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Science-Technology Division

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Science-Technology Division

Ann Koopman, 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.

What a wonderful conference we had in Denver! It was really an energizing experience, with excellent topical programs, fun networking receptions, lots of member activities to celebrate, and a humming exhibits hall. Even the weather cooperated. And the Science of Beer speaker was so good that the attendee evaluations were the most enthusiastic I have seen in all my years of programming. There turned out to be NO TRUTH TO THE RUMOR that Mary Frances and I would be carried up to the hall by firemen at the All Sciences Reception (at the Firefighters' Museum), though I have to confess to a certain disappointment when that turned out not to be the case.

Many thanks to the planners who made it possible (Michelle Wilde, Dale Riordan and Roger Beckman) and their committees. Of course, our vendor friends made it possible financially. Look for the honor roll of Sci-Tech sponsors in this issue; if any are vendors of yours, please tell them you noticed and that you appreciate their support of your Division.

If you were unable to attend this year's conference, this issue of *SciTech News* contains session reports on the Division's programming. A few of our sessions will be available on the conference CD from SLA, or posted on our Division website <http://units.sla.org/division/dst/>). You may also want to take a look at the conference-related posts on the SLA Blog (http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla_blog/).

Some committees and their chairs deserve special recognition.

- Janet Hughes and her Membership Committee arranged for some creative Divisional swag – Sci-Tech magnets ("Sci-Tech stick to us"); logo stickers for the badges; and combination key rings/tape measures/levels ("Sci-Tech helps you take your measure and keeps you on the level"). Yes, we had to practice saying the slogans with a straight face.
- Janet also managed the Sci-Tech portion of the newcomers' luncheon (shared with Chemistry and BIO), worked with the Student Relations Committee to draft a promotional poster for outreach in library schools, and identified our

most experienced members for special certificates in appreciation of their tenure with Sci-Tech.

- Hilary Davis and the Student Relations Committee have resuscitated our mentoring program, recruiting and making matches between mentors and mentees.
- Sheila Rosenthal and her Awards Committee were able to select recipients for all 3 of our monetary awards. They also produced recognition certificates for our Impossible and Appreciation awards. Adding our special celebratory certificates for long-term members this year increased their workload, but everyone had a lot of fun with this. Richard Hulser and Wilda Newman were present to receive their certificates and share both some reflections on their years with Sci-Tech and some encouragement for the future.
- Anna Ren (the deserving recipient of our Impossible Award) and her Communications Committee prepared for the meeting by comparing practices of other divisions, so the Board could make decisions about new ways of handling Division communications.
- Darra Ballance and the Nominating Committee recruited our candidates for 2008: Pamela Enrici for Chair and Christy Caldwell for Secretary. Their biographies are included in this issue of *SciTech News*, so you'll have a chance to "meet" them before the casting of ballots this fall.
- Charlene Stachnik and the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed our aging plan and conducted an open board session for general comment. Look for the completed revision of the plan in the November issue of *SciTech News*.

And, of course, Chair-Elect Christine Whitaker and her committee of program planners are already hard at work on Seattle plans. Since SLA is shaking up the way the conference is conducted, our Division is using the opportunity to try out some changes in the way we handle networking and programs.



Your Board was busy at this meeting. We agreed to participate in a joint survey with ALA's Science & Technology Section, and to do a survey of *SciTech News* subscribers about electronic publication preferences. We agreed to allow the Board the option of extending terms of committee chairs & members beyond 6 years on a case-by-case basis.

Communication was a hot topic at the Board meetings. It turns out that only about 25% of our listserv subscribers are actual paying members of the Division, and that only about 20% of Division members subscribe to it. Since we need a method of communicating with members effectively electronically, we agreed to move our listserv to be hosted by SLA, and to subscribe all of our members to the list (with an option to opt out, of course). Several other divisions have gone this route (BIO, for example). Once we see how that works out, we'll consider adding a blog.

The strategic planning session addressed our marketing and outreach efforts as we look for ways to build up the Division. Given the fact that our Division membership has declined by about 50% over the last dozen years, we need to focus a lot of energy on recruitment and retention. Janet and the Membership Committee will be spending some quality time with our outreach practices.

So look for some surveys soon – these are a real opportunity to let your leaders know what YOU want from YOUR Division. We genuinely want to know what you need and expect from Sci-Tech so the Division can respond.

