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7-15-1998

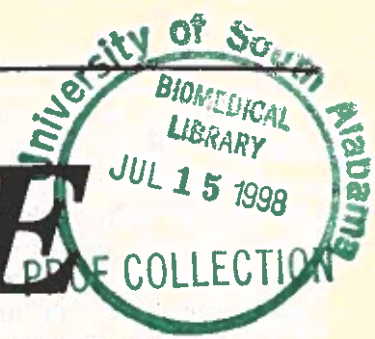
Synapse

Alabama Health Libraries Association

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Foiled you! This may be the first Synapse "President's Column" not authored by the President! However, since our President, Pat Higginbottom, is on maternity leave (having just delivered twins), I was asked to produce this column for this issue. And, as Pat would have told you, this year has been an exciting one, not even counting the twins!

First, we have a wonderful annual meeting scheduled for August 20-21 in Mobile, hosted by our President-Elect, Jie Li. With Carole Tenopir as keynote speaker and some wonderful CE opportunities available including workshops on managing electronic resources and health-related government documents, this meeting is shaping up to be an exciting one!

Judy Burnham has again directed the revision of the *Access to Medical Informatics for Continuing Medical Education Resource Manual* co-produced by the Alliance for Continuing Medical Education and ALHeLA. Jan Burns has worked hard to update our directory while making it easier to update in the future. And many people have contributed to the success of the NetRx project with the goal of introducing Alabama health professionals (particularly in rural areas) to the Internet as a means to increase their access to medical information and education as well as communication with peers. Those instrumental in making the NetRx series run smoothly include, Judy Burnham, Martha Verchot, Tammy Lee, Lee Clemans-Taylor, Mary Fran Prottsman, Pat McGee, and myself as coordinator.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work this year! And we look forward to seeing all of our old and new friends in Mobile in August!

Submitted by Kay Hogan

ALHeLA 1998 Annual Meeting

Preparation for the ALHeLA Annual Meeting in Mobile on August 20-21, 1998, is in the final stage. Ramada Inn on the Bay is set for the annual meeting. CE courses and keynote address are arranged around our conference theme: **Navigating the change: wave of the future.**

Martha Verchot and Geneva Bush have planned two great CE opportunities for us. On August 20, Steven MacCall of University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies will conduct a session called *Managing Electronic Biomedical Knowledge Resources: From "Hot" Lists to Clinical Digital Libraries* and Harmon Straiton of Auburn University will teach the workshop *Medicine, the Federal Government, and the Web: the 21st Century.*

Our annual banquet will be held that evening at the beautiful USS Battleship Park. For those who had put your dimes, nickels and pennies to help tow the ship to the Mobile Bay, be sure to come to revisit the battleship.



Continued on page 2

Inside this Issue	
NetRx: Internet Workshops 3 & 4	2
News from Alabama	2
News from National Library of Medicine	3
ALHeLA Executive Committee Members (1998)	4
Executive Committee Meeting (June 12, 1998)	5

ALHeLA 1998 Annual Meeting (Cont.)

On August 21, we will start the day with the keynote address *Librarians as Navigators in Technology Storms* by Carol Tenopir, professor of the School of Information Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Dr. Tenopir will be talking about the impact that online technology has had on libraries, librarians, and library users over the last decade, now, and in the future. For a preview of Dr. Tenopir's work, please refer to her column "Online Databases" in *Library Journal*, and her web page at <http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~tenopir/tenopir.html>. Dr. Tenopir will be joined by Sue Medina and other panelists later that morning. A tour to the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library will be led by Geneva Bush in the afternoon.

For those who arrive on Wednesday evening, we will have an unofficial gathering for dinner. For more information, please contact Jie Li at 334-471-7855 (email jlil@jaguar1.usouthal.edu).

Submitted by Jie Li

NetRx: Internet Workshops 3 & 4

The NetRx Internet Workshop Series for Alabama Health Professionals continued with workshops scheduled for Auburn on April 30 and in Huntsville on June 15. The Auburn workshop turned out to be a disappointment, although we began with high hopes. As Auburn University along with nearby Tuskegee University has an accredited veterinary training program, we decided to include some Internet sites targeted to veterinarians at this workshop. We even added Tamera Lee, Auburn's veterinary librarian on the instructor panel (in addition to Martha Verchot of UAB and Judy Burnham of USA) and obtained CE credit for the vets. Although flyers were mailed by the first of the month to some 93 state health professional associations, local hospitals (including some across the state line in Georgia), nursing homes, assisted living facilities, end-stage renal disease treatment centers, laboratories, home health agencies, hospices, and targeted physicians, we only had 3 registrants by Friday, April 24. With so little interest in the workshop, we felt it only sensible to cancel. (A few days after we cancelled, we had 3 more people call to inquire about the workshop!) We returned the registration fees of those who had prepaid, told them about the upcoming NetRx workshop in slightly-farther-away Dothan and chalked everything up to bad timing.

