

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

As I'm writing this, Alabama is going through another bout of bad weather. Yes, it's typical Alabama spring weather, but we're getting tired of herding everybody out of the library to the back hall. Even the patients have to come down to the ground level floor and we're all squeezed together like sardines. Today, the tornado warning lasted 45 minutes. Just enough time for everyone to be restless and grouchy, but there are some bright spots. The little ones can be a lot of fun (It's definitely in our best interests to keep them happy). There's also a good bit of joking around with both co-workers and patients. While our storms are certainly not as bad as the recession, it does make me think that while the recession is lasting much longer than our bad weather, there will be better financial weather eventually. It does sound a bit corny, but at least I didn't say "Behind every cloud there's a silver lining"!



The ALHeLA Executive Committee did finally get to meet on April 24. I'd like to thank the Troy University - Montgomery Library for allowing us to have our meeting in their conference room and many thanks to Jana Slay for making the arrangements. I enjoyed seeing both new and familiar faces. Our meeting was not a virtual one, but we have not given up on making that happen. Many thanks to Katy Allen, Paul Mussleman, and Andrea Wright for experimenting with various resources that we hope will allow us to meet virtually.

This particular issue of Synapse should contain the minutes from the ALHeLA Business Meeting, which was held in October at the Ross Bridge Resort. Due to some recession-related issues, those minutes are unavailable and we'll move forward without them. If you remember anything from that meeting, please let me or Katy Allen know. If we receive enough information we may be able to at least provide some notes for that meeting.

Trey Lemley, our Vice-President/President-Elect, is busy making plans for our 2009 meeting. We don't have an exact date yet, but we're planning on late September and the meeting will be held in the Mobile area. We'll let all ALHeLA members know when the plans are more finalized. Also, please remember to pay your membership dues. It will cost you less to attend the meeting, you'll get to spend time with a great group of people, and it's only \$15.00. The membership form is available on the ALHeLA website.

I hope everyone has a great summer!

Nelle Williams

Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries."

- Anne Herbert, *The Whole Earth Catalog.*



Alabama Health Libraries Association 2009 Executive Committee

OFFICERS

President

Nelle Williams
University of Alabama
Health Sciences Library
Tuscaloosa, AL
(205) 348-1364
nwilliam@cchs.ua.edu

Past President

Lee Vucovich
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Lister Hill Library of the Health
Sciences
Birmingham, AL
(205) 934-2231
lvucovi@uab.edu

Vice-president/President-elect

Trey Lemley
University of South Alabama
Baugh Biomedical Library
Mobile, AL
(251) 460-7045
tlemley@bbl.usouthal.edu

Secretary

Katy Allen
University of Alabama
Health Sciences Library
Tuscaloosa, AL
(205) 348-1364
kallen@cchs.ua.edu

Treasurer

Nicole Mitchell
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Lister Hill Library of the Health
Sciences
Birmingham, AL
(205) 934-2230
anmitch@uab.edu

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Margaret Alexander
Veterinary Medical Librarian
Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Library
Tuskegee, AL
(334) 727-8780
dealex@tuskegee.edu

Inga Moten
Alabama State University
Levi Watkins Learning Center
Montgomery, AL
(334) 229-1074
imoten@alasu.edu

Andrea Wright
University of South Alabama
Baugh Biomedical Library
Mobile, AL
(251) 461-1424
awright@bbl.usouthal.edu

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bylaws/Handbook

Lee Clemans-Taylor
J. Ellis Sparks Library
UAB School of Medicine--Huntsville
Regional Campus
Huntsville, AL
(256) 551-4405
blct@uab.edu

Continuing Education

Robert Britton
University of South Alabama
Baugh Biomedical Library
Mobile, AL
(251) 460-6894
rbritton@bbl.usouthal.edu

Directory

Jana Slay
Troy University Library
Troy, AL 36082
(334) 370-3258
jslay@troy.edu

Liaison

Kay Hogan Smith
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Lister Hill Library of the Health
Sciences
Birmingham, AL
(205) 934-6322
khogan@uab.edu

Membership

Errica Evans
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Lister Hill Library of the Health
Sciences
Birmingham, AL
(205) 934-3469
Evans@uab.edu

Synapse Co-Editors

Jason Blaine Baker
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Lister Hill Library of the Health
Sciences
Birmingham, AL
(205) 934-2230
jbb42@uab.edu

