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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.'



It was a fantastic conference this summer! Thanks to everyone one who helped - and there are many. We had the largest conference in the last 6 years. The Washington, D.C. Chapter did a super job with all the preparations and hospitality. There are brief summaries of many of the programs in this issue of Sci-Tech News. Check Sci-Tech News for what is in the works for next year's program in New Orleans - laissez les bons temps rouler!

Congratulations to all of our winners this year. An article about the winners, and where, appropriate, their papers are in this issue of Sci-Tech News. There are also awards that the Chair makes. This year's awards went to Roger Beckman for his work on our Archives and Sheila Rosenthal for her extraordinary service as Awards Committee Chair. Christine Whitaker, our last year's chair, was also honored. Way to go, all of you who went above and beyond!

Align in '09. This is an extremely important topic. SLA President, Gloria Zamora, has written a column for this issue of Sci-Tech News, about the alignment project, so be sure to read it carefully and thoughtfully (Information is also available on the SLA website at: <http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/alignment/index.cfm>).

For those of us who are longtime members of SLA, you know that a name change has been an ongoing discussion. However, in the past year, SLA Headquarters has gathered information that seems to back a change in the name of the organization and, to some extent, change the path that SLA has trod for a long time. Each of us has to make up our own mind on whether or not a change is warranted and if there is change, how it should go.

In the past, I have known many librarians who have said they would rather quit the organization rather than have the name changed. I really, really don't want to see anyone do that. This has to be a civil change and neither the tyranny of the majority nor the tyranny of the minority should rule. No matter if SLAs name changes, I still have that MSLS and go to work in a library. It's the work that I do that's more important to me than what I am called. There are a number

of people who may feel strongly that things should change and others equally opposed to any changes. So, whatever the outcome, I want everyone to continue to be a member of SLA and be active in it. No matter what happens, I will remain a proud member of SLA (or whatever name comes about).

In 1999, we had 966 members and between then and now we went to a low of 528 and now 562 members. (Overall membership in SLA dropped as well). While some of that drop had to do with the establishment of several new divisions, not all of the drop can be attributed to that. We can do better.

Bearing in mind the economy, it is more difficult for one to justify membership in SLA, especially if you don't go to the annual conferences. SLA offers fabulous benefits for members that I've talked about before so I won't say more except that you should check out the SLA homepage under Click University, Resources and Career Center. We are going to do a free (for members of the division) continuing education program this fall. We hope we will be able to do more programs in the coming years in an electronic format. Contributed papers will be published in the *SciTech News* so if you can't make the conference, you'll still be able to contribute a paper or read them.

If you have suggestions on how to attract members of the division and how to retain them, either post them to me (penrici@d.umn.edu) or to our listserv at SLA-DST@lists.sla.org. The Advisory Board and the Executive Board are considering recommendations made by our student members but I know there are more good ideas out there. Remember that you can use the listserv for a variety of things including discussing such things as Align in '09, requesting information from your peers, etc. This is your listserv!

Speaking of volunteers, please vote in the upcoming Sci-Tech election. There will be a brief bio of each of the candidates in this issue of *SciTech News*, and more information will be on the listserv. This is the first time in several years that we will have a choice in candidates.

Way to go, Nominating Committee!

Both SLA's and Sci-Tech's reserves have been hit by the stock market decline but we are still solvent. As the stock market bounces back our reserves will rebuild. We won't know how we stand with this year until the bills come in from this conference. More information will be coming later on this year.

I know everyone is extremely busy these days (I've doubled the subject areas I cover this year), and there is little, if any, extra time to volunteer. But Sci-Tech needs you and your talents. For example, we still need someone to be our Parliamentarian. Although we have tried to streamline our committees (a good example is putting the Teller in as part of the Nominating Committee because of electronic voting), we still need more good people. Contact Pam Enrici

and/or the current chair of the committee you would like to serve on. If you aren't sure, you can go to:

<http://units.sla.org/division/dst/Officers/officers.html>.

Last but not least is a report on *SciTech News*. James Manasco is our new editor and although there were major problems with the last two issues, the next two issues should be out on time. As of next year we will be going all electronic. Good going, James!

Remember, any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me or any of the Executive Board members or use our listserv. ❖

Pam Enrici
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Message from Science-Technology Division Chair-Elect

The theme of the 2010 conference is "Entering SLA's Next Century: Let the Good Times Roll!" The Sci-Tech Conference Planning Committee is working hard to make the Sci-Tech programs fun, relevant and memorable.

Sessions in 2010 are intended to focus on the short and long term future of special librarianship. We'll be partnering with several other SLA divisions to make this possible; some of the ideas on the table at this point are:

- Collection Intelligence metrics/strategies to demonstrate value of library collections
- Grants Librarianship
- Datasets Curation
- Science of Hot Sauce
- Contributed Papers Session with Virtual component
- Science Info & Mobile Devices

- Sci-Tech Division Business Meeting, Newcomer's Lunch, Board Meeting
- Science & Engineering Resources 101
- Computer Science Round Table
- Academic Round Table
- All Sciences Poster Reception
- IT Division Open House

Follow our progress at <http://wiki.sla.org/display/SLASCITECH/2010+Sci-Tech+Annual+Conference+Planning>. If you're interested getting involved with the Sci-Tech conference planning process, please let me know. See you in New Orleans! ❖

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