See you in Seattle!❖

Ann Koopman
Ann.Koopman@jefferson.edu



Sci-Tech Board Members at the Division Breakfast. Left to right, back row, Chuck Wenger, Nevenka Zdravkovska, Charlene Stachnik, Cheryl Hansen, Wei Wei, Christine Whitaker Front row, Susan Fingerman, Mary Frances Lembo, Catherine Lavallée-Welch, Janet Hughes, Ann Koopman, Anna Ren

The Science-Technology Division Welcomes Our New Members

Katherine Alford Boone, NC	Robin Howard El Lago, TX	Ren Martin Calgary, AB	National Technical Information Svcs
Geogory Carter Drexel University	Debra B Kolah Rice University Fondren Library	Kevin D Masters Brighton, MA	Susan C Schneider Waterford, CT
Teria A Curry Baltimore, MD	Heather S Lewin Iowa State University Library	Teresa May Concurrent Technologies Corp.	Mark J Whatford Philip Morris USA Corporate Affairs
Brad Hemminger SILS, UNC-CH	Roland Liu Synthosys	Tara Mawhinney McGill University Schulich Library	

2007 Sci-Tech Division Award Winners

On behalf of the Sci-Tech Division Awards Committee, I would like to announce our 2007 Sci-Tech Division Award Winners. The awards were distributed at the SLA Conference in Denver Colorado, during the Annual Business Meeting & Breakfast.

Bonnie Osif, Engineering Reference and Instruction Librarian at Pennsylvania State University, was the recipient of the **2007 Sci-Tech Achievement Award**. Bonnie has been a member of the Science-Technology Division for many years, most recently serving with distinction in one of the most demanding positions, *SciTech News* (STN) Editor. In addition to her 6-year stint as STN Editor, for which she was recognized with the Impossible Award in 2004, she has contributed to the profession with numerous publications. Bonnie also recently won an award for her reference work *Using the Engineering Literature*. This "Best Reference Work Award" was presented by the Engineering Libraries Division of the American Society for Engineering Education. In a statement, it noted that the award-winning reference work, of which Bonnie is the editor, was chosen "from a very competitive pool." Bonnie has a wonderful ability to write not only for her own professional colleagues, but for information consumers in other professions as well.

Lisa Johnston, a graduate student at the School of Library and Information Science of Indiana University and a member of the Sci-Tech Division of SLA, received the 2007 **S. Kirk Cabeen Travel Stipend Award**. Lisa holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Astronomy/Astrophysics from Indiana University and has 5+ years of

experience in four science libraries, 3 years as a magazine editor and journalist. She has computing/programming skills in (X)HTML, CSS, XML and database experience in PHP, MS Access, MySQL. At the Chemistry Library in Bloomington, Indiana, Lisa was the recipient of the 2006-2007 Chemistry Library Graduate Fellowship and the Charles H. Davis Science Library Scholarship. Since 2006, she has assisted the head librarian with reference desk duties and special projects, and she teaches an introductory library course to undergraduate students. She also performs bibliographic instruction and information retrieval on the web.

Demissew Tsigemelak Gebreyohannes, Science Librarian (Assistant Head), Addis Ababa University, Faculty of Science Library, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was the winner of the **2007 Bonnie Hilditch International Science-Technology and Engineering Divisions Librarian Award**, which was co-sponsored by the SLA Engineering Division. Demissew is dedicated to librarianship in biology, chemistry, computer science, earth science, mathematics, physics and statistics at Addis Ababa University. He is Assistant Head of the Science Library, as well as being responsible for electronic resources on science and science related fields that are provided through the PERI (Programme for Enhancement of Research Institute - UK)

Due to problems with his visa, Demissew was unable to attend the SLA Annual Conference in Denver.❖

Sheila Rosenthal
Awards Committee Chair



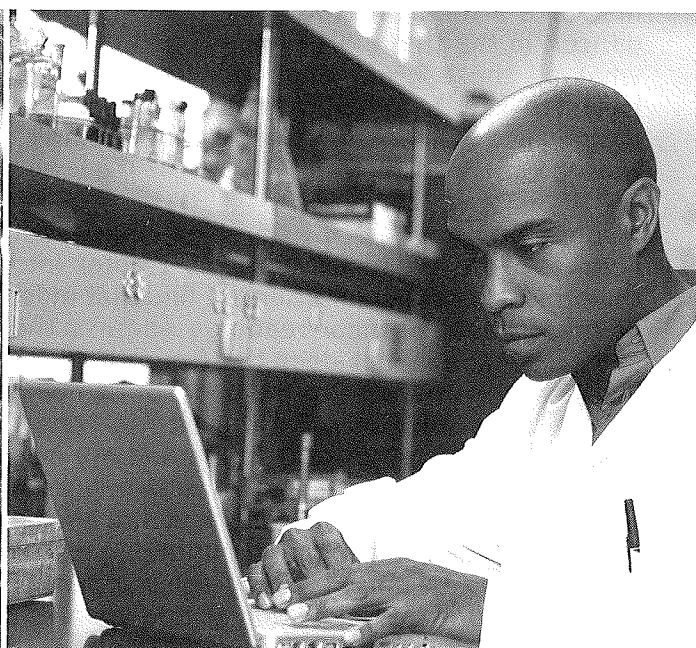
Sheila Rosenthal (left) presents the Sci-Tech Achievement Award to Bonnie Osif



