other questions or complaints

Liaison – Kay Hogan Smith

- ALHeLA (or UAB or USA on behalf of ALHeLA) exhibited at 10 meetings or events thus far in 2012. Some were funded through NNLM. An effort was made to apply not only through ALHeLA but also through Lister Hill and USA in order to increase the number of available awards.
- Kay continues to maintain the Google Docs spreadsheet with exhibit opportunities and meetings throughout Alabama.
- A new Area Health Education Center for Alabama is in the works, based at UAB. Kay will suggest they include a medical librarian.
- Postcards and other exhibit materials are available.

Old Business

Report on the 2012 Annual Meeting:

- There were 23 registrants for the 2012 meeting. The only costs were for breakfast. There was no charge for the meeting room at ASU.

New Business

Nominating Committee – Sylvia

Nominations were taken prior to the meeting for most positions on the ALHeLA executive board. The slate of nominees for 2013 was presented:

- President – Michael Fitts
- Vice President/President Elect – Elizabeth Laera
- Secretary – James Gilbreath
- Member-at-Large – Sybil Bullock
- Member –at-Large – Adelia Grabowsky
- Member-at-Large – Monica Hodge
- Continuing Education – Susan Smith
- Membership Chair – Margaret Alexander

The slate of nominees was unanimously accepted

ALHeLA Annual Business Meeting

November 2, 2012 (cont.)

Announcements

Michael Fitts reported progress made in planning for a joint meeting with the Georgia Health Science Library Association to take place sometime next spring. Possibilities and options were discussed.

Returned to Bylaws Discussion and Election of the Board of Directors

Nelle announced the results of the election. The 2013 board will be:

- Inga Moten
- Lee Clemons-Taylor
- Nelle Williams
- Kay Hogan Smith
- Sylvia McAphee
- Susan Smith
- Michael Fitts

Nelle explained the purpose and responsibilities of the Board of Directors.

Adjournment

ALHeLA Liaison Committee Report

2012

By Kay Hogan Smith, MLS, MPH; Associate Professor/Community Services Librarian, UAB Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences

This year, at my request, a number of exhibitors applied for NNLM exhibit award funding under their institutional umbrella rather than ALHeLA's where appropriate. This allowed us to exhibit at more events since NNLM limits awards to 5 per institution. I also asked for collaboration both in terms of staffing the exhibits and in one case, joint award application from separate entities for the same event. I reminded folks about handing out the ALHeLA/InfoNet informational postcards (we still have quite a few left for exhibits.) Also, I asked that when applying for exhibit award funding, members include some funding to replenish the InfoNet water bottle supply, as we go through those pretty quickly.

In every instance my terrific ALHeLA colleagues responded positively to my requests – and the executive committee even approved a special purchase of InfoNet water bottles from ALHeLA funds (Thank you!) The following exhibits were staffed by ALHeLA members around the state in 2011/2012. (Note: not all received exhibit award funding.)

Exhibits:

- Ala. Inst. For Deaf & Blind Senior Health Fairs in Jacksonville, Centre, Gadsden, Oxford and Weaver (InfoNet)
 - UAB Lister Hill Library Health Fest (InfoNet)
 - Ala. State Nurses Assoc. Clinical Education Sessions (UAB)
 - Comprehensive Nursing Conference (UAB)
 - ALLA (ALHeLA)
 - Ala. Acad. of Family Practitioners (USA)
 - Ala. Chapter of American Occupational Therapy Assoc. (ALHeLA)
 - Ala. Pharmacy Assoc. (USA)
 - Ala. Public Health Assoc. (UAB)
 - Fiesta 2012 (ALHeLA)
- ALHeLA received funding awards from NNLM (mostly exhibit awards) amounting to \$4152.50. This is less than the \$7000+ we received last year in exhibit award funding. That decrease is a reflection of my request to members to apply under individual institutions where appropriate, as noted earlier in this report.
- Other exhibit awards still in progress include the 2012 Alabama Academy of Family Practitioners (UAB) and the 2013 ALLA meeting in Montgomery (ALHeLA, not yet funded).
- Maintenance of Google Docs spreadsheet of Alabama health professional associations, contacts and annual meetings (thank you USA!)

