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Alabama Health Libraries Association

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

What a busy year this has been for ALHeLA! All manners of exciting opportunities have developed in recent months! First, we received an invitation to hold a joint meeting with Southern Chapter/MLA in the year 2000 in Mobile! Many of you will remember the joint meeting we held with Southern Chapter in Birmingham in 1993, and the enhanced opportunities for learning offered to our members at that meeting.

Secondly, our Internet class for Montgomery area health professionals went off without a hitch June 17 at the Alabama Public Library Service, despite the inclement weather that day! Thanks to Martha Verchot and Judy Burnham for teaching the class, Robert Avant for handling the local arrangements, Adam Creel and Mary Payne of APLS for providing technical support, and Inez Pinkard and Jan Burns for helping publicize the class!

Pursuant to the success of that first demo class, we decided to apply for the NN/LM Internet Training for Health Professionals grant from the Southeastern/Atlantic Regional Library in Baltimore. The grant application was filed July 1, 1997 and we anticipate a reply by the end of the month.

This year for the first time, ALHeLA is awarding a deserving library school student with attendance at our annual meeting in the ALHeLA Library Student Grant Competition. We look forward to gaining the perspective of a relative newcomer to the field as well as imparting the wisdom of our collective experience to that person!

Tammy Lee has done a marvelous job organizing the first Health Science Library Exchange luncheon at the Southern Chapter meeting this year in Savannah! If you're planning to attend Southern Chapter, we may need your help at that function!

Judy Burnham is busy as always with her various projects. The Executive Board decided to go along with her recommendation on the newly titled MASA Review (previously Alabama Medicine) - namely, individuals in ALHeLA continue to submit short articles to the journal. Judy also presented a poster at

MLA in Seattle recently on ALHeLA's collaboration with the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) and the Alliance for Continuing Medical Education on last year's MASA workshop and Manual publication.

Speaking of the Manual, there was some consternation within the Executive Board on what to do with the remaining thirty or so Manuals that were printed by ALHeLA right before the Alliance for Continuing Medical Education approached us about publishing it. Although the "older" MASA Manual doesn't actually predate the Alliance Manual by more than a few months, there were a few changes made just before they went to press with it. Ultimately, the Board felt that selling the MASA Manual might not be the right thing to do. So, it was decided to offer the manuals as an incentive to early registrants for the 1997 annual meeting.

Pat Higginbottom, Program Chair/President-Elect, has been busy tying up loose ends on the annual meeting. As you can see from her article, all the pieces are in place for a great meeting! Diane Whited and Tracy Powell, Continuing Education Committee co-chairs, have also finalized the details on the CE offering at that meeting, "Marketing Your Library," with Mary Marshall of Lexis-Nexis. (Continued on p. 4)

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ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

June 13, 1997

Kay Hogan, President, called the meeting to order at the Alabama Public Library Services, Montgomery, AL at 10:45 a.m.

The reading of the minutes was omitted as the members had already seen them. There was one correction as to the spelling of the name of Marian Morris, after which the minutes were accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

MASA Review Kay Hogan reported for Judy Burnham: The question that was tabled last meeting was whether to continue submitting articles to Alabama Medicine, with its title changed to MASA Review, by ALHeLA members. Having reviewed the first issue of MASA Review, which has a different format, Judy recommended that ALHeLA members continue to submit articles, as there are some original articles in the journal. However, prospective authors need to keep in mind the focus of the journal and the short length of the articles. Judy suggested that the articles be submitted individually with a note in the cover letter that you are an ALHeLA member. It was agreed that we follow Judy's suggestions.

