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Science-Technology Division

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Science-Technology Division

Pam Enrici, Chair

The objectives of the Science-Technology Division shall be to draw together those members of the Special Libraries Association having an interest in the role of library and information science as applied to the recording, retrieval and dissemination of knowledge and information in all areas of science and technology, and to promote and improve the communication, dissemination and use of such knowledge for the benefit of libraries and their users.



I know it's spring with summer to follow when my back yard is almost devoid of snow. No flowers are blooming yet but I know they will come. And soon it will be time for SLA's Annual Conference. But first I'd like to talk about a few other things.

In this time of no (or little) raises and job losses, it is tempting not to renew your membership, particularly if you are not going to attend the annual conference. But there is more to SLA and the Sci-Tech Division than just the annual conference.

Are you job searching or thinking about job hunting? Look for jobs or post your resume in the Career Center area. You can find articles about career hunting as well as some company information in this section. SLA has Virtual Advisors available. Marshall Brown and Associates has provided SLA members with free access to their newsletter, "It's All About You." You can send Kim Dority, author of "Rethinking Information Work: A Career Guide for Librarians and Other Information Professionals" a question on that topic. The Sci-Tech Division (and several chapters) has a mentoring service available. Of course there will be interviews and sessions about job hunting at the annual conference.

Learning is also an important component of belonging to SLA. Click University has a number of classes and programs. Some classes are free and others are not. Check Click University to find out what is available. Books - do you need books? SLA has arranged for electronic access to ebrary's Business Collection, a section of ebrary's Knowledge Management books specially selected for SLA members and a free subscription to execuBooks which has 15-minute summaries of the best books in business for SLA members only. Individual SLA members have free access to nearly 400 previously published execuBooks and may opt in to have new execuBooks delivered via email every week. In addition, SLA has arranged with EBSCO for SLA members to have access to Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA) and EBSCO's GreenFile.

These are but just a few of the benefits of remaining a member or joining SLA. For more reasons go to: <http://www.sla.org/content/>

membership/mbrbenefits/index.cfm. What I've written about is dry but it is really the people who make SLA. Networking, friendships, and mutual help are part and parcel of SLA. In addition, there are chances to work with various charities. For example, there will be a "Needle Network Meeting and Swap" at SLA 2009 in Washington DC. In addition to the getting together and having fun, previously made crocheted or knitted 7" squares will be sewn together into blankets and donated to WarmUpAmerica. If you want to help (whether or not you can make the annual conference), contact Debbie Hartzman at dshnt@yahoo.com.

For all these reasons and more, you should renew your membership. SLA is really trying to make it easy to join or renew your membership with its tiered membership pricing. Go to: <http://www.sla.org/content/membership/joinsla/index.cfm> to get the full story.

Now why belong to the Sci-Tech Division? Those of us who belong have a professional interest in the broad areas of science and technology. We cover the gamut of interests. There are other divisions that have narrower interests but we try to take the broad view. That's not to say you should not belong to other divisions - I belong to three other divisions - oops, 4 now that there is an Academic Division.

This fall we are going to offer a free on-line training session for Sci-Tech members only conducted by Stephanie Publicker, Diane Howden, and Laura Bartlett who will be teaching Sci-Tech's first webinar - "Toxnet and Beyond: Using the National Library of Medicine's Environmental Health and Toxicology Portal." This is a two part program with the first part on Oct. 13 and the second part on Oct. 20. Both sessions will run from 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. EDT. You may attend either or both sessions. Because this is the first time we are trying an online seminar, there will be no cost to Sci-Tech members. We'll be sending out more information to the Sci-Tech Listserv and website as time draws nearer.

We are also working on a new version of contributed papers for our Division. Again, this very dry discussion doesn't really do us

justice because it's the people involved who are the most important component of the Sci-Tech Division. We make the difference.

Now for more information on the annual conference. We have a full slate of programs either by ourselves or with other divisions. The Newcomer's Brunch will be held on Sunday, exact time and location to be announced. This is by invitation only. Our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs will meet on Sunday from 1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. Everyone is welcome to attend! Don't forget the opening of the exhibit hall (please thank the vendors who helped sponsor our events). The opening General Session and Awards Presentation is Sunday from 5:15 P.M. to 7:15 P.M.