ALHeLA Liaison Committee Report

2012 (cont.)

I attempted to make contact with someone at the state chapter of Health Occupations Students of America to ask them about collaborating on their outreach to high school students regarding health careers. However, after repeated attempts to email the contact listed on their web site (they did not include a phone number) and receiving no response, I gave up. I have also asked that we pay attention to the progress on the efforts to begin an Area Health Education Center here in Alabama, especially regarding their potential need for a librarian to serve this initiative.

Thanks to all for your ongoing contributions to marketing medical libraries and ALHeLA throughout the state!

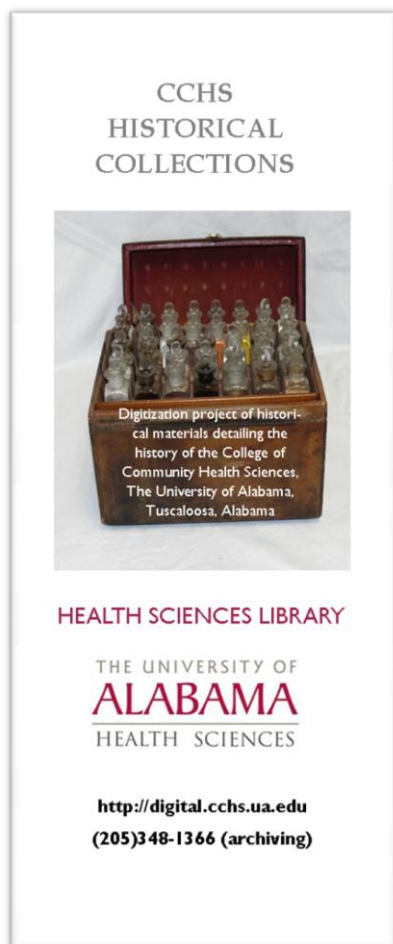
Respectfully submitted,

Kay H. Smith
ALHeLA Liaison Committee Chair

News from the University of Alabama Health Sciences Library

The Health Sciences Library at the University of Alabama Is Digitizing Historical Materials

By Suhua Fan, Technical Services & System Librarian, Health Sciences Library, College of Community Health Sciences, University of Alabama



**Bookmark of the CCHS
Historical Collections**

We have started a new digitization project here in the Health Sciences Library at the College of Community Health Sciences (CCHS), University of Alabama since this spring semester. The project aims at digitizing the CCHS historical materials and institutional archives, and making them available online for the UA community.

Since CCHS first began, many historical documents and items have been produced by the college or received as donations. These historical materials include documents about the college, personal medical equipment, manuscripts, inventions, and creative works from current and former faculty members, alumni, and local physicians. These include doctors' surgeon kits, diaries, drawings, photos, video clips, music, correspondences, office memos, books, and yearbooks. These items have been saved in various departments and areas around the college, but there is currently no established collection. Now the Health Sciences Library is excited to start the digitization project to make a difference. We will establish a digital library for the history of the CCHS as well as collect and store these historical items in an organized manner in the CCHS building.

In addition, we are collaborating with the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alabama. We offer internship and volunteer opportunities for SLIS students who are interested in archiving and digital libraries to gain hands-on experience. We are glad to learn that one of the students who volunteered in the project this past semester thought she learned a lot and had fun working on digitization of the collection.

On our CCHS 40th Anniversary on April 20-21, we had a mini exhibit to showcase the historical collection we were digitizing as a sweet surprise to our guests during the celebration. It was encouraging to receive all the positive feedback from our alumni and community members. The project is funded by one of our generous donors. It will be our ongoing effort to preserve archives and collections that represent the history of the college. This project will increase the accessibility of our collection, which is unique to the College of Community Health Sciences and our community. Our alumni, medical students, residents, and faculty, as well as other interested individuals, will have easy access to these materials.