Internet Class Kay Hogan reported for Judy Burnham that the workshop has been expanded to health professionals and will be held at APLS on June 17. Martha Verchot and Judy Burnham will conduct the class. Robert Avant will handle local arrangements, registration and refreshments. APLS is going to supply an Internet connection and projection equipment. We are going to distribute disks with a bookmark file of major medical sites along with handouts. Kay Hogan is working on a grant application that will provide funding for additional classes throughout Alabama. Robert Avant reported that there are 13 or 14 signees and he was considering a cutoff point. It was felt that cutoffs would not be necessary. Martha Verchot reported that skills of the signees are at various levels. Most physicians have some experience with the Internet. Kay thanked Jan Burns and Inez Pinkard for their help with publicity. There was a brief discussion of the hands-on class to be held in November at Alabama Technacenter. Fees will probably be \$25.00. A discount will likely be offered. Robert Creel and Mary Payne will assist with the setup. Martha will confer with them at the Technacenter today.

Regional Health Sciences Library Association Exchange Kay Hogan reported for Tammy Lee that a flyer with plans for the Round Table luncheon was distributed to the Board members. It gave details of the session. Help from members is needed to take certain items to the meeting. Diane volunteered to take pictures. Kay Hogan will carry the

scrapbook and directories. Others may be asked to help. Discussion concerned the need for a facilitator and secretary for each table of eight. Tables should be clearly marked. There should be a list of tables with signees and a list of signees with tables. Alabama, Georgia and Florida are the only participants so far. Publicity will be in Southern Expressions.

Ad Hoc Committee on Recruitment and Training of Medical Librarians No report.

ALHeLA Library Student Award The award will be given for one year and it will be decided if it should be continued. Someone at the UA Library School should be asked to assist with the application process and with publicity. It was announced that a new professor, Mr. McCall, is expected at UA in August and his interest is medical librarianship.

NEW BUSINESS

NNLM/SEA Grant - Internet Training Class for Health Professionals Kay Hogan passed out copies of her grant proposal. Plans are to conduct five classes in different sections of the state to educate state health professionals in the use and values of Internet resources. The hand-on class planned for November is included in the proposal. A classroom with Internet access is needed in the Dothan area. Several locations were suggested to be investigated. Bob Schrimsher will check on possible facilities.

ALHeLA Achievement Award The Awards Committee reported and made suggestions which were discussed by the group.

SC/MLA 2000 The board voted to participate as a cosponsor of the meeting with University of South Alabama Biomedical Library. The amount spent at the last co-sponsored meeting is not known. We should request funding from vendors for activities. It was pointed out that a speaker is needed.

MASA Manual Update In a written report Judy burnham reported that the manual is now being marketed by the Alliance for Continuing Medical Education. At MLA several people noted that they had attended a recent CME meeting and that the manual was for sale at the meeting. \$25.00 is being charged for the manual with ALHeLA receiving 15% royalty (\$3.75 each). Judy did a poster at MLA on the development of this project along with results of a survey of state health information professional groups on a formal basis. Several people at MLA indicated an interest in doing a similar project with their state group. Judy intends to submit this to the Bulletin MLA in the form of a Brief Communication.

Treasurer's Report The report was made by mail after the meeting since Martha Cook was absent. The ending balance was \$4,786.57. Expenses were for postage (\$24.64).

COMMITTEE REPORT

Membership Marian Morris reported a total of 63 members with several others expressing interest. A current list was distributed.

Directory Betty Wyman reported expenses of \$800.00 for last year's directory. The new directory is being developed. Input as to what members want in the book is needed. The Bylaws and Handbook will be given to the committee for the 1998 edition which is due in 1999. Suggestions were to list what institutions have Internet access, members' areas of expertise and those willing to teach a class. The information survey should be reviewed for updating. Essentials only should be requested. E-mail distribution of the survey was suggested, but Synapse will be used this year.

Liaison Martha Verchot has talked with Robin Ross and found that her interest is in quality filtering and low-literacy materials on diabetes to be made available to doctors for patient use. She is less interested in housing of materials than in a pathfinder to suitable resources. Betty Wyman and Joan Lukins can offer some help and it was suggested that she also contact the Alabama Diabetes Association.

Bylaws/Handbook Bob Schrimsher stated that since no significant changes have occurred at MLA level, he feels that none is needed in ALHeLA Bylaws. His recommendation is that the Bylaws remain as is.

Synapse Jie Li requested input from members for the publication. The next deadline is July 11.

