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Science-Technology Division News from the Chair

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Science-Technology Division

Hilary Davis, 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 great to see a lot of you in New Orleans! The 2010 conference was one of the best in terms of quality of programs and collegiality. Slides/handouts from the Sci-Tech sessions (where Sci-Tech took the lead in organizing the sessions) are posted on our website and on SLA's conference website.

I owe a great deal of gratitude to our fearless 2010 Sci-Tech Conference Planning Committee who helped plan, organize, and implement six Sci-Tech-led sessions, four co-hosted sessions, and five additional events. Without them, the high quality and attention to detail for each of these programs would not have been possible. Many thanks to the vendor sponsors and attendees of the sessions – we had standing room only in some cases! Thanks also to the co-hosting units (PAM Division, Chemistry Division, Engineering Division, ERM Division, FAN Division, IT Division, Social Sciences Division, and the Australia-New Zealand Chapter) for working with us this year. Finally, thanks to the 2010 SLA Conference Advisory Council and the SLA staff who were available throughout the planning stages, during the conference, and after the conference tying up loose ends.

Look for summaries of the sessions in this issue of the SciTech News! If you have any feedback about the Sci-Tech conference sessions and events and related media, feel free to let me know. Photos of the Sci-Tech Division activities are posted at: http://www.flickr.com/groups/sla_dst.

If you weren't able to attend in person, check out the Future of Science Librarianship Contributed Papers session videos online (all four presentations are available at: http://units.sla.org/division/dst/)! Thanks to the work of the *SciTech News* team and the Contributed Papers Committee, the full-text of the papers are published in this issue of the *SciTech News* as Conference Proceedings.

I'd also like to direct your attention to the Sci-Tech Division Awards article published in this issue (by Sheila Rosenthal and Hilary Davis). The article highlights the winners of our division awards and explains why we wanted to recognize the following people: James Manasco, Sci-Tech Division Professional Development Committee, Sci-Tech Division Vendor Relations Committee, Praveen Kumar (P.K.) Jain, Sara Samuel, Shantanu Ganguly, and Molly Tebo. The 2010 Longevity and Retirees are also paid a special recognition in the article.

During the 2010 SLA Annual Conference, the Advisory Council and Executive Board met to review progress so far this year. The highlights were reviewed during the Business meeting as well. All of the Sci-Tech Committee and liaison reports as well as the June 2010 meeting minutes and the latest budget info are available on the Sci-Tech Division wiki: http://wiki.sla.org/display/SLASCITECH/Executive+Board+Documents.

Some highlights for 2010 so far:

Our webmaster, Margaret Smith, is working on a Sci-Tech Division website facelift using Wordpress.

We have a Sci-Tech Division Twitter account to help enhance our communication and broadcast the accomplishments of our Division (check it out at http://twitter.com/SLA_DST). Look for a new Sci-Tech Division "Member Spotlight" section in the *SciTech News* featuring short interviews with Sci-Tech Division members.

The Professional Development Committee is preparing to offer another webinar later this year. The "Twitter for Special Libraries" webinar conducted in May was a rousing success with over 50 attendees.

SLA Headquarters is working on creating a toolkit to help coordinate a more unified visual identity including mission, vision, branding and logo recommendations across the units.

The agreement between Indiana University and the Sci-Tech Division to house the Division Archives has been extended through January 2014.

We hope to work with the Arabian Gulf Chapter to offer another International Student Award next year.

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Membership Committee Chair, Sarah Oelker, reported that we have ~520 members; in collaboration with members from our Student Relations Committee, she also hosted the Newcomer's Lunch.

The Strategic Planning Committee is preparing to review our Division strategic plan.

Student Relations Committee Chair, Thea Allen, reported that the Mentoring Program is continuing ahead; they will also be announcing the winners of the Free Student Memberships Contest soon.

Vendor Relations Committee Chair, Carol Lucke, reported that her committee raised over $13,290 in vendor sponsorships this year!

The *SciTech News* team reported continued success with the online platform and they are looking for more peer-review article submissions.

Treasurer Cheryl Hansen reported that our Division's financial standing looks stable with the overall balance higher than in the two previous years.

The Nominations Committee called for nominations from the floor during the Business meeting; expect to see more info very soon with a chance to vote for Chair-Elect and Treasurer.

Chair-Elect and 2011 Conference Planning Committee Chair, Joe Kraus, announced some tantalizing programs on the slate for next year including (but not limited to): a Forensics session (as a murder mystery!), Visualization of Scientific Information, Science of Ice Cream, Science 2.1 (social networking tools for scientists), Tour of the TastyKake factory, and Tour of the Franklin Institute.

We've got a lot going on this year and we'd love to get as many folks involved as possible. As always, if you have comments, questions or suggestions, or want to join in the fun, feel free to contact me. ❖

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