Lisa Johnston (left), winner of the S. Kirk Cabeen Travel Stipend, with Sheila Rosenthal, Awards Committee Chair

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"Climbing to New Heights" with the Sci-Tech Division

by Lisa Johnston, Winner, 2007 S. Kirk Cabeen Travel Stipend Award
Presented at the 2007 SLA Denver Conference Sci-Tech Business Meeting

I've encountered several inspiring themes since joining the SLA in the last year. "Broadening our Horizons" "Make your future happen at SLA" and, of course, the theme to this year's conference and the topic of my essay, "Climbing to New Heights." But before I gear up to tackle my first route up to New Librarian Summit, I wanted to first take a moment, catch my breath, a little difficult in the thin, mile-high air, and discover what all these great euphemisms are really trying to say. In other words: What makes a division like Sci-Tech so valuable for climbing to those New Heights?

It appears that special libraries, like most libraries, face a difficult time. As I enter into the profession of library science I find that most of my graduate school readings address the same question: What does the future hold for libraries? As a newbie to the sport of Climbing to New Library Heights, I am a bit frightened, scared that the tether to help me and my new colleagues ascend may not be as strong as it used to be. Or worse, perhaps the view from the top is nothing but another mountain, another up-hill battle toward retaining the support of our institutions and adjusting to the changing climate of information sharing.

Fortunately for young librarians-to-be, we have professional organizations like the SLA to scout out the route ahead and help prepare us for the challenges that libraries face. But more importantly, we have a division of people, our colleagues and friends, who navigate common challenges and share their unique solutions.

Technologies change and scientific discovery advances, but groups like the Sci-Tech Division prepare us with the best tools and knowledge to keep us on top of the field and ready to face the next difficult climb.

Sci-Tech librarians blog the latest advancements and RSS feed their newest acquisitions, but they also retain close professional ties which built a community of supporters that the new and inexperienced can turn to. In the Sci-Tech Division, answers are but an email away because our librarians have devoted their careers to not only organizing the latest information sources but also expanding their own scientific and technological knowledge, to become a better librarian, and to make our libraries better information centers.

To sit at the edge of new sci-tech advancements is exactly why I aspire to become a librarian. And this year's theme, "Climbing to New Heights," might also speak of learning new skills and taking professional development courses. But for those in the science and technology fields, these words mean more than just another slogan on a booklet, they present a challenging and exciting information mountain to climb. Staying on top of this ever-growing mound of sci-tech information could be the most beneficial and rewarding expedition of all. And it's comforting to know, as I find my first foothold in the profession, that there is an entire group of people already at the top who are more than happy to lead a helping hand along the way. *Thank you!* ♦



Left to right, First time conference attendees and Sci-Tech members Meredith Saba, Lisa Johnston, and Suzanne Switzer

Sci-Tech Division Call for Mentors/Mentees

The Student Relations Committee of the Sci-Tech Division is reviving the Mentoring Program and is looking for members to serve as mentors as well as those who are seeking a mentor. We already have 5 mentorships ongoing between Sci-Tech mentors and both students and new career professionals. As we kick-start this program back into existence, we'd like to hear from as many of you as possible who are interested in being involved.

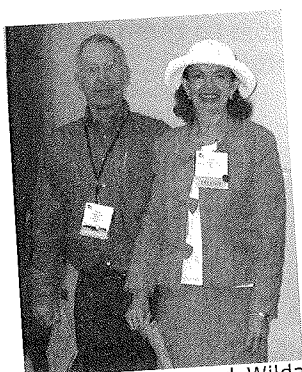
The Mentoring Program matches students, new members or new career professionals with an experienced member of the profession in their area of interest. The mentor is a contact person who can act as a guide and field questions about job searching, preparation for the profession, making one's way into SLA, and career development. Time involved is minimal - typically, the mentor will contact the mentee several times during the year just to touch base and will be available for questions during the year.

Topics may be diverse and may include specifics about subject-based collections or reference service, job search and interview tips, outreach advice, guidance with professional development, SLA involvement, ideas for jump-starting research projects, how to turn a research project into a poster or publication, etc.

Join the Sci-Tech Student Relations Committee group in Facebook (<http://ncst.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2406631102>) to talk about science & technology librarianship, mentoring, and supporting the "Next Generation" of the library community.

If you are interested in being a mentor or are seeking a mentor, please contact:

Hilary Davis
Tel: 919.513.0654 | Fax: 919.513.1108
hilary_davis@ncsu.edu❖



Richard Hulser and Wilda Newman receive their recognition awards for many years of service and loyalty to the Sci-Tech Division.



