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## Engineering Division

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## Engineering Division

## Dee Magnoni, Chair



The objectives of the Engineering Division are to provide an association for those having an interest in library and information science as they apply to engineering and the physical sciences and to promote the use of materials and knowledge for the benefit of libraries and other educational organizations.

The summer began on a high note this year as thousands of SLA members traveled to Washington, D.C. to celebrate the Association's Centennial anniversary. Our speakers were fabulous, the programming thoughtful and educational, the celebrations full of fun, and the networking priceless.

Throughout the Centennial Conference members learned about SLA's Alignment Project. Each of our work environments, our association environment, and our cultural environments have been impacted by global and technological shifts. The Alignment Project seeks to understand our current and future landscape and to define the success terms and factors for information professionals in this landscape. Our shared values, as well as positioning and a framework for the profession, are being discussed.

Within all of this discussion is a possible name change for the association. More information on the name change and the upcoming membership vote will be released by the association this fall. In the mean time, a call for Alignment Ambassadors has gone out to the unit leadership. These members will serve as liaisons between the Alignment Project and individual units. Peter Moon and Daureen Nesdill will be the ambassadors for the Engineering Division. I will be a general ambassador. I encourage everyone to read the background information on the Alignment Project and to stay informed by visiting: <http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/alignment/index.cfm>.

In addition to helping us all celebrate SLA's Centennial and bringing us up to speed on the Alignment project, SLA's President, Gloria Zamora, talked about the importance of all of us coming together to form a tribe that would move our profession's agenda forward. A book she suggested each of us read is: *Tribes: We Need You to Lead Us* by Seth Godin. Godin suggests that the way to effect lasting and substantive change is to be part of a group of people connected to each other, to a leader and to an idea. Gloria has invited each of us to join *Tribe SLA*. Will you accept Gloria's invitation?

The Closing General Session included a panel that was moderated by Judy Woodruff, a senior

correspondent for **PBS's News Hour with Jim Lehrer**. The panelists were Robyn Meredith, a journalist and author; John R. Patrick, former VP of Internet technology at IBM Corporation and current author; and Neil deGrasse Tyson, astrophysicist & Frederick P. Rose Director, Hayden Planetarium. I was thrilled to see a scientist included on this panel, and Dr. Tyson contributed strong and powerful views on education, and specifically science education, in public schools and beyond. I encourage members to check out Tyson's web page and publications at: <http://www.haydenplanetarium.org/tyson/>.

Our own division programming was a tremendous success, and I'll include just a couple of highlights in this column. Mary Frances Lembo and James Manasco did a fabulous job with their annual *Science & Engineering Resources 101* session which this year featured resources for alternative energy & agriculture. The presentation and slides can be found on the Engineering Division conference programming page at: <http://units.sla.org/division/deng/conference2009.htm>.

Our *Play: Creative Tools for the Technical Librarian* session featured hands on play and creativity exercises led by Stephen Abram that brought people together for fun and thoughtful conversations. Pictures from this session are included in this article.

Finally, several divisions came together to sponsor a tour of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Speakers included Mark Huff, Supervisory Patent Examiner, USPTO; and Martin Finston, Patent Attorney, Alcatel-Lucent. Attendees not only heard excellent talks on the patent process, but received tours of the Public Search room, the main STIC USPTO library, as well as a technology center. Many USPTO librarians and staff helped with the day, and I'd like to extend a public thanks to each of them. To see handouts and presentations from across the conference, go to: <http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2009/Conference/handouts/index.cfm>.

Outside of the conference, there are a number of updates. First, with the change in the division year that is now fully in place, we have undertaken

the job of updating our division *Governing Documents* and *Recommended Practices*. This project is being led by a committee that includes Laurie Allen, Kathryn Breininger, Sara Davis, Daureen Nesdill and Bob Tolliver. Much of the work has been completed by this group, and stay tuned for an announcement on the proposed final documents this fall.