News from the University of South Alabama

Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library

Judy F. Burnham Recognized for Her Work Inspiring Others

As mentioned above, Judy was featured in the November edition of the *Newsletter of the NN/LM Southeastern/Atlantic Region*. In the article Judy discusses what first led her to the field of librarianship, and also the factors that have made her so passionate about library outreach and helping others. She also discusses the challenges, as well as the rewards, of providing outreach in the community, the benefits of NN/LM SE/A, and advice for those seeking health outreach in their own communities. Read the full article here: [November 2012 issue](#)

Geneva Staggs Receives Prestigious Award

Geneva Staggs, the Biomedical Library's Assistant Director for Hospital Services, has been awarded the Hospital Librarian of the Year award by the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association. In the announcement email to the association, Jennifer A. Lyon, head of the committee, said

Geneva has served with distinction at USAMC since 1979 including coordinating the move of the library into a new facility in 2009. She is well-respected by her library colleagues and by medical center personnel, including both working physicians and hospital administration. She has taken the lead in developing new consumer health programs and has given service on ten USAMC hospital committees, as well as multiple SCMLA, MLA, and Alabama library association committees. The Hospital Libraries Committee is very proud to select to her for this year's award.

We are proud of Geneva and thankful for her contributions to the library, the university, and patient care.

Read more about Genny's award [here](#).



photo credit: [Med School Watercooler](#)

News from the University of South Alabama

Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library (cont.)

Biomedical Library Wins Distinguished Library Award

The Biomedical Library was awarded the Distinguished Library Award from the Consortium of Southern Biomedical Libraries (CONBLS) for participation in Our Neighborhood Healthcare Clinic, a nurse-managed clinic that provides health and wellness services to patients by collaborating with different community agencies. Funded by a HRSA grant and run by the University of South Alabama's College of Nursing, wellness clinics have been established in two community agencies serving traditionally underserved populations: 15 Place, a day shelter for homeless people, and the Dumas Wesley Community Center, an urban community center with programs for senior citizens and formerly homeless women and their children.

In 2010, Clista Clanton applied for and received an express outreach award from the Southeast Atlantic Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. With the intent of promoting clearer communication between health professionals and patients at the nurse-managed clinics at 15 Place and Dumas Wesley, she works as an embedded librarian for 4 hours each week at both sites. She purchased netbooks and printers for each location in order to provide consumer health information and education at the point of care, to promote health literacy and evidence-based practice, and to track patient data. Additionally, she teaches quarterly computer literacy classes for the new residents of the Sybil Smith Family Village, a residency program for formerly homeless women and their children that is part of the Dumas Wesley Community Center. Another librarian, Andrea Wright, volunteers weekly in the computer lab at the Sybil Smith Family Village to keep the software up-to-date and the computers running. She is also available for computer or research help. In addition



Clista Clanton, assistant librarian at the USA Biomedical Library, shown at 15 Place. *Photo courtesy: USA College of Medicine Public Relations*

to helping with research for homework, she has helped people fix their own computers and mobile devices, set up Facebook pages, fill out on-line applications, and learn basic computer skills.

Clista has continued to work at the clinics after the award period ended. The work at 15 Place is now serving as a pilot for inter-professional team collaboration project. Physician assistants, emergency medicine technicians, and social work students are currently rotating through the clinic, with physical therapy students joining soon. With the goal of building therapeutic relationships by using motivational interviewing techniques, student teams are led by the nurse manager and the librarian. Additionally, the nurse manager and the librarian are currently conducting a qualitative research study on homeless people's experiences with healthcare providers.