Union List Robert Avant gave thanks to Valerie Gordon for putting Alabama MD in the Union List. He is a little behind on NLM name changes. He announced that Baptist Hospital has a new medical librarian, Becky Purdom.

Continuing Education Diane Whited has contacted Bonnie Snow of Dialog for a drug information workshop, but the expense was more than we would like to undertake at this time. Mary Marshall of Lexis-Nexis has agreed to present a six-hour workshop on library marketing at our Guntersville meeting. Tracy Powell will send an E-mail message to get CE credits from MLA. It was suggested to give out application forms at the class to apply for MLA credits.

Member-at-Large No report.

1997 Annual Meeting Pat Higginbottom distributed a printed report to Board members. Highlights are: Theme: In

a Different Light: Making Your Library Shine. Dates: September 4-5, 1997 at Lake Guntersville State Park, Guntersville, Alabama. 40 rooms are reserved and must be engaged by 30 days before the meeting at a cost of \$60.00 - 98.00 per night. Banquet price is about \$11.00-15.00 per person. Keynote speaker: Herbert S. White. Continuing Education class by Mary Marshall is at \$60.00 for members and \$80.00 for nonmembers.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Submitted by Inez C. Pinkard, Secretary

Regional State Health Libraries Associations To Host Leadership Development Round Table

On Saturday, October 25 at 12:00 noon, all past, present and future officers, as well as interested members of state associations in the region, are invited to attend a leadership luncheon at the MLA Southern Chapter Annual Meeting in Savannah, Georgia. This exchange will offer a unique opportunity for state groups to exchange ideas on state association activities, methods, as well as share printed and visual materials in an informal network setting. Tables will be organized by the following officer/function topics, with a facilitator designated from each state group represented: state association president/strategic planning/leadership, vice-president/meeting planning, secretary, treasurer, communications: newsletters/listservs/web pages, etc., membership, continuing education, and outreach to health professionals and other associations, etc.

All ALHeLA members attending Souther Chapter are encouraged to attend. Registration is limited to 50 participants! Simply register on the Southern Chapter meeting form! For additional information, or, to volunteer to help with final details, contact Tamera Lee or Kay Hogan.

Submitted by Tammy Lee

(Continued from P.1, President's Column)

It was also decided at last Executive Board meeting that at this point the ALHeLA Bylaws should not be changed to more closely resemble the MLA or Southern Chapter Bylaws, as it had been proposed. See Bylaws Committee Chair Bob Schrimsher's article for more details.

I think you may begin to get the point that this Executive Committee has been very productive this year! And I have not yet even gone into the activities of our Membership, Directory, Newsletter, Union List and Liaison Committees! We are really lucky to have all these energetic and innovative people on board with ALHeLA. It's been wonderful to work with them!

Kay Hogan, ALHeLA President

ALHeLA Library Student Award

ALHeLA is awarding University of Alabama School of Library and Information Science students interested in medical librarianship the opportunity to attend the 17th Annual Meeting in Guntersville this September (see "Annual Meeting"). The ALHeLA Library Student Grant Competition provides registration and accommodations to the library school student who submits the best one-page essay on: 1) the reason(s) for that person's interest in medical librarianship; and 2) what benefits he or she hopes to obtain in attending the ALHeLA meeting. The competition is open to all currently enrolled UA SLIS students, and the deadline is August 4, 1997. Essays should be submitted to Martha Cook, ALHeLA Treasurer and SLIS Adjunct Assistant Professor at the UA Health Sciences Library, Box 870378, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0378, or mcook@capstone.cch.ua.edu. A panel of judges will review the essays and submit their judgement by August 18, 1997. For more information, contact Kay Hogan at (205) 934-2232 or khogan@uab.edu.

Submitted by Kay Hogan

Internet Training for Health Professionals Grant

ALHeLA has submitted an application for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern/Atlantic Region Internet Training for Health Professionals Grant. The purpose of this grant is to improve health professionals' understanding of the Internet and its applications, and it is primarily geared toward unaffiliated, rural and/or minority health professionals. The ALHeLA proposal, if funded, would provide one day, hands-on classes in five different towns in Alabama: Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Auburn, Huntsville and Dothan. Judy Burnham, Past President, and Martha Verchot, Liaison Committee Chair, would teach most of the classes, with Mary Fran Prottzman, Liaison Committee Member, as an alternate instructor. The grant amount requested is the maximum \$2000.00 award with any excess costs covered by registration fees. Continuing education credits will be sought from the appropriate authorities.