The completion of the *Governing Documents* and our *Recommended Practices* will dovetail into another project that will begin its work this fall. A group will begin work on an Engineering Division Strategic Plan. In addition to gathering past work and studying our new documents, we will be surveying members. As the Alignment Project underscores, we are each experiencing substantial change in our jobs and our professions. How can the division best serve member needs? What initiatives outside the annual conference should we be developing? What are our most important goals? I encourage everyone to participate in this survey. The feedback received will shape the division direction for several years.

The LibGuides initiative has a group of authors and editors. Many of the authors have begun work on their guides, and our platform is in place. As soon as we have 3 – 5 guides in place on our site, I will send a message to our division list.

The Engineering Division web site has undergone a redesign this year. Our new web master is Tina Gheen, and she will continue to add and modify content this year. Check out the site at: <http://units.sla.org/division/deng/index.html>.

Sometimes there are news events outside our division or association framework that I feel are important to follow. The proposed Google Books settlement is one of these items. I recently attended a workshop at the Berkmen Center

for Internet and Society entitled: **Alternative Approaches to Open Digital Libraries in the Shadow of the Google Book Search Settlement**. The wiki for the workshop can be found at: [http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/googlebooks/Main\\_Page](http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/googlebooks/Main_Page). While I don't have the space to talk about the workshop, I would like to highlight some people and resources from the day.

Siva Vaidhyanathan, University of Virginia, *Human Knowledge Project*: [http://www.googlizationofeverything.com/2008/02/the\\_human\\_knowledge\\_project\\_pa.php](http://www.googlizationofeverything.com/2008/02/the_human_knowledge_project_pa.php).

Maura Marx, a librarian by training and Executive Director of *The Open Knowledge Commons*: <http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/events/luncheon/2008/12/marx>.

**Free Culture: How Big Media uses Technology and the Law to Lock Down Culture and Control Creativity** by Larry Lessig, available via a Creative Commons license at: <http://www.free-culture.cc/freecontent/>.

James Grimmelman, New York Law School faculty, author of **The Google Book Search Settlement: Ends, Means, and the Future of Books**, which can be found at: [http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1024&context=james\\_grimmelman](http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1024&context=james_grimmelman).

Questions? Comments? Feedback? Contact me:

E-mail: [dianna.magnoni@olin.edu](mailto:dianna.magnoni@olin.edu)

