

Special Libraries Association

Biomedical and Life Sciences Division Special Libraries Association Volume 23, Number 4 Spring 1998

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Larry Kelland

This has been a momentous year for the Division. Some major changes have taken place, their origins dating back to previous years. Our name and scope changes, put into effect last june in Seattle, represent a positive result of the battle to prevent installation of a Medical Division in SLA. It represents recognition of our role, along with other divisions, in health sciences librarianship in SLA. Our Medical Section has been active in developing programs and providing a home base for the large health science segment of our Division.

Several matters have been taken up by the Executive Board: The proposed bylaws changes were discussed and passed. The major ones involve succession of the Chair in the case of a vacancy, provisions for new committees to have unique purposes, making our bylaws consistent with SLA model bylaws, and other changes, as laid out in the mailing you have all received. The Board is now considering ways to enhance the role of our newest committee, Vendor Relations.

A major event this year was the completion of directory information on our part of the SLA web page, in particular for the Medical Section. Several members proposed acronym changes for the name of our listsery, but we have not pursued this further, perhaps because we doing well with the current one.

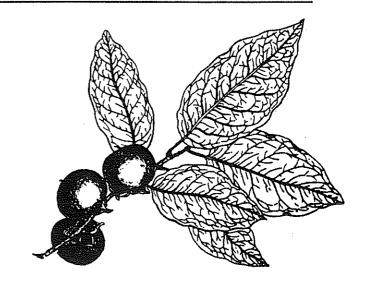
Continued on page 2

#### Continued from page 1

Our committees have all been active this year. and you should all be aware of how much they have been doing to provide the services for you, especially with regard to the Annual Conference. Much of this was outlined in my last column, but there is some updated information to be reported. The Awards Committee has been working on recommendations for enhancement of its scope and procedures. The Fund Development Committee has brought in \$4100 for our programs. They have done an outstanding job. The Indianapolis Program Committee has completed the programs for Indianapolis. The Medical Section has arranged its second Annual Business Meeting, a dinner, and a field trip to the Indiana Medical History Museum, all at the annual conference. The Public Relations Committee reports that our home page is nearing completion. The Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee has created a distribution system of liaison to the SLA Student Chapters and library schools. The Nominations and Elections Committee has the election results, and I wish to congratulate the winners: Anne Malley as Chair-Elect, Eleanor MacLean, Treasurer, and Barb Butler, Secretary. We will have excellent officers to run the Division as they take office.

I want to thank all committee chairs and officers who sent me mid-year reports and annual reports, which will be very useful to me as I prepare the Division's annual report to be sent in to SLA.

My term of office is coming to a close, with only two months left. I have been fortunate to serve during this exciting year.



#### Biofeedback

Biomedical and Life Sciences Division Special Libraries Association

Vol. 23, No. 4 Spring 1998

Biofeedback (ISSN 1060-2488) is published quarterly by the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association, 1700 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington DC 20009-2508. Special Libraries Association assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by contributor's to the Association's publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of the Special Libraries Association. Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product by Special Libraries Association.

The Newsletter is published four times a year: February, May, August, and November. Deadline for submitting materials is the first of each month prior to publication.

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#### **NEW DIVISION OFFICERS FOR 1998/99**

Renee Bush Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee

Anne Marie Malley, Biodiversity Resource Center Coordinator, California Academy of Sciences, is the new Chair-elect for 1998/99.

Eleanor MacLean, Head, Blacker-Wood Library of Biology, McGill University, is the Treasurer-elect for 1998/99-1999/2000.

Barb Butler, Science Librarian, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, is the new Secretary-elect for 1998/99.

The Nominations and Elections Committee wishes to thank Janet Cooper Weiss, Peggy Jones, and Elizabeth Lamont for agreeing to run for office.

#### VENDOR RELATIONS UPDATE AND CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Lori Bronars Chair, Vendor Relations Committee

The charge for the Vendor Relations Committee is summarized below. Division members, please consider joining this group as it is a great time for some new members.

The function of the Committee is 1) to provide a forum for the exchange of information between publishers, products, and vendors and the Division and 2) to investigate and stay current on trends in biomedical or life science publications, products, services and technologies of interest to the Division and pertaining to the traditional library and its electronic environment.

