

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Happy New Year! Hope the holidays were pleasant for all of you. I'm sure we're all back to work and ready to get started on all those new projects. ALHeLA certainly is! Our members are always busy thinking up new projects and following through on commitments made previously.

For example, ALHeLA members Kay Hogan, Judy Burnham and Martha Verchot are getting ready for the next Internet training class for rural health care providers. For more information about upcoming classes and highlights of the class in Montgomery, see the ALHeLA web page at: <http://www.uab.edu/lister/ALHeLA/grant.htm>

Our President-Elect, Jie Li is already hard at work on this year's annual meeting. Be on the lookout for more information about that.

Directory Chairs, Jan Burns and Betty Wyman, will soon be sending you your survey for the 1998 ALHeLA Directory. I encourage you to get that back as soon as you can with information we can share throughout the state.

Another survey is included with this issue of Synapse. This is to help our Continuing Education committee chairs decide what classes to offer at our next annual meeting. Send your good ideas in soon.

We have some new faces on the ALHeLA Executive Committee this year. Thanks to everyone who agreed to serve as an officer or committee chair. For a list of the new committee members, see page two.

If you have ideas, suggestions or questions please contact me or another executive committee member. This organization is for you. We want to hear what you have to say! As always with ALHeLA, I'm sure it is going to be a great year.

*Pat Higginbottom, ALHeLA President*

## A Letter from ALHeLA's 1997 Student Grant Winner

December 17, 1997

### AN OPEN LETTER TO ALHeLA MEMBERS:

I recently was hired as outreach librarian with the Southwest Georgia Area Health Education Center (SOWEGA-AHEC) in Albany, GA. I'll be starting in January. I want to say a big thank you to all of you; the education I received at ALHeLA's annual meeting at Lake Guntersville--both formal and informal--was of immense help to me in landing this job! Thanks to all of you for sharing your time, experience and friendship.

While I will no longer be a member of ALHeLA, I do look forward to seeing some of you at SOCHAP and MLA functions. I know I still have a lot to learn! Thanks again for the opportunity to interact with you, the *real professionals*. And please take my experience as an indication that ALHeLA can make positive impacts on the lives of new MLISs. Please continue to offer education opportunities to library students!

Thanks again, and a happy holiday season to all!

Lee R. McCarley  
 Outreach Librarian  
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## ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION Executive Committee Meeting

January 9, 1998

Pat Higginbottom, President, called the meeting to order at the Alabama Public Library Service at 10:30 a.m. Introduction of new Executive Committee members followed. Beverly Johnson, new librarian at Baptist Medical Center was welcomed, having been invited by Robert Avant. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without correction.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Internet Classes:** Kay Hogan reported on the workshop in November. Expenses of the classes will exceed the grant funding. Sponsors are being sought. Flyers are available today for the second class to be held in Tuscaloosa. Approximately 180 flyers were sent out for the first class and about 140 for the second class. Next classes will be in Auburn in April, in Huntsville in June and in Dothan in August. Publicity has included contacts with several health care agencies, listing on the MASA website and possibly Baptist Medical Center Education Center and others.

**Regional Health Sciences Library Association Exchange:** Kay Hogan, reporting for Tammy Lee, said the Luncheon Roundtable was a success. There were 31 registrants of which 28 attended. Evaluation sheets were received from 20 participants. Ten rated the session as good and ten rated it as excellent. ALHeLA plans to try to sponsor a Luncheon Roundtable at the next meeting of the Southern Chapter of MLA, as well.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Recruitment and Training of Medical Librarians:** This Committee will continue its work during the next year.

**ALHeLA Library Student Award:** This project will also be continued. Martha Cook will publicize it to library students in the spring. The same deadlines will be kept. It was noted that early publicity is important.

**Annual Meeting Financial Report:** The report was presented and listed a profit of \$447.44. The meeting was held at Lake Guntersville and was a successful one.



## NEW BUSINESS

**MASA Manual Update:** The income from the Manual was \$1080.00, including some memberships and royalties. Martha Verchot suggested that more members share and become involved in the update of the Manual if the update is undertaken.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance on hand: \$6081.23. Martha Cook stated that some workshop expenses may be returned to ALHeLA.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Bylaws:** Bob Schrimsher reported that there were no issues to discuss relating to the Bylaws.

