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## Science-Technology Division

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## Science-Technology Division Mary Frances Lembo, Chair

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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.

I am delighted to be writing my first column as Chair of the Sci-Tech Division. Our 2005 Annual Conference in Toronto was truly an outstanding one. Feedback from the session attendees has been very positive and we are using this information to develop future programming. Many thanks go to our committee chairs, moderators, speakers and especially to Ann Koopman, our program planner, for putting together such a great program for us. Extra thanks go to Ann and to Darra Ballance, for keeping me on track throughout this past year.

One of the things that concerned me most as Chair-Elect was the task of getting sponsorship for the Annual Conference. However, the generosity of our vendors made this task much easier. I would like to thank our vendors for their support. To ACS, ASME, British Library, CAS, CrossRef, Dialog, Elsevier, Haworth Press, IEEE, Knovel, Open Text, ProQuest and Thomson Scientific a very big THANK YOU from the Sci-Tech Division!.



Outgoing Chair Darra Balance (right) passes the gavel to Incoming Chair Mary Frances Lembo(left)

During the SLA Annual Business Meeting, two modifications to the by-laws were voted on and passed almost unanimously. The first change allows voting by proxy, so that the membership can vote via the internet. The second change makes the governance year of SLA match the calendar year, bringing it in line with SLA's fiscal year as well. In the future, elected officers will serve from January to December. Elections will happen in the fall rather than the spring and current officers will stay in their positions for an additional six months. So I will be your chair until December 2006, and the rest of the executive board (Past Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Chair-Elect) will also remain in their current offices until then.

Other new announcements include: the Information Technology (ITE) Division added a Blogging/RSS section to their Division and The Materials Research and Manufacturing Division is voting on whether to petition to become a section under the Chemistry Division.

SLA kicked off their new Click University. The site is an online learning system to facilitate professional development and continuing education for SLA members. If you haven't seen it yet, check it out at <http://www.sla.org/content/learn/clicku.cfm>

We also had some great networking opportunities at the conference. Our Newcomers' Brunch gave us the opportunity to meet new Division members and touch base with familiar faces. The All-Sciences and Engineering Reception at the SteamWhistle Brewery was very well attended and an enjoyable evening. Sci-Tech and Engineering Divisions also partnered on an end-of-the-

conference happy hour, which allowed us to relax and unwind after a very busy week.

If you were unable to attend this year's conference, this issue of *Sci-Tech News* contains session reports on the Division's programming. You may also want to take a look at the SLA Conference Blog at [http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla\\_conference\\_blog/](http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla_conference_blog/).

What really makes the Sci-Tech Division such an exciting and dynamic one is the support and contributions from its members. I am constantly in awe over the talented and energetic people in this division. That makes the job of being chair a little bit easier. So if you would like to volunteer to be part of a committee, or if you have any

suggestions or comments for the Division, please let me know!

We are already gearing up for another great series of programs for Baltimore 2006. Janet Hughes is our program planner. She has already begun the organizing process and has lined up a number of very informative presentations. We are working with other divisions to co-sponsor innovative sessions and once again there will be several no-conflict times for visiting the exhibits.

Something new for 2006 is that the opening keynote speaker is currently scheduled for Sunday evening. The city of Baltimore is an excellent choice to host the SLA Annual Conference so I hope you all will be able to make plans to be there in 2006. I know I'll be there!❖

Mary Frances Lembo  
Chair, Sci-Tech Division  
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### Science & Technology Division Awards

The main order of business at the Science and Technology Annual Business Meeting on June 6, 2005 at the 2005 SLA Annual Conference was the distribution of Division sponsored awards. Congratulations to the following award winners:

**2005 Science and Technology Achievement Award** – received by Catherine Lavallée-Welch



(Left to right) Widharto, Catherine Lavallee-Welch, Karin J. Shank, and awards chairperson Cheryl Hansen.

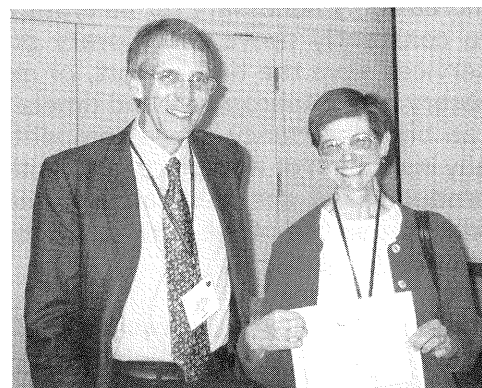
for her work in the creation of the first blog on the subject of engineering and science librarianship, EngLib. This blog can be found at <http://englib.info>. This blog covers all aspects of the profession from information on electronic resources to information concerning professional associations and conferences. Ms. Welch is an Associate Librarian at the Lakeland Regional campus of the University of South Florida. The award was a plaque and \$750.