We feel that this would be a worthwhile project in fulfillment of ALHeLA's mission to promote the sharing of health science information resources and services in Alabama. If the project is not funded by the grant award, the Montgomery class will still go on as scheduled in November, with the possibility of other classes added according to costs and demand. Thanks to ALHeLA members Lee Clemans-Taylor, Pat McGee, Bob Schrimsher, Mary Fran Prottzman, Tammy Lee and Martha Cook for their help in scouting out electronic classrooms in their areas. Thanks also to Judy Burnham, Martha Verchot and Mary Fran Prottzman for agreeing to teach the classes. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we get the grant!

Submitted by Kay Hogan

Annual Meeting

Be on the lookout in your mailbox for your registration packet for this year's ALHeLA Annual Meeting! Plans are being finalized for this year's event which is being held at beautiful Lake Guntersville, Alabama.

Our conference begins with a nature hike along one of the many trails at the State Park. Don't worry, the path is not difficult, but it will allow us to get some fresh air and exercise! This event is for the early birds who arrive on Wednesday, September 3, 1997.

The next morning at 9:00, things get into full swing with our CE course taught by Mary Marshall, Director of the Information Professional Support Group at Lexis-Nexis. Her topic is "Marketing Tips for Health Sciences Librarians."

Herbert S. White, distinguished professor Emeritus at the School of Library and Information Sciences at Indiana University will provide us with a keynote address sure to spark controversy. Be sure to bring your questions and ideas to share about library promotion for the discussion after the address.

Although much work has gone into the planning of "In a Different Light, Making your Library Shine" it won't be a success without YOU. Mark your calendar for September 4-5 and get your registration in early! For more information, contact Pat Higginbottom at (205) 934-2230 or phiggin@uab.edu

FREE MANUAL! FREE MANUAL! FREE MANUAL!

That's what you'll get if you are among the first 30 people to register for ALHeLA Annual Meeting. The MASA MANUAL was done by ALHeLA members for the Medical Association of the State of Alabama meeting last year. We have about 30 copies to spread among members, so send in your registration early to get your FREE MASA MANUAL!

Submitted by Patricia Higginbottom

Bylaw/Handbook Issue

There has been considerable discussion this past year during the ALHeLA Executive Board meetings regarding changing ALHeLA's Bylaws and Handbook, primarily to bring it more in line with the Medical Library Association's. After closer scrutiny, it was determined that changing the Bylaws/Handbook would not add any substance to them but would basically be a format change. Furthermore, since the Articles of Incorporation are an integral part of the Bylaws/Handbook, costs would be incurred for attorney review and adjudication. During the June meeting, the executive board passed the motion made by me not to change the Bylaws/Handbook. The Bylaws/Handbook have appeared to work well in the past, and there is no reason to believe they will not do so in the future.

Submitted by Bob Schrimsher

ALHeLA Outreach Activity

ALHeLA sponsored a two-hour seminar entitled "Internet Overview for the Health Professional" on Tuesday, June 17, 1997 at Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) in Montgomery. Judy Burnham, University of South Alabama Biomedical Library, and Martha Verchot, UAB Lister Hill Library, presented the seminar. Robert Avant, APLS, handled registration and local arrangements. On-site computer technical support was provided by Adam Creel and Mary Payne, also with APLS. Ten out of the sixteen registrants attended despite the threatening weather.

Topics covered included some discussion of what the Internet is, how to get connected, a brief look at Internet Grateful Med and some of the major medical sites, and simple use of a search engine and bookmarks. A disk containing a bookmark file for future reference was given to all registrants.

A follow-up hands-on workshop is being planned for Tuesday, November 18, 1997 at the TechnaCenter in Montgomery thanks to Kay Hogan's tenacious work in finding and reserving access to a hands-on facility.