Paul Mussleman
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Lister Hill Library of the Health
Sciences
Birmingham, AL
(205) 934-2230
jpmussleman@uab.edu

Web Coordinators

Justin Robertson
University of South Alabama
Baugh Biomedical Library
Mobile, AL
(251) 460-7045
jroberts@bbl.usouthal.edu

Andrea Wright
University of South Alabama
Baugh Biomedical Library
Mobile, AL
(251) 461-1424
awright@bbl.usouthal.edu

List Moderators

Lisa Ennis
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Lister Hill Library of the Health
Sciences
Birmingham, AL
(205) 934-3545
lennis@uab.edu

News from Around the State

USA Biomedical Library Cooks for First Ever USA College of Medicine Gumbo/Chili Showdown

USA Biomedical Library team Jagbrarians (Jie Lie, Andrea Wright, Robert Britton, Geneva Staggs, Judy Burnham, Robbie Runderson, Donna Ladnier, Marian Lee, Fletch Bowling, and Wynde Griffith) cooked and served homemade chili for the USA College of Medicine Gumbo/Chili Showdown on February 28, 2009. The event attracted 42 teams including 7 student teams and 35 teams from school departments and local businesses. Each team paid a registration fee of \$125 to cook either a pot of gumbo or chili.

Tickets to the event were \$5 each with all proceeds benefitting the Regan Robinson Young Scholarship Fund. The fund was established in 2007 in honor of Young who died of colon cancer. Young was diagnosed in August 2003 during her second year of medical school. She had surgery in December 2003 and took a leave of absence from her studies until Fall 2004.

This year's showdown was completely organized and run by the COM students. Their initial goal was to rally the USA and Mobile medical community to raise \$2,000 for the scholarship fund. The community's support exceeded their expectations, and the event and raised over \$15,000.



Caption: John Burgess, Andrea Wright, Marian Lee, Robbie Runderson, Donna Ladnier, and Judy Burnham participate in the first-ever USA College of Medicine Gumbo/Chili Showdown

News from Around the State (cont.)

USA Biomedical Librarians Win Awards

USA Biomedical Outreach/Information Resources Librarian, Beverly Rossini, has been awarded the STARS-Atlas Systems Mentoring Award to attend the ALA Annual Meeting in Chicago in July, 2009. Atlas Systems, Inc. is the sponsor of the cash award of \$1,000 for travel expenses to attend the ALA annual conference. The STARS-Atlas Systems Mentoring Committee will assign a mentor to Beverly for the conference to help her navigate through the conference experience.

Evening Services Librarian Trey Lemley has been awarded the EBSCO/MLA Annual Meeting Grant. This competitive award will provide \$1000 toward Trey's meeting expenses for the MLA '09 meeting in Hawaii in May.

Video Project at the University of Alabama

The College of Community Health Sciences at the University of Alabama recently premiered a number of promotional videos on its website. The Health Sciences Library's Technical Services librarian, Katy Allen, created the videos which promote the college and its clinical work. Originally conceived as a project to highlight the possibilities of supporting a media program already being piloted through the library, the project allowed the Health Sciences Library to reach out to various areas of the college in a creative way. Because the videos were made with the generosity and cooperation of many faculty and staff within the college, the project afforded the library an opportunity to demonstrate the evolving nature of library work to an essential patron base within our academic institution and while doing so, we managed to forge a stronger working relationship with these areas.

A sampling of the videos can be found by following the linked URL's:

<http://www.cchs.ua.edu/umc/clinics/facultystaff> "University Faculty-Staff Clinic"

<http://www.cchs.ua.edu/umc/clinics/family-medicine> "Department of Family Medicine"

<http://www.cchs.ua.edu/umc/clinics/internal-medicine> "Internal Medicine Clinic"

<http://cchs.ua.edu/fmr/prospective-residents> "See what we have to offer"

<http://www.cchs.ua.edu/umc/clinics/obgyn> "Ob/Gyn Clinic"

<http://www.cchs.ua.edu/umc/clinics/ped> "Our Clinics"

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News from Around the State (cont.)

Video Project, contd.