For more information or offer to volunteer, contact:

Lori A. Bronars (Chair)
Science Libraries
Yale University
219 Prospect St.
Box 208111
New Haven, CT 06511-2106
203-432-6213
FAX: 203-432-3441
lori.bronars@yale.edu

#### SEE YOURSELF ONLINE!

Margaret Henderson Chair, Home Page Subcommittee

We are working on the BLSD home page and the Home Page Subcommittee needs your help.

If you have a home page, please send the URL and a one or two line description to Margaret Henderson at henderso@cshl.org

#### **AND**

Send three sites you think are useful and your three favorite web sites with one or two lines about why they are good to Carol Lepzelter at clepzelt@tislink.tis.anl.gov. We recognize that useful and favorite are not necessarily the same.

If there is anything you think would be helpful to have on our web site, please let Margaret know.

Then, just sit back and wait for the BLSD home page to premiere!

Carol Lepzelter, Technical Librarian (Webzilla) Argonne National Laboratory (630)252-3876 fax(630)252-3387 clepzelt@tislink.tis.anl.gov Margaret Henderson, Director of Libraries Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (516)367-8493 fax(516)367-6843 henderso@cshl.org

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#### LANDMARK MEMBERS

Nancy R. Curtis Chair, Membership Committee

1998 is a membership landmark for many members of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division. We are honored to recognize the special librarians and information professionals who are celebrating their twenty-fifth, thirty-fifth, and fortieth years of continuous membership in SLA.

Marie Abbruzzese has been a member for forty years, and William Beatty has been a member for thirty-five. Angeline Durso, Eloise Foster, Nelson Gilman, Mary Lao, Irene Laursen, Cami Loucks, Cherrie Mudloff, Ingrid Radkey, Jocelyn Rankin, Fred Roper, Sharon Schwerzel, Leonard Shapiro, Mara Teranis, and Gail Yokote are all celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversaries as members. Thanks to all of you for your continuing support of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division!

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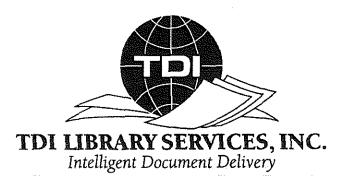
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#### FRED ROPER RECEIVES MARCIA C. NOYES AWARD

Janet Cooper Weiss Chair, Public Relations Committee

Fred Roper, past chair of the Biological Sciences Division (now BLSD), is the 1998 recipient of the Marcia C. Noyes Award, the highest honor awarded by the Medical Library Association. The Award will be presented at the Annual MLA Awards Luncheon on Memorial Day in Philadelphia, PA.



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#### LARRY WRIGHT RECEIVES ROSE VORMELKER AWARD

The North Carolina Chapter of SLA is very proud to announce that Larry Wright has been named the recipient of SLA's 1998 Rose Vormelker Award. This relatively new award is given to an individual member(s) in recognition of exceptional services to the profession of special librarianship in the area of mentoring students and/or practicing professionals in the field. Rose Vormelker was a most extraordinary woman and an exemplary librarian. Her contributions in the field of news librarianship resulted in a News Division award named in her honor. Her active career spanned nearly seven decades. Rose Vormelker attained national prominence as a public librarian, business librarian, government librarian, consultant, academic librarian and teacher. She was also a preeminent newspaper librarian serving the Cleveland newspapers. Further, Rose was President of the Special Libraries Association in 1948-49 and elected to the SLA Hall of Fame in 1963. Over the course of her career, Rose inspired and mentored hundreds of librarians in every branch of our profession.

Larry has been an active member of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division and the North Carolina Chapter since 1984 and is a charter member of the Medical Section. As a librarian in the Library and Information Services Branch of the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences, he has received both the NIEHS Award for High Quality Work Performance and the NIH Award of Merit on two occasions. In 1997, the North Carolina Chapter presented Larry with its Meritorious Achievement Award for outstanding contributions to the Chapter and the profession. One of Larry's greatest achievements in NC/SLA was his strong support of student members as Chair of the Academic Relations Committee.