Submitted by Martha Verchot

Nominating Committee Needs Your Input

The 1997 ALHeLA Nominating Committee, Carolyn Holmes, Jie Li and Tamera Lee, chair, invite suggestions for the following ALHeLA Officers for 1998: Vice-President/President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Members at Large. Please ensure that your nominee is willing to serve before submitting your suggestion(s). As we will announce a single slate of officers at the upcoming annual meeting, please send nominations to any committee member prior to August 1.

Submitted by Tammy Lee

MASA Review

MASA Review (previously Alabama Medicine) is a publication of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama. In the past, ALHeLA members have submitted articles to Alabama Medicine in an effort to make ALHeLA more visible in the physician community in the state. With the name change to MASA Review came a change in the format. The new publication includes original articles as well as articles from other medical journals that are of interest to Alabama physicians. Two articles by ALHeLA members have been published in Alabama Medicine/MASA Review, the latest being "Weaving the Web: A Physician's First Spin" by Tamera Lee, MASA Review 1(2):45-49, Winter 1997.

The Executive Committee of ALHeLA believes that its members can contribute a unique body of information to Alabama physicians. Therefore, at the last meeting the Executive Committee agreed to ask members to continue to contribute articles to this publication. Articles can be submitted

to: William McDonald, Medical Association of the State of Alabama, P. O. Box 1900, Montgomery, AL 36102-1900.

Submitted by Judy Burnham

Southern Chapter 2000

An exciting opportunity for Alabama to shine has developed with the choice of Mobile as the site for the Southern Chapter/MLA meeting in the year 2000! ALHeLA will have its place in the sun at that meeting as well, as we have accepted an invitation to hold a joint meeting with SC/MLA at that time. For those librarians who don't often get the chance to attend the larger professional meetings, this close-to-home joint meeting offers an exceptional opportunity. And, as always, ALHeLA will have an exceptional program to match!

Submitted by Kay Hogan

MLA Restructures CE Program: Part I

MLA is implementing a new CE program, which replaces the old system of roster courses, revises the guidelines for journal clubs, and introduces a self-directed learning program. The changes affecting CE courses are described below.

Under the old CE program, MLA roster courses were developed by MLA members at the request of the Continuing Education Committee. Once accepted, syllabi were reviewed every three years by the developer or another individual with appropriate subject expertise. The developer was paid a fee for the course, which was owned by MLA. Other interested instructors could apply to be certified to teach specific MLA roster courses. When a roster course was taught, the syllabi were purchased from MLA, and sponsors negotiated a fee for the course with the instructor, and MLA contact hours were automatically awarded. The developer of the course received a small fee from MLA when his/her course was taught.

Under the newly developed program, ownership of a roster course is offered to the developer as the course comes up for its periodic review. It is then up to the owner of the course to maintain it, market it, apply for MLA contact hours on an annual basis, and set the cost for teaching the course.

Chapters and state organizations often request a specially-designed CE program rather than selecting an existing course from the MLA roster. In these cases, instructors may teach a given course only once, and will have little incentive to pay the fee or complete the paperwork to obtain MLA CE credit. The application for MLA credit states that the application should not be completed by the sponsoring organization. However, individuals may apply for credits as part of the Academy of Health Information Professionals portfolio by completing the Individual Participant Request for Approval (IPR) form. This method of receiving MLA credits will be used for the CE course at the upcoming ALHeLA annual meeting; participants will receive a completed IPR to include with their next AHIP portfolio.

Submitted by Tracy E. Powell

FREE MEDLINE!

MEDLINE is now available free to all Web users, the National Library of Medicine announced at a June 26, 1997 press conference. PubMed, an experimental Web-based system for searching MEDLINE, was unveiled at this press conference as well. PubMed, which is geared toward non-registered users, allows access to MEDLINE and Pre MEDLINE only at this time. However, by using PubMed, the public may follow hypertext links between MEDLINE citations and publishers of full text articles on the Web, as well as links to GenBank, the molecular biology database of DNA/protein sequences. Registered users may still access MEDLINE as well as some other MEDLARS databases free via Internet Grateful Med, but other non-Web-based methods of access will continue to incur charges for the time being. For more information, or to check out PubMed and Internet Grateful Med, point your Web browser to <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>.

