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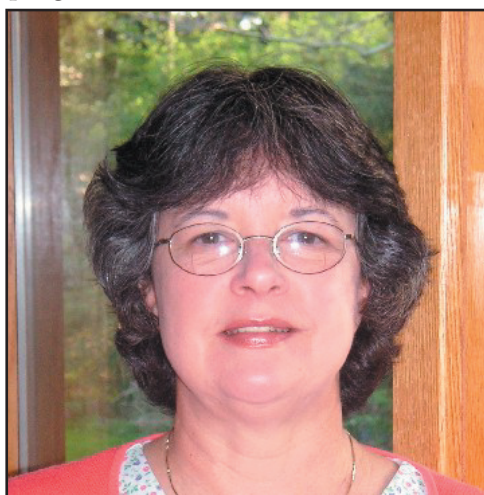
NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

President's Message: MHSLA Needs You!

By Pat Martin

University of Michigan, Taubman Medical Library

Conferences are good things. The format provides opportunities for education, thinking about our profession and careers, networking, fun, and perhaps extra sleep, interesting food, and for exposure to a new place – or a new look at a familiar place. MHSLA State University, Fall 2006, was no exception. We had a first class education program (Yea, Education Committee!) and were treated like royalty, thanks to the hard work of the Local Arrangements Committee. To all who helped in the planning and execution and to all who attended, my sincere thanks. We gained much from those few days.



Putting on an annual conference of this quality is a worthy goal and absorbs a lot of energy. There are other aspects to this organization which accomplish a great deal as well, as committees work throughout the year to serve the membership. Board members and Committees are largely in place for this year. The Strategic Plan has been finalized and nicely



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provides direction for the work of the whole organization. Now it is time for us to get down to building on the experience of the conference and put the Strategic Plan into action.

The MHSLA Board members have been asked to review the Strategic Plan for responsibilities which fall to their committees or represented groups and to outline action plans to address those. Many of the goals outlined in the Plan have June 2007 due dates. We have much to do and members will be asked to help.



Here is the first call! We need to fill the position of committee chair for the Outreach and Advocacy Committee. From the bylaws, as approved by the membership at the Fall Business Meeting: The Outreach and Advocacy Committee shall promulgate the mission of MHSLA by promoting communication and professional interaction with national, state, and local groups, such as the Michigan Library Association, the Special Library Association, or the Michigan Health & Hospital Association.

As directed in the Strategic Plan, this committee will take on tasks such as developing an advocacy toolkit with communication strategies and publicity materials for helping members articulate the value of their libraries. They will also develop a bibliography for the MHSLA web site on the challenge of low health literacy.

For MHSLA members looking for a professional service opportunity, this one offers the opportunity to create actual products which will benefit other Association members. These products would also be ideal for inclusion in one's professional portfolio.

I urge members to volunteer to chair this committee. Please contact me by email (pmartin@umich.edu) for further information. We need the participation of our members to achieve our goals, so please join us!

Conference Scholarship Winners Share their Experiences

Heidi Meitz Schroeder, Emily Mazure and Nancy Bulgarelli were awarded scholarships to attend the 2006 MHSLA Annual Education Conference. Heidi is a student in Wayne State University's LIS program, specializing in the health sciences. Emily, a student

in the University of Michigan's School of Information, has experience working at the Taubman Medical Library. Nancy Bulgarelli, from Henry Ford's Sladen Library won the current member's scholarship. They share their conference experiences here:

Heidi Meitz Schroeder
Library and Information Science Program, Wayne State University

As a student concentrating in health sciences librarianship, attending the 2006 MHSLA Annual Conference was incredibly beneficial to me. I took away so many valuable experiences...

Educationally, the continuing education courses, speakers, and meetings greatly enhanced my knowledge of health sciences librarianship. I learned of several new skills that will allow me to better serve my future patrons. I am certain that I will be able to directly apply the information from this conference to my future career as a health sciences librarian.



Attending the MHSLA Conference also allowed me to gain valuable insight into the health sciences library profession. I was exposed to many current trends and challenges that currently face health sciences libraries. I also learned of the many important responsibilities health sciences librarians encounter on a daily basis. Finally, it was very inspiring to see how health sciences librarians in Michigan enhance their profession by staying connected to each other and by sharing their skills, knowledge, resources, and experiences.