Michelle Wilde (left) receives her Appreciation Award as Denver Program Planner from Ann Koopman

Honor roll of Sci Tech Sponsors

We are grateful to all of our information partners for their financial support in bringing you our ambitious program at the SLA Annual Conference in Denver.

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2007 Science-Technology Division Board Candidates



Pam Enrici – Candidate for Chair-Elect

Engineering Librarian,
University of Minnesota Duluth Library
penrici@d.umn.edu

1. What role does the SLA/Sci-Tech Division have in the career of a new librarian in a sci-tech library?

I've been the Engineering Librarian at the University of Minnesota Duluth Library (we're on the shores of Lake Superior) for over twenty years. In the past few years I've added responsibilities for music (for me its a fit!) and for medicine and pharmacy as well as overseeing our library instruction program. Before coming to Duluth, I was an engineering librarian at the University of Florida and before that I was the cataloger for science serials and music at the San Jose State University.

I became active in SLA when I was at San Jose State. I started going to national meetings when I was in Florida and over the years I have done committee work, been a mentor, and evaluated a student for an SLA scholarship. I received the 1999 Sci-Tech Division Impossible Award for planning the Division's 75th anniversary program at the annual SLA meeting in Minneapolis.

I believe the role of the Sci-Tech Division in the career of a new librarian in a sci-tech library is to help that librarian understand how their users think, what they expect from us, get the subject information they need and find ways to market their library. Networking and mentoring are the most important services we can offer to new librarians as well as seasoned ones. The librarian should know that they can ask questions of other librarians, without prejudice.

2. What is the most critical issue facing SLA and/or the Sci-Tech Division? What would you do about it?

Dwindling membership is the most critical issue facing the Sci-Tech Division. The obvious answer to this is to recruit more members but the question behind that is how. The Sci-Tech Board is already looking at our mission statement and how to market our Division more effectively. These measures, are, I think, the best way to start increasing our membership.

3. Let's turn the typical question around- what has been the most significant contribution that SLA has made to you?

The most significant contribution that SLA has made to my career is the opportunity to learn - both on subject information and vendor information. Without this information I would have been left far behind in my subject areas and not been an effective advocate for those subject areas to my library administration.

4. What is the most important challenge that librarians will face in the next ten years?

There are many challenges coming up in the next ten years but I think the most important one that librarians will face is how to communicate with our users. With the advent of Web 2.0, and whatever new technologies that may come along, our users are interacting with one another in a variety of new and old ways. There will be additional challenges for those librarians that work behind strong firewalls or in high security environments. We need to be able to anticipate which direction(s) our users will go and make our services available to them in the way the users feel most comfortable.

Christy Caldwell – Candidate for Secretary



B.S. Biological Sciences, 1995
MLIS, San Jose State University, 2000

Interim Head, S&E Library, U.C. Santa Cruz, 2007-present
Science Librarian, S&E Library, U.C. Santa Cruz, 2001-2007
EpiCenter Director, ETR & Associates, 2000-2001

1. What role does the SLA/Sci-Tech Division have in the career of a new librarian in a sci-tech library?

Networking with colleagues is invaluable for a new librarian. Most of us in libraries have unique assignments within our institutions. Being able to connect with other libraries with similar assignments is one of the most valuable aspects of belonging to SLA/Sci-Tech.

2. What is the most critical issue facing SLA and/or the Sci-Tech Division? What would you do about it?

Declining membership is a critical issue, which

is a symptom of corporate down-sizing. At one of the annual conference sessions, a panelist mentioned how SLA needs to begin marketing to the non-librarian. How keeping competitive isn't settling for whatever information everyone else has. How information retrieval and information management isn't "free". This is also useful advice for academic libraries, whose science departments are competing for grants and for people. We can help them, but only if we can let them know in a way they would understand.

3. Let's turn the typical question around-what has been the most significant contribution that SLA has made to you?

The ability to meet other colleagues from around the country and discuss the wonderful work they are doing. It's inspiring.

4. What is the most important challenge that librarians will face in the next ten years?

Ensuring that the people who hold the purse strings perceive us as essential.❖



Roger Beckman receives his Appreciation Award from Ann Koopman for his leadership of the contributed paper series.



Mary Frances Lembo (left) with Impossible Award winner Anna Ren



Marty Jamison, retiring SciTech News Advertising Manager, receives his Appreciation Award from Susan Fingerma



Sponsors at the Sci-Tech Division Business Meeting and Breakfast
Left to right, George Zajdel, ASTM, Diane Hoffman, ProQuest, Kurt Griemsmann, Nature Publishing Group, Lisa Vaccaro, Nature Publishing Group, Bob Brand, Knovel



Tamika Barnes McCullough (left) receives her Appreciation Award as Membership Chair from Ann Koopman