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Aerospace Section News

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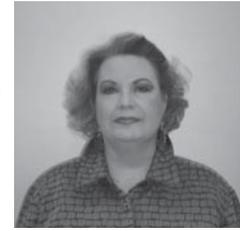
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Aerospace Section

Gale Harris, Chair



The Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division encourages communication and cooperation among information professionals concerned with aerospace, aeronautical and related technologies. In addition, it fosters dialog with entities such as NASA, the AIAA and other important sources of technical data and bibliographical services.

2009 is quickly drawing to a close and ending 100 years of SLA. The next 100 years of SLA (will that be our name?) will be truly amazing. Look back to where we began and where we are now. Now consider the speed of change and it is only imagination that will determine our future.

My term as Aerospace Chair is over in December. I will become the Past-Chair and turn the Aerospace Section Chair reins over to Hema Ramachandran from California State University-Long Beach. She and the incoming Engineering Chair, Laurie Allen, have been working hard this year in planning for the 2010 conference which will be in New Orleans, LA. I can't think of a more wonderful place to have our conference.

Looking forward to next year, we have the Leadership Summit, January 27-30, 2010 to be held in St. Louis, MO. I have only attended this event in the last two years but have found it to be a great opportunity to meet the Executive Leadership in an informal setting. One really gets to see how the SLA organization operates. I shared a wonderful meal with Gloria Zamora last year and thoroughly enjoyed our conversations. Many of the attendees at the Leadership Summit are there to prepare for the International conference but it is still a great way to meet and network across chapters and divisions. If you can't go to New Orleans, go to St. Louis. You won't be sorry.

SLA members have long asked for help in communicating their value to their organizations—a need that is particularly acute in the current economic environment. In January 2006, the Board of Directors voted to approve the funding for this necessary alignment research and the association embarked on a journey to attempt to understand the changing environment and how it affects our profession. After completing an exhaustive RFP process to find the right

team, SLA began a far-reaching and thorough study of the information profession, examining the roles of and attitudes towards librarians and info pros, and how their association can help them build a better future. By now you all have been peppered with emails regarding the proposed new name for SLA which goes along with this Alignment Project. All SLA members are encouraged to voice their opinion on this proposal by casting an electronic vote in a special referendum that will begin on 16 November and end 9 December. The result will be announced on 10 December. This is your chance to make a mark on our future.

This year as Aerospace Chair has flown past. I was hesitant in the beginning, but as with all things “the journey of a 1000 miles begins with one step—Lao-tzu.” The Aerospace Chair position has given me the opportunity to meet a number of wonderful, interesting people that I would not have otherwise known. I have traveled to new cities and have had new experiences, in particular, a late night ghost tour in a hearse. I had the opportunity to be a Moderator which I have never done and it was fun. I gave away awards, which was a happy thing. I encourage all of you to accept the opportunity to serve in any capacity when SLA calls.

I want to thank all of the Aerospace members for supporting me in my tenure and for supporting SLA. I especially would like to thank Dee Magnoni, Engineering Chair for her energy and enthusiasm. It is infectious. Working with her has been a joy. I also would like to thank Kathryn Breininger, Past Aerospace chair for her efforts in teaching me the ropes. I am grateful to you both. ❖

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