**2005 Bonnie Hilditch International Science-Technology Division Librarian Award** - Widharto of the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Tropical Biology located in Bogor, Indonesia received the award for his work in regional information networks. The award was a certificate and \$1000 to cover travel expenses.

**2005 S. Kirk Cabeen Travel Stipend** – awarded to Karin J. Shank, graduate student at North Carolina Central University, for her essay on "Keeping Librarians Relevant". The essay was in keeping with the conference theme and discussed how the role of the librarian is changing as information becomes more readily available to patrons who are becoming more independent information seekers. Ms. Shank won a certificate and \$750 for travel expenses.

The Awards committee was chaired by Cheryl Hansen and included John Breitmeyer, Patricia Losi, Eleanor MacLean, Kim Prater and Christine Whitaker.❖

Submitted by Diane Foster, Florida State University Libraries, Dirac Science Library  
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Roger Beckman and Ann Koopman with Conference Program Planning Award.

**“Keeping Librarians Relevant”**  
**An essay on the theme of ‘Putting Knowledge to Work’**  
**by Karin J. Shank, S. Kirk Cabeen Travel Stipend Award Winner**

As information seekers become more independent in today’s electronic information environment, librarians worry about becoming irrelevant. The line between librarians and information technology (IT) professionals continues to blur, and those of us in the library profession wonder how we will be able to compete. As we have seen from the advent of the printing press, personal computer, and the internet, technology plays a central role in information sharing. Although IT professionals are experts in the design and implementation of technology systems, only librarians can effectively select, organize, and provide the appropriate content to make these new technologies truly valuable in the workplace or other library setting. Rather than drawing lines in the sand between the two groups, perhaps it would be more prudent to work earnestly to break down barriers between librarians and IT professionals. I envision a world where both groups apply their expertise toward the common goal of providing the best information to the client in the most efficient manner.

In addition to building new technology collaborations, librarians should also focus on clarifying patron needs, and providing value-added information products. Special librarians, especially those working in for-profit environments, have always placed a strong emphasis on these goals. It has become increasingly necessary for all types of librarians to constantly prove that library products and services save the time, effort, or money of the library user. Appropriate and timely information can bring efficiency and a competitive edge to any institution or workplace. Promotion of library products and services can also lead to more widespread use of the library and recognition of librarian expertise.

However, it is nearly impossible to offer valuable information services without completely

understanding the needs of the community which the library serves. In the past, librarians have gauged patron needs by conducting surveys, analyzing usage statistics, and gathering new ideas from the library literature. In today’s world certain patrons rarely, if ever, step foot inside a physical library. Where virtual libraries abound, intentional efforts must be made to maintain effective communication with clients and patrons. Librarians should leave the library and spend time with clients, study the mission(s) of their institution, talk with colleagues and competitors, and learn first hand about the information needs of their community. This approach will not only lead to a more complete assessment of the library’s mission and purpose, but also to more creative, innovative, and valuable solutions.

Keeping librarianship relevant in today’s world isn’t about reinventing librarians into “information professionals”, “knowledge managers”, or “CI experts”. It isn’t about pushing for larger budgets for the library or upgrading to all the latest technology. And it isn’t about staking our claim as independent information experts who know all and do all. Library relevance comes from the ability to recognize the needs of our community, understand and exploit developing technologies, and effectively communicate with patrons and colleagues to provide products and services that are valued and utilized by our clients. ❖

Ms. Shank graduated in July of 2005 with her M.L.S. in Library Science with a Special Library concentration, from North Carolina Central University, Durham, N.C. She received her B.A. in Biology with an English minor from Eastern Mennonite University in 1997, and her M.S. in Crops Science and Botany from North Carolina State University in 2000.