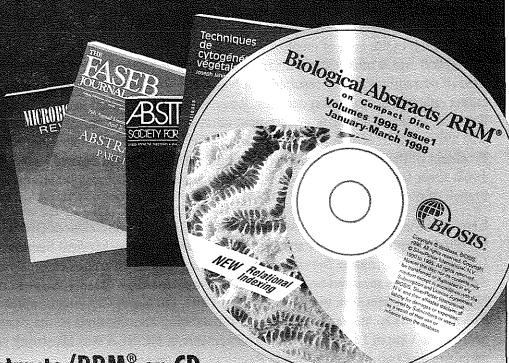
Larry served as Director of the then-Biological Sciences Division from 1991-1992. During that time, Larry researched and wrote the Division's first long term strategic plan. In 1992, Larry prepared a proposal to set up an awards program in the Division to honor both individuals and organizations for service to the Division. This resulted in the eventual creation of our very active and successful Awards Committee which presented the first Distinguished Member Award to Patricia Yocum in 1996.

Larry co-chaired the division's Contributed Papers Session which resulted in the first program in Atlanta in 1994. Thanks to his organizational abilities, the timetable, peer review process, publication and distribution of the full-text proceedings, and guidelines for selection and operation of future CPS Committees were established from the beginning. The CPS is one of the best attended and most important programs that BIO Division sponsors, encouraging quality research and publication by its members.

Larry has served as an advisor to several Division Chairs in addition to his "official" duties. His work was noted by President elect Sylvia Piggott who appointed him as Chair of the SLA Student and Academic Relations Committee. Larry's outstanding efforts for student members and SLA advisors in library schools to strengthen commitment to special librarianship was evident by the events, meetings, and publications he fostered during his term of office.

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#### **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE**

Susan C. Curtis Government Relations Liaison

NIH defended its process of deciding research priorities during a Institute of Medicine hearing in March. The NIH did suggest, however, that Congress abandon the practice of requiring the agency to spend money on particular diseases. The scientific community wants to devote its resources to the most promising fields of inquiry while advocates for specific diseases state that their priority is underfunded. The agency noted that many highly educated and sophisticated disease advocacy groups have coalesced around specific diseases. These initiatives can misdirect resources in the view of the agency. The advocacy groups respond that NIH should weigh more heavily the ramifications of the disease, that is how many people are afflicted, how many die, what the cost to society is, and disparities in the way the diseases affect different populations. The Institute of Medicine's report to Congress is due this summer.

In an attempt to counteract the perception that the Clinton administration is not supportive of R&D, President and Mrs. Clinton devoted much of March 6th to speaking about the need for increased interest in energy, environment and health issues. President Clinton spent the morning with his Committee of Advisers on Science and Technology while Mrs. Clinton spoke at a news conference with science reporters. Later in the day the Clinton's hosted a reception at the White House for scientists.

Late in March the House of Representatives approved the Copyright Term Extension Act (H.R. 2589) which extends the copyright for works with limited commercial value by twenty years. SLA and other library organizations opposed the bill since it does not include an exemption for libraries and archives. The Senate Judiciary Committee has already approved a similar bill. The House Judiciary Committee report is available at <a href="http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/z?cp105:hr452">http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/z?cp105:hr452</a>.

Discussion continues on digital copyright issues. Copyright owners, for example, want to punish users of technologies that get around passwords, encryption methods and other protective software by making their circumvention illegal. SLA is wary of this approach and argues that it would be better to punish violators only when they exceed fair use.

Liability concerns are widely held. Online service providers and telephone companies are joining libraries in asking to be exempted from liability if copyrighted works are stored on or transferred over their networks. SLA is tracking S. 3048 and H.R. 2180 which would provide exemptions to libraries.

Federal government information remains a dilemma. The number of fugitive documents is rapidly escalating due to wide-spread non-compliance with Title 44. The proportion of documents included in the Federal Depository Program has plummeted as a result. A companion problem is the fate of electronic information. No federal agency is charged with providing ongoing public access to the databases available on agency web sites. Agencies are free to take information off and discard the files at will with no regard to scholars or future researchers' needs to see the data. SLA will continue to monitor developments in this area.

#### BIOLIFE: STUDENT COLUMN FOR BIOFEEDBACK

David Duggar Chair, Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee

The 1998 SLA Conference is just around the corner. In the last issue we mentioned a number of travel awards offered by Divisions and Chapters to help students attend the conference. Look further in this issue of Biofeedback for our Division's offer and please take advantage of it. Below are a few others since the last issue.