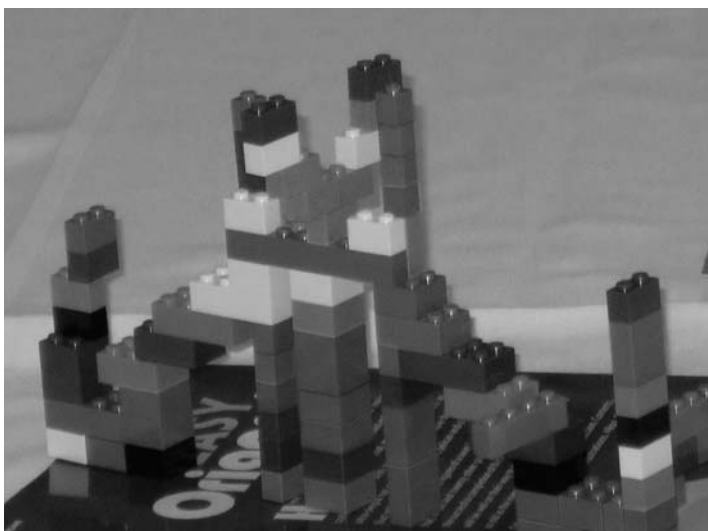
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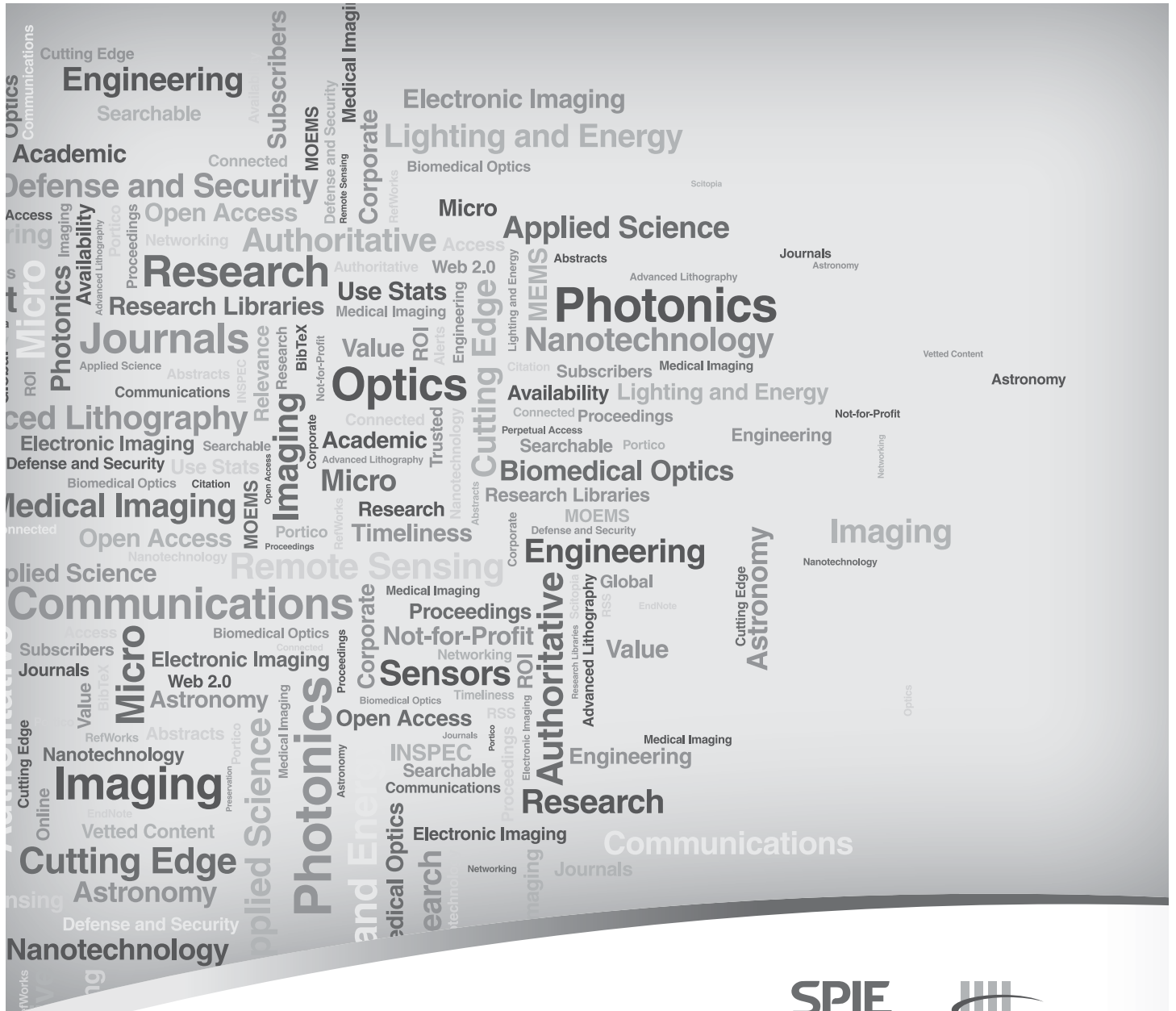
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Dee Magnoni [dianna.magnoni@olin.edu](mailto:dianna.magnoni@olin.edu) ❖

## Play: Creative Tools for the Technical Librarian session at SLA Annual Conference





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email: robertd@spie.org  
SPIDigitalLibrary.org



**Special Libraries Association Engineering Division  
\$1000 IEEE Continuing Education Stipend - Call for Applications**

**Stipend to attend the SLA Annual Meeting in  
New Orleans, LA, June 13-16, 2010**

IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) is sponsoring for SLA Engineering Division members a travel stipend up to \$1000 toward payment of expenses incurred while attending any Continuing Education course offered at the annual SLA conference in New Orleans, LA, June 13-16, 2010.

