

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

Greetings everyone,

Welcome to a new year of ALHeLA activities. On February 8, the ALHeLA executive board had our first meeting of 2008. We welcomed new board members Nicole Mitchell, Treasurer, Trey Lemley, Member-at-Large, Kay Hogan Smith, Liaison Chair and Paul Mussleman, List Moderator. Paul was appointed to fill the position vacated by Michael Lindsay, who has started new position as Serials/E Resources Librarian at the University of Tennessee Preston Graduate Medical Library in his home state of Tennessee. At the meeting, we discussed several projects underway for this year.



Lee Clemans-Taylor, with Nicole Mitchell and Geneva Bush Staggs, is working on updating the ALHeLA handbook to reflect changes in procedures and to include the work done on the Scholarships by our Members At Large. In particular, the issue of timely distribution of approved minutes from executive board meetings will be discussed. She will work with Jana Slay with the goal of having the updated handbook available in the new directory this fall.

Outreach efforts continue with strong support from the NN/LM SE/A. Please see Kay Smith's article on the NLM exhibiting awards and how they are being used in this edition of the Synapse. Two Consumer Health Workshops were held for librarians at Tuscaloosa Public Library

and for the Horseshoe Bend Regional Library this winter. ALHeLA will have a booth at the Alabama Library Association Convention "Under One Umbrella," April 23-25 in Birmingham. Our booth will focus on resources for meeting the health information needs of Alabama citizens. Please stop by if you attend the convention.

The National Networks of Libraries of Medicine has developed an emergency preparedness and response plan to help network libraries maintain their information services in the event of a disaster. As part of this, a RAC Emergency Preparedness Committee is being established through the SE/A. ALHeLA member Jie Li will be the Alabama state representative. ALHeLA has been asked to facilitate statewide discussions on disaster planning. Watch for more information on this exciting initiative when after the committee meets this spring.

Of course, Nelle Williams, Conference Chair, and Katy Allen, CE Chair, have begun planning for the annual meeting to be held October 26-30 at Ross Bridge, in Birmingham, concurrent with the Southern Chapter MLA meeting. ALHeLA will again offer the Robert Avant Student Grant and the Scholarship for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support (SLLIS). Please watch the Synapse for more information.

It looks to be a busy year! I look forward to working with all of you.

Lee Vucovich



Alabama Health Libraries Association 2008 Executive Committee

OFFICERS

President

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

Past President

Vacant

Vice-president/President-elect

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

Secretary

Paul May
State of Alabama Health Planning &
Development
RSA Union Building, Suite 870
Montgomery, AL
(334) 242-4109
paul.may@shpda.alabama.gov

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

Valerie Gordon
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Lister Hill Library of the Health
Sciences
Birmingham, AL
(205) 934-2461
vgordon@uab.edu

Marian Morris
Medical Library
Princeton Baptist Medical Center
Birmingham, AL
(205) 783-3078
mmorris@bhsala.com

Trey Lemley
Justin Robertson
University of South Alabama
Baugh Biomedical Library
Mobile, AL
(251) 460-7045
tlemley@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

Katy Allen
University of Alabama
Health Sciences Library
Tuscaloosa, AL
(205) 348-1366

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

Martha Verchot
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Lister Hill Library of the Health
Sciences
Birmingham, AL
(205) 934-2230
mverchot@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

Lisa Ennis

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

Web Coordinator

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

List Moderator

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

E-mail Lists Have a New Home

ALHeLA Listservs

Both the ALHeLA general discussion list and the ALHeLA executive committee discussion list are up and running smoothly at their new home on a server at UAB. The discussion lists were moved to the new server when UAB Lister Hill Librarian Paul Mussleman became ALHeLA's new discussion list moderator.

The ALHeLA general discussion list is open to both members and nonmembers of the association. To subscribe to the discussion list, go to <http://lists.it.uab.edu/mailman/listinfo/alhela> and enter the necessary information. To send a message to the list subscribers, use the following address:

alhela@lists.it.uab.edu

The ALHeLA executive committee discussion list membership is comprised only of executive committee members. If you have erroneously been left off of the executive committee discussion list, please let Paul know, and he will promptly mend the situation.

Paul hopes to continue the fine work of former ALHeLA listserv moderator Michael Lindsay. Paul invites input and feedback from everyone regarding the performance of the discussion lists. If you would like to contact Paul, feel free to call him at 205-934-2230 or email him at jpmussleman@uab.edu.

Happy discussion listing to all!

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 AHeLA officers.

Go Local Contributions Now Eligible for AHIP Credit!

Now contributors to MedlinePlus Go Local will be eligible to earn AHIP points, “eligible for five points per year under Section II Part 1 B (Editing: Web Sites, Mailing Lists, Listservs) of the Point Index.