The Huntsville workshop was more successful with a respectable number of attendees (7 out of the 8 who preregistered), most of whom were registered nurses at nearby hospitals in Decatur, Florence, Anniston and

Gadsden. Lee Clemans-Taylor of the University of Alabama School of Medicine Library, Huntsville Program was our point of contact at that site, and she also substituted as co-instructor for Judy Burnham along with Martha Verchot. Kay Hogan, NetRx Coordinator, acted as onsite registrar the day of the program. As always, the workshop focused on hands-on activities, particularly with the WWW, including a discussion of the different browsers (although only Internet Explorer was available in the computer lab), website evaluation, bookmarks, search engines and a discussion of privacy and security issues. Email, netiquette, listserves, telnet, and FTP were also discussed, and a brief overview of PubMed and Internet Grateful Med was provided. (Some of the attendees expressed an interest in learning more about PubMed and Loansome Doc.) Lunch was provided by the Market Place restaurant. The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive with a number of attendees adding enthusiastic comments on the evaluation forms.

The fifth and final workshop in the NetRx series will be held in Dothan on August 7. For details contact Pat McGee at 334-793-8102 (email pmcgee@samc.org) or Kay Hogan at 205-934-2232 (email khogan@uab.edu).

Submitted by Kay Hogan

News from Alabama

ALHeLA Members:

Pat Higginbottom Has Twins!

Pat had her twins delivered by C-section Monday, July 6, 1998. The little girl is 2 pounds 5 ounces, the boy is 4 pounds 3 ounces. While obviously premature and small, both babies and mother are fine and the doctors seem confident of their ability to thrive. *Congratulations, Pat!*

Diane Whited, Executive Committee Member-At-Large, is having to leave us soon as her husband has been transferred to Baton Rouge. Her last day at Samford will be July 9th. I know you'll all join me in wishing her and her family the best of luck. We'll miss you, Diane! Thank you for all your hard work with ALHeLA.

Submitted by Kay Hogan

University of South Alabama Biomedical Library:

It is with deep regret that the Biomedical Library announces the retirement of Pat Rodgers. Pat has worked for the Biomedical Library for 22 years in a variety of positions. She has joined Harrassowitz as Director of Library Services for North America, opening an office for the organization in Mobile.

Judy Burnham has moved to the Campus site and has been named Assistant Director for Administrative and

Continued on next page

Regional Services and Jie Li has been named Medical Center Site Coordinator.

Geneva Bush served as Registrar for the recent annual meeting of the Alabama Library Association which was held at the Grand Hotel.

At the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association, which was held in Philadelphia in May, Tom Williams served as chair of the Awards Committee, Pat Rodgers assumed responsibility for the Credentialing Committee and Judy Burnham assumed responsibility as Chair of the Nursing and Allied Health Resource Section. Pat and Judy attended the Leadership Institute, which was held for those assuming leadership responsibility in MLA.

Submitted by Judy F. Burnham

National Library of Medicine News

PubMed/Internet Grateful Med Training Manuals:

Training manuals for PubMed and Internet Grateful Med used in conjunction with classes taught by NLM's National Online Training Center are available on the web at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/web_based.html. These manuals are available for downloading in PDF, Post Script, and WordPerfect 6 formats. An HTML version will be added at a later date. The manuals have been divided into sections so you can select areas that are of interest to you.

NLM Update:

As in years past, the National Library of Medicine reported on Library activities in the NLM Update. Dr. Donald A.B. Lindberg, Director of the National Library of Medicine, reviewed past activities of the Library and

updated attendees regarding new areas of development. If the Library receives an increase in funding, new areas include: 1) strengthening existing services; 2) consumer health information; 3) next generation Internet and molecular genetics; and 4) international programs.

Becky Lyon, Coordinator, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, reported on the 1997 Internet connectivity survey. Briefly, 4,477 surveys were sent and 3,491 useable surveys were returned, for a 78% response rate. 96% of academic libraries and 73% of hospital libraries are connected. A complete report will be published in the October 1998 issue of the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association. The final speaker was Lois Anne Colaianni, Associate Director, Library Operations, who reported on several topics. Some of these included: 1) training issues, 2) the NLM Associates program, 3) international document delivery, 4) NLM faxing charges, and 5) Internet Grateful Med.