The IEEE Stipend will be given to the qualified member who submits an essay, of three or fewer double-spaced typed pages, which is judged to be the best paper that addresses "How the member will benefit professionally from a continuing education course." **Please email Bing Wang (bing.wang@library.gatech.edu) for a list of Continuing Education courses offered during the SLA 2010 conference.** The winner will also be required to submit an article to the Engineering Division newsletter (*SciTech News*) within twelve months of completion on how the course helped them in library applications.

**Qualifications for Entering Competition:**

Be a member of the SLA Engineering Division in good standing for at least one year as of January 1, 2009.

**Special Instructions:**

Type your full name (without any additional personal information) at the top of each essay page. Double space the typing on all pages.

**Deadline for Submission:** February 9, 2010.

The winner must be present to accept the award at the annual Engineering Division Business Meeting during the SLA 2010 conference.

**Submit Entries for the award to:**

Bing Wang, SLA-ENG Awards Committee  
Georgia Tech Library & Information Center  
Atlanta, Georgia, 30332-0900  
Phone: (404) 894-0816  
E-mail: bing.wang@library.gatech.edu

**Special Libraries Association Engineering Division  
\$1200 Inspec Stipend Award -- Call for Applications**

**Award to attend the SLA Annual Meeting in  
New Orleans, LA, 13 - 16 June 2010**

Inspec is sponsoring for library school students the award of a \$1200.00 travel stipend toward payment of expenses incurred while attending the annual Special Libraries Association conference in New Orleans, LA, June 13-16, 2010.

The Inspec Award will be given to the qualified student who submits an essay of three or less double spaced typed pages that is judged to be the best essay submitted describing the following scenario:

"Describe and propose the use of a web 2.0 technology to connect users with information in an engineering library."

**Qualifications for Entering Award Competition:**

Be a student member of the Engineering Division of the Special Libraries Association.

**Special Instructions:**

1. Give your full name, address, telephone number, e mail address, and a statement, on one page, of your qualifications, as given above, for entering the award competition. Include the name of your library school.
2. Type your full name (without any additional personal information) at the top of each essay page. Double space the typing on all pages.

**Deadline for Submission:** February 9, 2010.

**Submit Entries for the award to:**

Bette Finn, SLA Engineering Division Awards Committee  
Georgia Tech Library and Information Center  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Atlanta, Georgia 30332 0900  
Phone: (404) 894 1790 Fax: (404) 894 8190  
E mail: [bette.finn@library.gatech.edu](mailto:bette.finn@library.gatech.edu)

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

### **\$1500 Elsevier/SLA Engineering Librarian of the Year Award**

This award, sponsored by Elsevier and the SLA Engineering Division, highlights the accomplishments and contributions of members to the engineering librarian profession. The winner must be present to accept the award at the annual Engineering Division Business Meeting held during the annual SLA conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-16, 2010.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to nominate themselves— or they may be nominated by a colleague or associate.

#### **Criteria for entry are:**

1. Membership in good standing in the SLA Engineering Division as of January 1, 2009.
2. Distinguished achievement(s) in the engineering library profession, through an exceptional contribution on the job, within the SLA Engineering Division, or within the industry at large. Accomplishment(s) should have taken place within the calendar year immediately preceding the nomination/application. However, in selected cases, based solely on the Awards Committee's judgment, recognition may be given for ongoing, long-term contribution(s).

#### **Instructions for submissions:**

Submit the nomination/application by February 9, 2010.

Provide full name, job title, address, telephone numbers, e-mail address, and a maximum one-page statement of the nominee's qualifications to:

Jane Stephens  
Sterling C. Evans Library  
Texas A&M University Libraries  
5000 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-5000

Or to:

[jstephens@tamu.edu](mailto:jstephens@tamu.edu) / Subject line = SLA AWARD  
979-845-5382 (voice mail)





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