The collaborative efforts between the nurse managers of the clinics and a Biomedical Library librarian at 15 Place and Dumas Wesley have resulted in presentations at the national, regional, and state levels.

News from the Princeton Baptist Medical Center McMahon-Sibley Medical Library

by Elizabeth Laera, MLIS

The past year has been a time of exciting changes and growth at the McMahon-Sibley Medical Library. After much discussion and research, the hospital library at Princeton Baptist Medical Center has decided to expand into the clinical realm. Twice a week, I join the newly formed hospitalist team in table rounds. The goals are to answer quick clinical questions, and to make note of topics and questions that need further research using an iPad. Rounds typically last between thirty minutes and an hour and fifteen to twenty patients are discussed.

The hospitalist team is comprised of one attending, one upper level internal medicine resident, two IM or transitional year interns, and a pharmacist. This rotation began with the first month of the new academic year and seeks to provide residents who are interested in the rapidly growing field of hospital medicine a training ground. The rotation is unique in that it not only focuses on teaching medical skills and patient care, but also on learning *how* to be a hospitalist. Topics covered include politics in the hospital, billing and insurance issues, Joint Commission requirements and core measures, ethics, and caring for difficult patients and families. I have been able to further this by providing literature and news articles on various aspects of business in medicine. I also keep a copy of the Joint Commission Core Measures in the library for residents to familiarize themselves with.

I occasionally join the team on the floor for bedside rounds and have been able to answer many point-of-care questions; however, I have found that I am more useful and use my time more efficiently during table rounds. Participating in bedside rounds has been a wonderful learning opportunity. I get to see how the physicians operate in their field and how many of the things I research are put into practice. This has shaped how literature searches are conducted and the way I seek to answer clinical questions.

By participating in the clinical side I am not only assisting my team, I am also marketing the library to the hospital at large. I have seen a dramatic increase in library traffic since June and have had physicians stop me both in the halls and in the physicians' lounge to request articles or a literature search. This experience has opened up new possibilities and opportunities for marketing the library.

This fall has also seen the introduction of a new case-based learning style of conference. I attend these monthly conferences armed with my trusty iPad to answer questions and make notes on any concepts that need further research. As I do with rounds, I return to my office, find articles or helpful resources to answer the questions, and then distribute it to the faculty and residents via email.

The rest of this calendar year has me looking to expand awareness of library services to Baptist Health System's three other hospitals by attending annual medical staff meetings and office managers meetings. This is completely new for the library but I am very excited to be able to widen our reach and promote our resources to physicians at other hospitals. I am also in the final stages of preparing a library user survey so I can better serve users and make changes as we head into 2013.

News from around the State

Alabama Health Literacy Coalition Forming

By Kay Hogan Smith, MLS, MPH; Associate Professor/Community Services Librarian, UAB Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences

Those of us concerned about the issue of health literacy in the U.S. and here in Alabama will have a new alliance forming to address the problem. The Alabama Health Literacy Coalition is modeled on similar organizations developed in other states around the country. (See <http://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/StateData/index.html> for a list of these organizations.) Its purpose is generally to communicate the importance of health literacy in promoting optimal health and to encourage collaborative efforts to address the issue. Current partners include UAB medical librarians and Health InfoNet of Alabama, the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, and the Literacy Council. They are conducting an initial organizational planning meeting in Birmingham at the [UAB Edge of Chaos](#) in the Lister Hill Library on Nov. 15 at 3 p.m. All interested individuals or group representatives are welcome to attend! (Remote meeting attendance by Google Hangout is available if needed, contact Gabe Rios at grios@uab.edu or 205-934-5460.) Contact Kay Hogan Smith at khogan@uab.edu or 205-934-2208 for more information about the Coalition.

From the Editors

Thanks once again to all who submitted contributions for this issue of *Synapse*. As always, you may send in your news and announcements as they happen and while they are fresh on your mind. We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving, a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

-Robert Britton and Emma O'Hagan