Funding available!

The NN/LM SE/A has funds to support 2-3 projects supporting information access to public health professionals. Eligible recipients include: network members, consortia, or groups of health sciences libraries -- as long as the submitting institution is an NN/LM member. Information about this RFP is available at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/sar/outreach/publicHealth/publicHealth98.html>. Deadline for submission of proposals is August 1, 1998. For more information contact: Janice Kelly, executive director, jkelly@umaryland.edu, phone: 800-338-7657 or 410-706-0099.

Join us on the Mobile Bay
for the 18th Annual
ALHeLA Meeting
August 20 - 21, 1998



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Continued on next page

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ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION Executive Committee Meeting

June 12, 1998

Kay Hogan called the meeting to order at the Alabama Public Library Service, Montgomery, AL at 10:40 a.m. Kay explained that she was serving in Pat Higginbottom's place because, at her doctor's request, Pat has started her maternity leave earlier than planned.

Union List: Robert Avant reported early in order to excused to complete preparations for lunch for the Committee which was to be held at this home nearby. He reported that the interlibrary loan program, ALICAT is now available on the Internet and gave the address: <http://www.apls.state.al.us>

Minutes: The minutes had been distributed to the Committee members and were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Internet Classes: Kay reported the classes are being well received and are going strong. The next class will be in Huntsville. The Auburn class was cancelled due to poor registration of students. Some did attempt to register after the deadline, however. Evaluations have been very good for all classes, so far.

Alliance Update: Judy Burnham sent the following report to the meeting: It was agreed by the Executive Board that ALHeLa would update the Alliance Manual. The previous edition has sold out and The Alliance for CME wanted to update before reprinting. An original deadline of March 31 was set. Because of health and work-related problems of one contributor, she was not able to complete her section. Sally Murray, USA Biomedical Library, has agreed to update the section. She will give a target completion date within the next week and that information will be passed on to Pat, Jie, and the Alliance.

ALHeLA Student Award: No applications have been received. Only two students were in the Medical Librarianship program at UA and neither seems interested. One has graduated and the other is an intern at Lister Hill Library.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Russell reported a balance in the treasury of \$6904.33. She stated that several vendors have made contributions for the Directory. Jan Burns will be reimbursed for the notebooks that hold the Directory.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Continuing Education: Martha Verchot and Geneva Bush sent the following report: Two CE courses are in development. Each is for one half-day. Steven McCall has been contacted and agreed to conduct a class on "Organization of Information for Clinical Use: Introduction to Digital Libraries."

The syllabus he is adapting for us is viewable at:
<http://www.bama.ua.edu/~smaccall/courses/unt/SLIS5670/>

The other instructor is Harmon Staiton, who agreed to present "Accessing Government Documents on the Internet." Both have agreed, but costs have not been confirmed. Both have been asked to be on the panel on Friday morning.

A third possibility has been offered by Jett McCann for now or the future. Jett and Mary Buttner teach an MLA approved "Serial Management" course. They have offered to teach it for ALHeLA for just Mary's travel costs. Also discussed was a trimmed down ½ day version. Jett is willing to do that basically for free.

Continued on next page

Directory: Jan Burns reported that some donations for the Directory have been received. She distributed the first draft of the new Directory to the members of the executive committee and reviewed its contents. The members were pleased with the format and content of the Directory.

Liaison: Tracy Powell informed the group that at the Southern Chapter meeting in Lexington, a breakfast will be held with states sponsoring tables. Alabama will host one as last year. Discussion followed and the group agreed that information handouts would be appropriate at the Registration table.

Membership: The membership stands at 64. Only two former members have not yet renewed.

Synapse: The deadline for the next issue is June 26.

Nominating Committee: Kay Hogan has, at this time, only one confirmed candidate. Susan Deming at Providence Hospital in Mobile has accepted the nomination for Member-at-Large.

1998 Annual Meeting: At the last meeting the banquet menu had not been confirmed. The menu for dinner on the Battleship USS Alabama was passed out and the selection agreed upon was menu #9 which was a seafood and chicken dinner. The theme for the meeting is "Wave of the Future". Contributions have been received from Majors, Tuscaloosa Bindery and Medical Economics.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kay Hogan announced that she is working on a Consumer Health Network in Jefferson County which will offer backup and training of public librarians. The project will possibly place core collections in those libraries.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Inez C. Pinkard, Secretary

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