ERMD Student Travel Stipend. The Environment & Resource Management Division of SLA is sponsoring a contest open to all SLA student members. The award consists of a \$500 travel stipend to aid in attending the 1998 SLA Conference. Applicants must: 1) be SLA members; 2) be enrolled in an accredited MLS or MIS program; 3) submit an essay of 1000 words or less pertaining to the information access in the environment or natural resources areas. There is no formal application form. The applicant must provide a cover letter listing name, address, and phone number. Entries may be submitted in paper but ALL ENTRIES MUST be on a 3.5" diskette in standard ASCII format no matter if paper copy included. Applications should be sent by May 1, 1998 to: Elizabeth Behrendt, World Resources Institute, 1709 New York Ave, NW 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20006-5206; 202/662-2504.

There is also a conference correction to the preliminary program. Contrary to what the preliminary program states on page 22 concerning the Sci-Tech Division's Newcomer's Brunch (Sunday, June 7, 10:30 am - 12 noon), the session is NOT a ticketed/pay event. We want to encourage all student attendees, conference first-timers, new members of the Division and mentors to attend. No need to pay extra and get a ticket, just show up!

As you look at the preliminary program, note a few items for students and first-time attendees. Sunday, June 7

10:00-12:00 noon. BIO, ERMD, CHEM Division Continental Breakfast 1:30-3:00 p.m. SLA Fellows Reception for First-Time SLA Conference Attendees 6:00-8:00 p.m. BIO, CHEM, ERMD Open House

#### Monday, June 8

- 10:30-11:45 a.m. Student and Academic Relations Committee (What works for students and faculty? Roundtable for Unit officers, committee chairs & faculty) [I strongly encourage you to attend and give your comments on what SLA is and is not doing for students]
- 3:00-4:15 p.m. SLA Professional Development. Career Workshop (Resumes that get noticed: tips for writing)
- 5:30-7:00 p.m. Library School Alumni Reunion

#### Continued from page 10

Tuesday, June 8

7:30-8:45 a.m. Biomedical & Life Sciences Division Business Meeting & Breakfast
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SLA Conferences & Meetings. Minneapolis Kick-Off Party
1:30-2:45 p.m. SLA Professional Development. Career Workshop (Turning an interview into a job offer)

Wednesday, June 9

7:30-8:45 a.m. Student and Academic Relations Committee Business Meeting and Breakfast 9:00-11:00 a.m. SLA Annual Business Meeting

1:00-2:15 p.m. SLA Professional Development. Career Workshop (Getting what you want: negotiating your best)

Remember, you can attend ANY Open House, Board Meeting, and Business Meeting. You can even attend the Chapter/Division Cabinet Meetings (there are chairs along the sides of the room for those whom are not officers). Go!! Listen!! Give input!! Network!! And of course, ATTEND OUR PROGRAMS!! (see the previous issue for a full listing under the Medical Section column)

Other things going on (non-SLA conference):

The Medical Library Association has established a listserv for students interested in a career in health science librarianship. You do not have to join MLA to be a part of this listserv. To subscribe, send a message to majordomo@mlahq.org with the following message: subscribe mla-student If you have trouble subscribing, contact Teresa Knott at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at libetk@ttuhsc.edu.

Applications are being accepted for a Health Science Library and Informatics Traineeship at the University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Library System and Center for Biomedical Informatics. Funding is being provided by NLM, OVID, and HSLS. Applications are now being accepted for the first cohort of two trainees, who will begin in August 1998. To learn more about the program, and for application information, see http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/trainee.html. For more information about the Center for Biomedical Informatics, see http://www.cbmi.upmc.edu.

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's annual conference will be July 18-22, 1998 in Snowmass Village, Aspen, Colorado. The Libraries and Educational Resources Section of AACP is offering a \$600 stipend is to help attend this conference for those whose libraries serve a pharmacy school. For more information, contact Dr. Richard Penna at AACP at 703-739-2330, fax 703-836-8982, dickaacp@aol.com.

Now is the time to get active. If you would like to serve on a Committee, as a liaison, or on some small project within the Division, contact Judy Wojcik, Biomedical and Life Sciences Division Chair-Elect, at 404-616-3532 or libjw01@emory.edu. She is forming the committees for the 1998-1999 year and needs you!!!