Interacting socially with health sciences librarians from all over Michigan was an incredible part of the MHSLA conference. Every librarian I talked to was so kind, helpful, and informative! As a student, I continuously hear how important networking is. Mingling with members of this association made the networking process very enjoyable and easy. After meeting so many MHSLA members, I am truly inspired and motivated to become part of such a wonderful professional community!

I feel so fortunate to have been a part of the wonderful educational, professional, and social opportunities that the 2006 MHSLA Annual Conference had to offer. My many, many thanks go to MHSLA for providing me with such an invaluable experience!

Emily Mazure
School of Information, University of Michigan

I was thrilled to learn that I was selected to receive a scholarship to the 2006 Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association Conference! The experience exceeded my expectations and has helped to solidify my interest in medical librarianship.

It was a little difficult being in 'enemy territory', but I found everyone to be so inviting and helpful that I thoroughly enjoyed my time in East Lansing. Our evening at the Michigan Historical Museum was both enlightening and entertaining. As a native of Michigan I found the performance by Neil Woodward to be especially relevant and fun!

Everyone was incredibly gracious and helpful. I learned a great deal about working in a hospital library through various conversations with many of you. I also gained insight from the experiences and suggestions you all shared with me. I hope to maintain the relationships I began at the conference as I finish my degree and enter the workforce.

The speakers, posters, and exhibits were also extremely beneficial. I gained a better understanding of important current issues and how they relate to health science libraries. I especially enjoyed the ideas presented by David Slawson where I learned several techniques for providing accurate information in a timely manner.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to attend the 2006 Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association Conference. I feel that I learned a great deal of valuable information about medical librarianship from the various events as well as the personal conversations I had. I look forward to working with all of you in the future!

Nancy Bulgarelli, Sladen Library

Reflecting back on my first MHSLA Annual Education Conference, I can't help but ask myself, "What took me so long? Why didn't I do this sooner?"

I've been a hospital librarian for almost 25 years now, and a member of MHSLA for almost as long, yet I'd never attended the annual conference. I'd always intended to go. I'd listen to colleagues rave about their experiences and tell myself, "Next year I'm definitely going." Of course, next year would come around and something would come up that would prevent me from going. You all know the reasons: family obligations (soccer conflicts!), budget limitations, lack of time, etc. For the past several years, my co-workers were involved in MHSLA at the board level, so I stayed home to take care of the shop while they attended.

This year, however, things worked out with my schedule, and when I received the email announcing the availability of a scholarship for first-time attendees, I responded immediately. I was thrilled when Yvonne Boudreau called to tell me I had been awarded the member's scholarship.

The conference was even better than I had anticipated. The CE courses were excellent, the program was pertinent to my needs and interests, the food and facility were wonderful, and the networking opportunities were invaluable. The highlights for me were Dr. David Slawson's CE course and keynote address.



Dr. Slawson spoke on the challenges clinicians face in applying evidence to their daily practices. He spoke about difficulties in both locating the best evidence and in interpreting it. I have had many conversations with other librarians bemoaning clinicians' use of Google over resources we would rather have them use. According to Dr. Slawson, time constraints and non-intuitive interfaces lead "information satisficing." This means that clinicians are under so much pressure that they are "satisfied with the information at hand, often sacrificing quality for convenience." Let's face it; Google is easy to use and convenient, so of course our clinicians are going to use it. As librarians, we need to advocate for our clinicians with database producers. We need to work with database producers to make sure that they have user-friendly interfaces as well as high quality, evidence-based content.

The MHSLA Annual Education Conference was not too big and not too small. It was just right. It was large enough to offer a variety of quality learning opportunities, yet not so large that you only got to see someone across a crowded room before they disappeared into the crowd, never to be seen again. I want to thank MHSLA for the wonderful opportunity I was given. I'm already looking forward to next year!

2007 MHSLA Annual Education Conference: Find Your Compass, Find Your Map!

By Mary Fitzpatrick

The 2007 Conference is located in Bay City, September 26-28. Planning for "Navigating a Sea of Information" is being finalized and we are looking forward to hosting an informative, fun-filled conference. Mark the dates on your calendars and we'll see you there.



Congratulations to Judy Barnes, Ingham Regional Medical Center, the winner of the raffle for the 2007 Conference registration!

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Please send contributions or suggestions to:
MHSLA News Editor
Arlene Weismantel
Michigan State University Libraries
100 Library
East Lansing, MI 48824-1048
or
weisman1@mail.lib.msu.edu