## Plenty of Good Work to Go Around

As you will see from all the conference reports in this issue, the Annual Conference in Toronto was excellent. Lots of Sci Tech folks worked hard to make it happen, contributing in all kinds of capacities. Look at some of the jobs done to see if you would like to participate in similar ways next year, and please join me in thanking:

- Roger Beckman, Contributed Papers Committee, chair and moderator; A. Ben Wagner, Contributed Papers Committee; Joe Kraus, Contributed Papers Committee and general tech support; Wei Wei, Contributed Papers Committee; and all the members who contributed papers and posters for consideration.
- Valerie Hatten, Vendor Update moderator and greeter for the All Sciences Reception;
- Catherine Lavalley-Welch, Science of Hockey moderator (and blogger extraordinaire!);
- Lynn Berard, Open Access moderator;
- Stephanie White, Newcomer's Brunch moderator;
- Claudia Lascar, Winner's Circle of Best Web Sites speaker;

- James Manasco, Happy Hour leader, Science & Engineering Resources 101 speaker, Technology Petting Zoo planner and all-around guy Friday (not to mention Candidate for Association office);
- Mary Frances Lembo, Science & Engineering Resources 101 speaker & fundraiser extraordinaire;
- David Hook, local venue advisor (thank him for the SteamWhistle!) and Self Archiving planner;
- John Cruikshank, chapter webmaster, who posted all the contributed papers and program information;
- Susan Fingerman, STN editor, who coordinated the presentation of promotional information and post-conference reporting;
- and all the conference reporters!

The quality of our conference experience reflects the effort we all put into it. Thank you all for your insights, your generosity with your time, and your flexibility. ❖ —

Ann Koopman, Sci-Tech Division 2005 Conference Planning Chair and Chair-Elect



### 2005 SLA Virtual Learning Series

The seminars, which use web-based visuals and audio conferencing, are a great way to learn without leaving the workplace. Visit: <http://www.sla.org/content/learn/learnmore/distance/virtsemspec.cfm>, to see what you need to do to attend. The dates and topics are listed below. Seminars are typically held from 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm ET.

For those who wish to attend the program but are unable to join the live presentation, a "REPLAY" will be made available within two to three business days. You will be able to hear and see the presentation – just like attending live!

The best part of our seminar is how easy it is to take advantage of it! To learn more or if you have any questions, e-mail SLA at

[learning@sla.org](mailto:learning@sla.org) or call the Professional Development Center at +1-703-647-4925.

**October 2005**, Library Benchmarking and the Information Product Development Lifecycle

**Part I:** October 12, 2005, The Principles of Conducting a Library Benchmarking Project

**Part II:** October 26, 2005, Integrating Benchmark Findings Into the Information Product Development Lifecycle

**Speaker:** Roger Strouse, Vice President and Lead Analyst, Outsell, Inc.

**November 2005**, Text Mining

**Part I:** November 15, 2005, Unlocking Knowledge from Text

**Part II:** November 29, 2005, Case Studies and Implementation Roadmap

**Speaker:** Seth Grimes, Alta Plana Corporation

**2005 Annual Conference Honor Roll  
of  
Sci-Tech Division Vendor Sponsors**

*American Chemical Society (ACS)*

*American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME )*

*British Library*

*Chemical Abstracts Society (CAS)*

*CrossRef*

*Dialog*

*Elsevier*

*Haworth Press*

*Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers  
(IEEE)*

*Knovel*

*Open Text*

*ProQuest*

*Thomson Scientific*

***Thank You!***

## **ASEE/ELD Best Practices in Scholarly Publishing "Punch List" update**

The American Society for Engineering Education/Engineering Libraries Division (ASEE/ELD) has updated their Best Practices "Punch List." This list was presented to the Sci-Tech Outgoing Board meeting on June 5 by Virginia Baldwin, the ASEE Engineer Librarians Division Liaison and to the Engineering Division Outgoing Board meeting by Daureen Neddill, Liaison from the Engineering Division.

The list focuses on eleven issues of greatest importance to the academic library community, including current best practices and issues still to be addressed. It is a critical document to be considered during licensing discussions. The original document is on the ELD Web site at

<http://eld.lib.ucdavis.edu/punchlist/PunchlistRevision2005.pdf>

The goal of the "punch list" is to effect change that benefits all parties involved. The Best Practices Task Force welcomes your communication on this topic. Email them at [ELD-PL@u.washington.edu](mailto:ELD-PL@u.washington.edu) or contact your Division liaison with suggestions. ❖

## **The Science and Technology Division Welcomes These New Members**

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