The online version of the Point Index will be updated to include this activity in the spring,” according to NLM’s Lori Klein. She notes that if working on Go Local is part of one’s job, as it is for the coordinators and a few others, one is not eligible for these points.

Volunteers are definitely eligible, however! For more about the Academy of Health Information Professionals and the points, please see the MLA Web site at <http://www.mlanet.org/academy/pointindex.html> and <http://www.mlanet.org/academy/acadfaq2.html>.

Submitted by Kay Hogan Smith

News Around the State

Health InfoNet of Alabama - Brought to You by ALHeLA!

ALHeLA has been supportive of the Health InfoNet of Alabama consumer health information service since its beginning in 1999. This support has increased considerably in recent years, however, through ALHeLA’s sponsorship of various National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) exhibit awards for Health InfoNet as well as financial support of some of its activities.

Health InfoNet is a cooperative service of the state’s medical and public libraries. In order to ensure that patrons anywhere in the state have access to quality health information, public libraries are provided assistance in training and collection development for health reference service. In addition, the medical libraries - especially UAB Lister Hill Library and USA Biomedical Library - provide backup reference service for those questions the public librarians cannot answer from their resources.

The Health InfoNet website is now the state's NLM "Go Local" participating CHI site, and includes a robust database of health services from across the state, which ALHeLA librarians have played a key role in developing and maintaining.

Since one of the major promotions routes for Health InfoNet has been via exhibits at various events, it has been the recipient of numerous exhibit awards from NNLM/SE/A Region. ALHeLA has frequently stepped up to act as the institutional recipient of the funds so as to bypass the need to go through UAB or USA extramural funding offices. Some recent examples of this type of support included the exhibit awards for both the Southern Women's Show in and Fiesta 2007 in Birmingham in October.

In addition, exhibit awards for ALHeLA exhibits at the Southern Research Nurses Society and Alabama Library Association meetings included funding for Health InfoNet promotional items.

At the last ALHeLA annual meeting, it was agreed that the association would support the promotional activities of Health InfoNet up to \$2100 over three years (to be evaluated after the second year). This support - both financial and moral - was warmly acknowledged by Kay Hogan Smith, Health InfoNet Project Director.

Submitted by Kay Hogan Smith



UAB Reference Librarian, Paul Mussleman discusses Health InfoNet to visitors at the Southern Women's Show.

UAB Clinical Reference Librarian, CJ Bryant, promoting Health InfoNet to Fiesta 2007 attendees!



New Appointment for Nelle Williams



Nelle Williams has been appointed as Director of the Health Sciences Library and Continuing Medical Education for The University of Alabama School of Medicine, Tuscaloosa Campus. The appointment became effective January 1, 2008

Health InfoNet Exhibits at the Southern Nursing Research Society Conference

Recently UAB Lister Hill Library reference librarian Paul Mussleman applied for and was awarded an NNLM grant to exhibit* at the 2008 annual conference of the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS). The conference, which is themed Health Disparities: Evidence into Action, will be held February 21-23, 2008 Sheraton Hotel in Birmingham.

Paul applied for this grant through ALHeLA and so ALHeLA will receive the NNLM grant money and collaborate with Paul to administer the finances for the conference. Any unspent grant money will remain with ALHeLA for use in ALHeLA outreach projects.

ALHeLA will be well represented at the SNRS conference as ALHeLA members Jason Baker, Pat Higginbottom, Lisa Ennis, Kay Hogan Smith, Paul Mussleman, and CJ Bryant will be staffing the exhibit booth. They will promote tools and resources which are important to and useful for conference attendees including: PubMed, MedlinePlus, Health InfoNet, and GoLocal. We will also promote the services provided by health science librarians through libraries such as the National Library of Medicine, the Alabama health science libraries, and at other health science libraries serving conference attendees. In addition to funding the exhibit, NNLM has also supplied material for the exhibit including informative and promotional literature and giveaways such as post-its and pens. Because of the theme of the conference, and ALHeLA's ongoing support for Health InfoNet and GoLocal, some of the grant money was allotted for Kay Hogan Smith to purchase Health InfoNet water bottles which will be given away at the SNRS conference.

Submitted by Paul Mussleman

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AHeLHA & Southern Chapter 2008 Joint Annual Meeting



Join us in Birmingham!
October 26-30, 2008

<http://www.lhl.uab.edu/scmla2008>

From the Editors

...well here is another Synapse. Enjoy and please be sure to let us know what you want to see in here.

So as we look forward to the annual meeting please keep a look out for scholarship announcements and other opportunities to take advantage of the upcoming joint meeting with The Southern Chapter of MLA.

Thanks,

Jason and Lisa