Also, if you've liked what you've seen in this column, consider becoming a member of the Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee, or submitting news, paragraphs, or columns for Biolife. My term as Chair of this Committee ends in June. Leap forward to continue and expand upon what we've started!

#### FREE TICKETS TO BIO BREAKFAST MEETINGS FOR STUDENTS!

Come Learn about the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division!! Meet and Network with other New Librarians and Old-timers!

The Biomedical and Life Sciences Division is offering five (5) tickets to the Division's annual business meeting and breakfast on Tuesday, June 9, 7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m., and five (5) tickets to the Biomedical and Life Sciences, Chemistry, Environmental and Resource Management Division's Joint Continental Breakfast on Sunday, June 7, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Any Student Member of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of SLA is eligible for these tickets.

If you are a Student Member of the Division and would like one ticket to one or both of the breakfasts being sponsored by the Division, contact David Duggar, Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee Chair, at 318-675-5472 or ddugga@lsumc.edu. This is on a first come, first served basis. Once all ten tickets have been assigned, that's it! So act now! Take part as a student member in the Division. Attend either the networking breakfast Sunday or the Division's business meeting breakfast Tuesday, or both!!

Please give your name, address, phone number, and email address, so that we can confirm membership and that a ticket is being held for you. Tickets will be available to pick up from Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee Chair at the door to each breakfast and during the Medical Section business meeting and first hour of the Division's Open House Sunday.

So don't delay! Act now and take part as a student member in SLA and your Division!!

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#### MEDICAL SECTION NEWS

David Duggar Chair, Medical Section

As our second year as a Section comes to a close, I hope to see many of you at the annual conference in Indianapolis. The Medical Section's second annual business meeting will be from 1:30 - 2:45 p.m. on Sunday, June 7. Come and find out the initial plans for the 1999 Minneapolis conference and give your input to Lorri Zipperer our incoming Section Chair. The conference is in Philadelphia in 2000. Volunteers will be needed! Lorri can be reached at 1-312-464-5672 or lorri zipperer@ama-assn.org.

Sunday night join us as we head to the Jazz Cooker, one of Indy's finest Cajun restaurants. We'll meet in the lobby of the Westin Hotel at 7:00 p.m., giving us all plenty of time to socialize at the Open House. The Jazz Cooker is located at 925 East Westfield Boulevard. Their phone number is (317) 253-2883. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the Message Boards and passed around during the Section's business meeting to get a head count. Directions will also be available.

Don't forget about Monday's program, "Agricultural Runoff and Water Quality - Issues and Information", nor Tuesday's program, "Back to Nature: Medicine from Nature". Both are from 1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

On Wednesday, join us after the Contributed Papers Session for a tour of the Indiana Medical History Museum. It's about 4.3 miles to the west of the Conference Center, a twelve minute ride by car. The admission fee should be waived. If not, it's only \$3.00 to see the medical treasures of Indiana's past. The Indiana Medical History Museum is located at 3045 West Vermont Street. The phone number is (317) 635-7329. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the Message Boards and passed around during the Section's business meeting and the Division's business meeting to get a head count. Directions will also be available.

It has been a great year for the Section. We have programs at the conference. We are listed on the SLA webpage. We are listed as an option in the SLA membership brochure/form. We are underway to becoming a strong aspect of our Division. Take a little bit of your time to join us and network with the health science librarians in your Division.

New Members of the Medical Section as of February 20, 1998: Martha B. Coolidge Carol P. Talaga



### Essential Resources in Biotechnology...

### Encyclopedia of Bioprocess Technology: Fermentation, Biocatalysis & Bioseparation

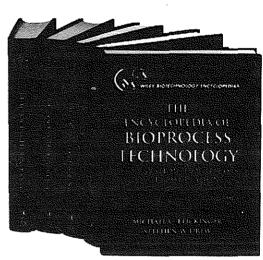
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Thomas E. Creighton, European Molecular Biology Laboratory

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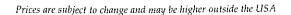
The field of molecular biology has revolutionized the study of biology. The applications to medicine are enormous; they range from diagnostic techniques for disease and genetic disorders, to drugs, and to gene therapy. With its focus on the fundamentals of molecular biology, the **Encyclopedia of Molecular Biology** will become the first point of reference for both newcomers and established workers in molecular biology needing to learn about any particular aspect of the field.