**Continuing Education:** Martha Verchot reported that no suggestions have been made for changes. An Embase Class and Bonnie Snow classes were discussed.

**Directory:** Jan Burns presented surveys for updating the Directory. Additions to the survey were solicited. A sponsor is needed to assist with publication expenses. Possible ones were discussed. Jan needs to know how many copies are needed and if the Bylaws should be printed this time. There is no time line for publication of the Directory at this time. The group felt the survey was an improvement over previous ones. Suggestions were: include E-mail addresses for libraries; move the question on page 2 concerning Patient Education to page 1; add more space for name and title; ask if the library is open to the public; change Patient Health Education to Consumer Health Education; clarify association membership question. It was also suggested to send one

survey to the Institutional Representative and print one in *Synapse* for members. The institutional representative will return the survey to ALHeLA, and members will return theirs to the Continuing Education Committee. The survey could not be voted upon at the meeting, but will be edited by Jan and sent by Pat to all executive committee members.

**Liaison:** Tracy Powell asked for suggestions for meetings, etc. where the group would like to be represented. Suggestions should be sent to Tracy.

**Membership:** Marian Morris reported that there are 27 members to date. Brochures have been sent out to prospective members.

**Synapse:** Diane Williams announced the deadline for *Synapse* as January 23 - two weeks after the Executive Committee meeting with the publication date two weeks later.

**Union List:** Robert Avant mentioned that the annual tape is to be ordered and financed by the University of South Alabama.

**1998 Annual Meeting:** Jie Li announced that the annual meeting will be held in Mobile on August 20-21, 1998. Carol Tenopir of the University of Tennessee is a possible speaker. Also suggested was Laura Gassaway who would discuss copyright.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Inez C. Pinkard, Secretary*

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## State Association Roundtable Successful

The State Association Leadership Development Roundtable Luncheon held at October's annual meeting of the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association was a BIG success. The event was the idea of past ALHeLA president Tammy Lee. Along with leaders from the other state health science library associations in the chapter, the luncheon was planned as a forum for state leaders to get together, share ideas and make connections.

Tables were available for participants to discuss many topics of interest including: strategic planning, meeting planning,

communications, membership, continuing education, and outreach. Each association also brought materials such as newsletters and scrapbooks to share.

28 people attended, and 20 completed evaluation forms to let us know how the event was received. All 20 rated the event as good or excellent and recommended a roundtable discussion be held again. Planning is already underway for next year. The Southern Chapter meeting for 1998 will be held in Lexington, Kentucky on October 10-13. Be on the lookout for more information and plan to attend if possible. Great idea Tammy!

*Submitted by Patricia Higginbottom*

## ALHeLA Member Honored

Mary Fran Prottzman of Fort Rucker, Alabama was honored as Hospital Librarian of the Year at the Southern Chapter/MLA meeting in Savannah! Mary Fran has been a hospital librarian for over 20 years and a member of ALHeLA for many of those years, serving on the Executive Committee as Secretary and on the Liaison Committee. Her energy and enthusiasm are an inspiration to many of us!

**Congratulations Mary Fran on your well-deserved honor!**

*Submitted by Kay Hogan*

## News from Alabama

### University of South Alabama Biomedical Library:

In honor of National Medical Librarians Month in October, the National Library of Medicine created baseball cards for medical librarians from throughout the United States. Judy Burnham was one of the twenty librarians included. She presented a paper "Accessing Health Care Information" at the 1997 meeting of the Alabama State Nurses Association in Montgomery, AL, and was also a co-presenter in a November workshop in Montgomery for local health care professionals. The workshop was sponsored by the Alabama Health Libraries Association.

The Biomedical Library has been notified that it has received another subcontract from the Southeastern Atlantic Region of the National Libraries of Medicine. This subcontract will provide Internet training at eight rural hospitals in Southwest Alabama. Judy Burnham is the principal investigator.

Bobby Parker has joined the Circulation Department, at the campus site, as a Library Technical Assistant I. He formerly worked at the University Library.