Monday starts with a bang. Our annual awards and business breakfast goes from 7:00 A.M. to 8:30 A.M. If you can't make the breakfast part, please come and join us for our awards. We have an awesome group of people to honor this year, so come and help honor them. We ended up with two programs at the same time from 9:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. The Future of Electronic Voting program will be given by Jeremy Epstein of SRI International. He is a leading expert in computer security and voting machines. Engineering and Sci-Tech are co-sponsoring our annual Science & Engineering Resources 101. James Manasco and Mary Frances Lembo will be giving an overview of resources for alternative energy and agriculture. From 3:30 to 5:00 P.M. will be the Academic Roundtable cosponsored by Biomedical & Life Sciences Division and the Sci-Tech Division. The theme this year is: Future Shock II: Libraries for Next Generation Science and Scientists. To cap off the evening, from 9:00 P.M. to 11:45 P.M. we join with the IT Division and meet science fiction authors John C. Wright, John Hemry, Brenda Clough and Bud Sparhawk. Meet the authors, network, and enjoy food and beverages with your fellow Sci-Fi fans.

Tuesday is also a very busy day. Our first program, Citation Tracking Tools: Evaluation & Vendor Update begins at 7:00 A.M. and goes to 8:30 P.M. We are also a co-sponsor of the Diversity Breakfast, a ticketed event, at the

same time. Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., Information Research Specialist, Library of Congress will be the speaker. Our next program from 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. will be a "secret" one. Gerry Laporte of the U.S. Secret Service will be presenting a program on forensics. He will be talking about actual cases. From 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. we will have the Computer Science Roundtable. In conjunction with the PAM Division, this is an informal and lively discussion of various issues dealing with computer science. From 1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. is one of our major programs, The Science of Imagination. The speaker will be Dr. M. Layne Kalbfleisch, of the Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study and College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University. To finish the late afternoon, is the All Sciences Poster Session and Reception. This will be a great time to network with other science and engineering librarians and to get ideas from the various posters - not only from our division but from PAM, Biomedical & Life Sciences, Chemistry, Engineering and Food, Agriculture & Nutrition Divisions.

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Wednesday morning is another early day. In conjunction with the Social Sciences Division, we start with Institutional Repositories Roundtable from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 A.M. From 8:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. in conjunction with the Education Division, is Paradigm Shift in Scholarly Communication: Science and Technology Developments in India given by Debal C. Kar who was the 2008 Bonnie Hilditch International Science-Technology and Engineering Divisions Librarian Award. A final chance to attend the Exhibit Hall will be from 10:00 A.M. to 12 Noon. From 12:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. will be SLA's closing general session and business meeting. From 2:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. will be the 2010 Conference Kickoff and Closing Reception.

For those of you who can stay an extra day, the Chemistry Division and Sci-Tech Division are sponsoring a tour of NIST on Thursday. The tour goes from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. and costs US \$40 member / US \$40 non-member / US \$40 student member. This is ticketed event #1005. Please register as soon as you can.

As you can see it is a full program that SLA and

the Sci-Tech Division has in store for you this year.

Please join us if you can in Washington, D.C. but if you can't, watch for the next Sci-Tech News issue and we should have some summaries of the various programs. We are going to need some people to take notes about the various sessions. Please contact me if you want to volunteer.

It's people who make SLA and the Sci-Tech Division work. For example, because Christine Whitaker knew Gerry Laporte through a work related project, we were able to get him to come. Hilary Davis used her expertise to find Dr. M. Layne Kalbfleisch as a speaker for the Science of Imagination Program. So please consider volunteering for some open positions we have in the Division. Sci-Tech can only be as good as our volunteers.

I hope to see you at the annual conference, but if you can't make it, please feel free to e-mail (penrici@d.umn.edu) or call me (218-726-8586) if you have questions or just need to talk. ❖