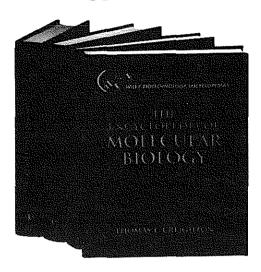
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#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Nancy R. Curtis Chair, BIO Membership Committee

SLA statistics show that the BIO Division ended 1997 with a total of 663 members. Our ranks soared to 688 members by the end of January, but declined to 590 after SLA completed its deactivation process. Division numbers should rise again as deactivated members are reinstated, and as new members join in order to attend the Annual Conference at member rates. (Of course, reinstated members have the opportunity to attend the Conference at regular member rates, too.)

BIO Division Members on the July-June membership cycle will receive renewal notices in mid-April. Although reminder notices will be sent each month until the end of July, it is always a good idea to renew promptly. SLA will run its next deactivation in August.

#### MEMBER PROFILES

Nancy Bryant, MLS currently Project Manager in the Division of Information Technology Service at Morehouse School of Medicine, has been selected to attend a fellowship program in Medical Informatics sponsored by the National Library of Medicine(NLM). The course will take place in June at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. The faculty for the course is comprised of prominent leaders in the field from across the country, including Dr. Donald Lindberg, Directory of the National Library of Medicine, Dr. Daniel Masys, Directory of Biomedical Informatics at the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, and others. The one-week, intensive seminar will cover a broad array of state-of-the-art information, trends, concepts, and hands-on skills pertaining to the field of medical informatics. Some of the topics discussed will include the principles of medical informatics, the High Performance Computing and Communications and National Information Infrastructure initiatives of the federal government, the Unified Medical Language System, emerging Internet technologies, Web page design, the IAIMS (Integrated Advanced/Academic Information Management Systems), clinical information system architecture and telemedicine.

Nancy also recently submitted a successful proposal for a subcontract from the National Library of Medicine, for an information outreach project in collaboration with Southside Healthcare, Inc., of Atlanta. The project will provide technologies, computers, Internet connectivity and training to health professionals and support staff at Southside and its satellites. Resources available will include the WorldWide Web, electronic mail, Internet Grateful Med, Pubmed, and document delivery. MSM and Southside share a common mission, to serve the health care needs of the underserved. This partnership will provide Southside Healthcare staff access to the most up to date medical literature and other information for patient care, research and administrative needs. It will also allow them to communicate via electronic mail with each other, staff at MSM, and other colleagues throughout the world. It is significant in addressing the role of information access in providing health care service to urban, traditionally undeserved populations. The National Library of Medicine is funding the subcontract under a contract with National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Region 2 (#NO1-LM-6-3522), at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Nancy is the former and first Chair of the Medical Section of the SLA Biomedical and Life Sciences Division. She has also been active in the Georgia Chapter as Past President, Program Chair, and Affirmative Action/Student Relations Chair.

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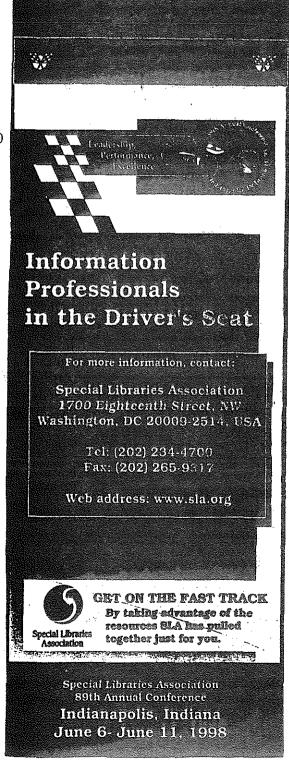
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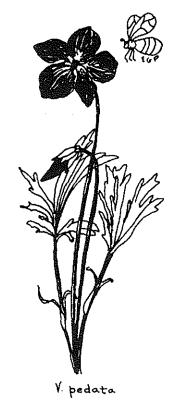
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The 1998 Annual Salary Survey instrument will be sent to a random sample of SLA's membership in April. In order to provide compensation information that truly reflects your expertise, education, and experience, we need all members who get a 1998 SLA Salary Survey in the mail to return it right away.

For further information, contact Director, Research Ruth M. Arnold, Ph.D. at: 1-202-234-4700, ext. 615; fax: 1-202-265-9317; e-mail: ruth@sla.org.



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