<http://www.cchs.ua.edu/umc/clinics/psychiatry> “Outpatient Services Offered”

<http://www.cchs.ua.edu/umc/dept/business-office> “Learn more about us”

<http://www.cchs.ua.edu/umc/dept/labx-ray> “University Medical Center Lab”

<http://www.cchs.ua.edu/umc/dept/medical-records> “Medical Records department”

In addition to these clinic and department videos, the Health Sciences Library produced a Family Medicine Residency recruitment DVD for our Residency program to hand out at recruitment fairs (the “See what we have to offer” linked video from above is a condensed version of this). Both of our clinic directors, Dr. Elizabeth Cockrum (University Medical Center) and John Maxwell (Student Health Center) have video addresses for their client bases. Our dean, Dr. E. Eugene Marsh, also has a video address. Additionally, the Student Health Center has a video geared towards the student population.

The videos are showcased on the college’s website. Because Drupal is used as the website’s framework, it was simple to add a module for the videos’ unique playback. All in all, the Health Sciences Library produced 18 promotional videos in about 6 months for its parent college, which has positively received the videos.

For more information contact Katy Allen either by phone at 205-348-1366 or by email at kallen@cchs.ua.edu.

USA Biomedical Library Participates in Higher Education Day

USA Biomedical Librarians Andrea Wright and Robert Britton as well as staff members Barbara Lewis and May Kountz accompanied other University of South Alabama faculty, staff and students to the steps of the State Capitol in Montgomery on Higher Education Day March 5th to rally for state legislators to distribute education dollars equitably.

News from Around the State (cont.)

Lisa Ennis speaking at ALA

This summer Lisa Ennis, Lister Hill Library's Systems Librarian and a co- Liaison to the School of Nursing, will be heading to Chicago to speak at the American Library Association's annual conference. Lisa, who will be speaking on strategies for working with IT staff, will be one of four speakers the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) invited to participate in RUSA's "Reinvented Reference V: Using Our Collective Wisdom" pre-conference presentation. The session will focus on collaboration, staffing models, and assessments among librarians and IT personnel with an emphasis on real world solutions that acknowledge the obstacles in the workplace and how to overcome them. The day is designed with reference librarians and managers of reference services in mind but IT personnel and others will also find these presentations to be stimulating and informative. Attendees at the presentations are encouraged to bring examples of staffing model, technology, collaboration, or assessment struggles to discuss with the expert panel and fellow librarians during small group sessions. The session takes place Friday, July 10, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For more information on session ticket prices, location, and other details go to <http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/index.cfm>. You can also contact Lisa Ennis at lennis@uab.edu if you have questions about her portion of the event.

Two Exhibit Awards Received

Geneva Staggs, Assistant Director for Hospital Services at USA, applied for and received an NNLM Express grant for an Exhibit Award to exhibit at the 2009 meeting of the Alabama Occupational Therapy Association (ALOTA) in Birmingham, AL, on April 4. Exhibit staff will provide a continuing education session using the MLA Health Information Literacy curriculum.

USA Biomedical Outreach Librarian Beverly Rossini applied for and received a NNLM Express grant for an Exhibit Award to exhibit at the Alabama Public Health Association (ALPHA) Health Education Conference in Mobile on March 26-27, 2009. The focus of this exhibit will be to introduce public health workers to accessible on-line and NLM information resources for a variety of the Association's initiatives. Also planned is training on mobile technology and identifying, locating, and evaluating health information.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

LHL Librarian Awarded NLM Fellowship

Lee Vucovich, Assistant Director of Reference Services at UAB's Lister Hill Library, has been admitted to the National Library of Medicine 2009 fellowship program in BioMedical Informatics at the Marine Biological Laboratory. Commonly known as the Woods Hole Program, the informatics program is a week-long survey course that is, according to the program website, "...designed to familiarize individuals with the application of information science and computer technologies in health care, biomedical research, and health professions education." The intensive instruction, which is provided both through presentations and hands-on computer exercises, will focus on the conceptual and technical aspects of biomedical informatics. Instruction on the conceptual aspects will focus on database design, computer-human interactions, and other topics while instruction on the technical aspects will look at emerging network technologies, the use of the Internet for a variety of biomedical applications, and other topics. Each evening courses on computing skills will be offered. Lee will be in Massachusetts from May 31-June 6 for the training.

For more information on the NLM BioMedical Informatics Course, go to <http://courses.mbl.edu/mi/index.html>.

From the Editors

This will be the last issue of *Synapse* until after the summer. We hope that everyone has a great summer and please take some time this summer to jot down the activities at your library and send them to *Synapse*.

We would also love to hear about your experiences at MLA '09 so if you will be attending please send us your reports!

Thanks and have a great summer!

Paul Mussleman
jpmussleman@uab.edu

Jason Baker
jbb42@uab.edu