In October, the Biomedical Library exhibited at the Alabama State Nurses Association Convention. During the exhibit, information was distributed on SOUTHmed, and on accessing medical information. Demonstrations were given on searching MEDLINE using Internet Grateful Med. Sally Murray and Judy Burnham were the exhibitors.

*Submitted by Judy F. Burnham*

## National Library of Medicine News from NN/LM SE/A Region News Releases

### National Library of Medicine Internet Survey:

This summer the NLM and the NN/LM conducted an Internet survey to evaluate medical library connectivity. Results reveal a fairly high level of connectivity nationally and regionally. We'd like to share some of the numbers with you. Nationally, 3,499 libraries responded. Of those, 79%

had some type of Internet connection. In the SE/A Region, 648 members responded to the survey; 485 or 75% are connected to the Internet. Our connected members have access to different Internet services. These are: Email - 66%; Telnet - 50%; FTP - 47%; and World Wide Web - 72%. 163 SE/A members, or 25% are not connected to the Internet. Of those libraries, 46% plan to connect within the next 12 months. We'd like to encourage all our network members to get connected to the Internet and would be very interested in your suggestions and feedback about how to make it happen. For more information, please contact Bryan Vogh, Internet coordinator (bvogh@umaryland.edu).

### NLM Web Site Updates:

NLM is continuously adding more information to its web site. How can a busy person keep up? A "new files" mailing list could be your answer. The NLM Files mailing list distributes weekly announcements of new and updated files on the NLM Web site (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>) and NLM anonymous FTP server (<ftp://ftp.nlm.nih.gov>). To subscribe to the mailing list:

- a) send an email message to [lists@mailserv.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:lists@mailserv.nlm.nih.gov)
- b) leave the subject line blank
- c) in the body of the message, type: subscribe.nlmfiles

### View your SERHOLD Holdings:

View your SERHOLD holdings with our new FTP service! You can download a serials holdings report using either a web browser or a standard FTP client. The files are updated once a year; the most recent update was September 1997. If you are using a web browser, go to URL: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/sar/docdel/ftp.select.phtml>

Enter your SERHOLD ID, then click on the "next" button. This will bring you to the SERHOLD report screen. Click on the report location link to bring up an ASCII file of your holdings. If you have any questions about this service, please contact Barbara Kuchan, network access coordinator, at [bkuchan@hsl1.ab.umd.edu](mailto:bkuchan@hsl1.ab.umd.edu) or 800-338-7657.

### NLM Technical Bulletin to be Published Electronically:

In keeping with the electronic age, the **NLM Technical Bulletin** will be published electronically in HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) format via the NLM web site (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>), beginning with the Jan-Feb 1998 issue. The Nov/Dec 1997 issue will be the last issue to be printed on paper and mailed to readers. The decision for this transition was made due to the many requests received for an electronic version of the **Technical Bulletin** and also due to the increasing costs of printing and mailing. The specific URL address for the Bulletin, as of January 5, will be: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/tb.html>



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Contributions for the Spring issue are due by March 27, 1998.

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**ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALHeLA) EDUCATION SURVEY 1998**

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE ASSOCIATION DO THIS YEAR?**

To help plan programs and continuing education events, please respond to the following statements:

My library needs help with :            \_\_\_ Collection development            \_\_\_ Staffing issues  
   \_\_\_ Pharmacy resources            \_\_\_ INTERNET resources            Other \_\_\_\_\_

I need assistance with:            \_\_\_ Professional development            \_\_\_ Time management  
   \_\_\_ Space Planning            \_\_\_ Networking, technology            Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to attend a workshop featuring:            \_\_\_ New technology  
   \_\_\_ Developing WEB pages            \_\_\_ Setting up Docline            Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer to help with:            \_\_\_ Directory  
   \_\_\_ Conventions            \_\_\_ Programs            Other \_\_\_\_\_

I have special skills in the following area and would like to share with the other members:  
   \_\_\_ INTERNET/WEB            \_\_\_ Copyright            Other \_\_\_\_\_

Any other comments or suggestions welcomed (attach additional page if needed):

**SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:**

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