Submitted by Kay Hogan

Lister Hill Library Celebrates!

The University of Alabama at Birmingham's Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences celebrated the recent completion of an 89,000 square foot addition to the building with a dedication ceremony on May 2, 1997. Rachael Anderson, President of the Medical Library Association, was the featured speaker at the dedication ceremonies. Ms. Anderson spoke of the changing role of medical libraries in the Information Age. There was a separate ceremony to dedicate the "Gaia Rises" sculpture in the lobby earlier in the day. ALHeLA sent a potted plant to Lister Hill Library in recognition of the event.

New features of the building addition and renovation include a state-of-the-art electronic classroom, retractable shelving in the basement, seven additional group study rooms and more than 20 additional public access workstations.

Submitted by Kay Hogan

News From University of South Alabama

The University of South Alabama Biomedical Library has received notification that it has been awarded a subcontract from Southeastern/Atlantic Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, "Internet Training for Hospital Librarians." The funds from this subcontract will be used to provide Internet training for hospital librarians in south Alabama, southeast Mississippi and northwest Florida. An Overview Class as well as an Advanced Class will be held in August at the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library. Judy Burnham is the Principal Investigator. If you are interested in attending these classes, please contact Judy Burnham at the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library, (334) 471-7855, or jburnham@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Seven University of South Alabama Biomedical Library faculty

members recently attended the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association in Seattle. At the meeting, Tom Williams began his tenure as Chair of the Awards Committee, Pat Rodgers began her tenure as Chair of the Credentialing Committee and Judy Burnham began her tenure as Chair-Elect of the Nursing and Allied Health Resource Section. At the meeting, poster presentations were given by Mike Perry (Web-Based Instruction for the Remote User), Diane Williams (Use of a Weekly User Survey to Determine Assistance Needed for the Public Catalog and Those Indexes Available Through It) and Judy Burnham (Promoting Interaction Between Organizations of Librarians and Health Care Professionals) and a paper presentation was given by Jie Li (Characteristics of Reference Transactions -- Challenges to the Librarian's Role).

Tom Williams has been awarded tenure as Professor of Information Science and Mike Perry has been awarded promotion to Assistant Librarian, both effective Sept 1, 1997. Judy Burnham has been asked to speak at the Southeast Regional CME Symposium in New Orleans in September. This invitation is a result of the workshop ALHeLA conducted for the Alabama CME Directors last August. Judy Burnham has also had a paper accepted for the Alabama State Nurses Association annual meeting in Montgomery in October.

The University of South Alabama Biomedical Library has recently entered into an agreement with the University of South Alabama Area Health Education Center Program to provide library services for the eight member institutions in the Southwest Alabama AHEC (SWAHEC). These include Vaughn-Evergreen Medical Center in Evergreen, Monroe County Hospital in Monroeville, Grove Hill Hospital in Grove Hill, Vaughn-Jackson Medical Center in Jackson, South Baldwin Hospital in Foley, North Baldwin Hospital in Bay Minette, Thomas Hospital in Fairhope, Washington County Infirmary and Nursing Home in Chatom. Included in the provision of library services for these sites are on-site consultations and training classes in accessing medical information, via databases and the Internet. Other benefits of SOUTHmed membership include online searching, and photocopy services available at reduced rates, as well as document delivery. Additionally, full access to the resources, electronic and print, of both sites of the Biomedical Library are available with membership, including the full MEDLINE and CINAHL databases (for an additional fee). SOUTHmed members also have access to the full range of services offered by the College of Medicine's Learning Resources Department. For further information on SOUTHmed, contact Judy Burnham.

Submitted by Judy Burnham

Martha Cook, our ALHeLA treasurer, has been awarded tenure at the University of Alabama effective August 6, 1997. Congratulation, Martha!!!

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