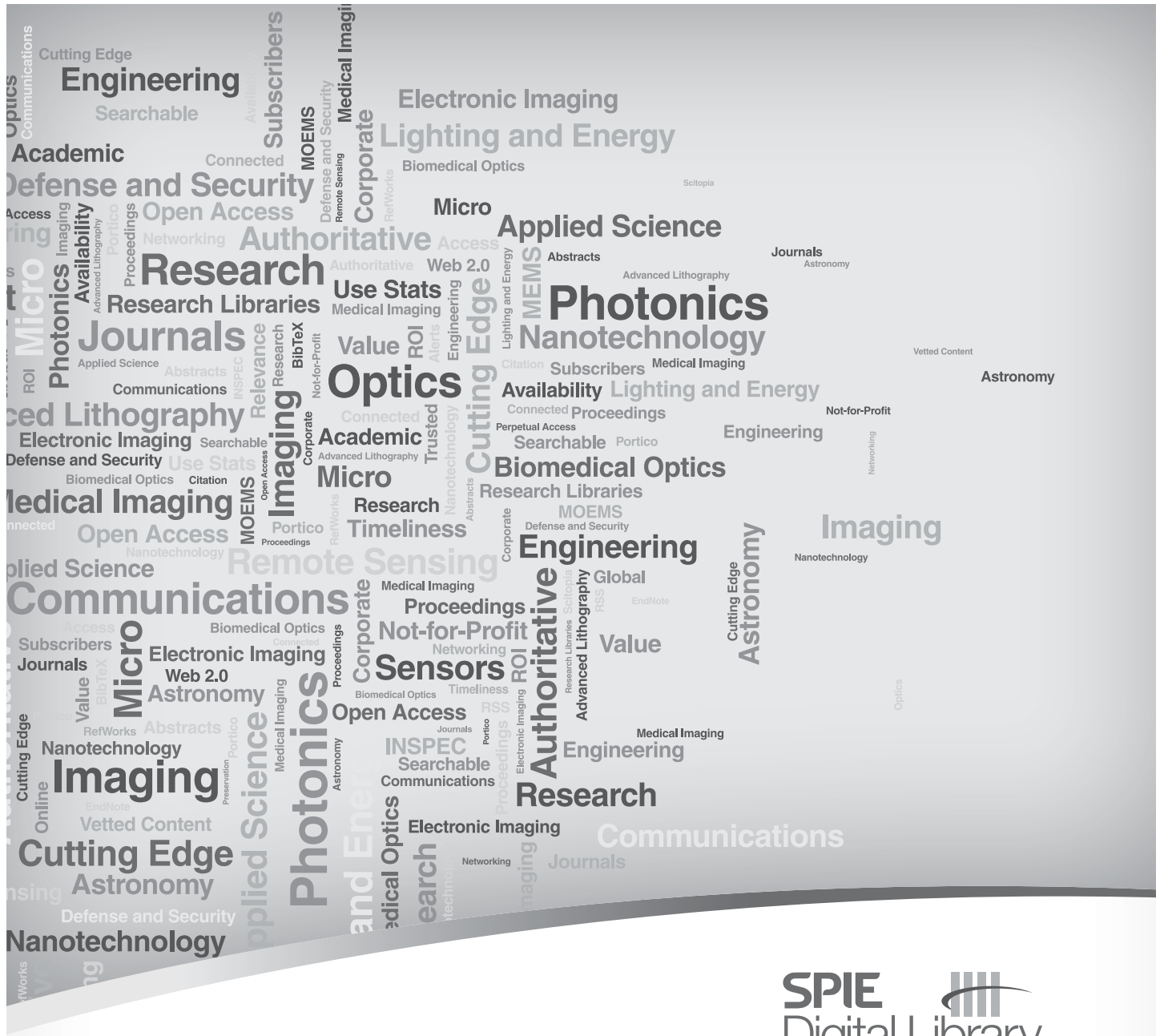
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GEORGE MANDEL MEMORIAL AWARD

The Aerospace Section appreciates the ongoing support of Dr. David Mandel (George Mandel's son) and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics for their continued support of the George Mandel Memorial Award.

This award provides support for Aerospace section members to attend and participate in the SLA Annual Conference or educational opportunities. George Mandel was a member of the Aerospace community for 30 years and served as the Chief of the Technical Information Services Division of the NASA Lewis Research Center. He worked as project chair for the compilation and publishing of the NASA N numbers to DOD AD numbers. The George Mandel Memorial Award was established to preserve the goals of the Aerospace Section and the importance of pursuing personal development through participation in professional organizations. Thank you.

The 2009 recipient is Joan Dubis of The Boeing Company. See more about Joan in the Aerospace Section Chair's message.



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The Sci-Tech Division gratefully acknowledges the tremendous support of our sponsors for the 2009 SLA Annual Conference. Without their financial support, many of the educational opportunities and programs our division is able to schedule could not be continued. This year we want to personally thank the following sponsors:

- ASME: Partial Sponsorship of the All Sciences Poster Session & Reception
- ASTM: Full Sponsorship of the Academic Roundtable
- Basch: Partial Sponsorship of the Institutional Repositories Roundtable
- CAS: Partial Sponsorship of the Forensics Program
- CrossRef: Full Sponsorship of the Annual Diversity Breakfast
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 - The Newcomers' Welcome Luncheon,
 - The Science and Engineering Resources 101 Program and
 - The Computer Science Roundtable
- IET: Partial Sponsorship for The Future of Voting Program
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Please visit our sponsors in the Exhibit Hall during the Conference and let them know how much we appreciate their support!

Carol Lucke
Vendor Relations/Sci-Tech Division