



SCALA NEWS

January/February
Volume 2, Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Student Chapter of the American Library Association at the University of Pittsburgh

In this Issue:

- Interview with Sherry Koshman, Pg. 2
- ALA Midwinter notes, Pg. 3
- LISCareer.com, Pg. 3



Individual Highlights:

- New Faces.2
- Listserv (Take Two!).....4
- Clusty.....6

SCALA Stuff

Welcome back to our returning students and hello to the new members of the SIS community! As this semester begins, we hope you'll take some time out of your schedule to come check out a SCALA meeting. SCALA meets monthly for our general membership meeting and movie night. This January we'll be meeting on Friday the 28th at 6p.m. in the large commons room on the 5th floor of the

SIS building. In February, we'll be meeting on the 18th at the same time and place. Come check us out!

SCALA meetings are a great way to get to know your fellow classmates and to unwind from a week of difficult classes.

In January, our movie of the month will be Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. (Do I even need to tell you all what this movie is about!?) The movie

stars Harrison Ford and Sean Connery.

February's movie will be All the President's Men, a classic starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman playing reporters attempting to uncover the details of the Watergate scandal. Come see it and then impress your friends with your political savvy!

Free snacks and beverages will be provided at both meetings.

Weekend Breaks

Tired of bitter cold days, nearly impossible driving conditions, and the evenings beginning around 2:30 in the afternoon? Wish you could escape to a warm, tropical climate where you would be surrounded by exotic flora and fauna? Well realistically you're a graduate student during the middle of a semester so you can't. However, SCALA is here to help by suggesting a tour of the

tropical National Aviary.

Tucked away near the Mexican War streets in Pittsburgh's North Side, the National Aviary has been in existence since 1952 when it was constructed as a plant conservatory with tropical birds making their homes in the indoor gardens. The Aviary was one of the first zoos in the United States to offer free-flight rooms for its

inhabitants, a feature that is still available to the public in the two main rooms. Besides the free-flight rooms, the Aviary also hosts an Endangered Bird Breeding Center, educational classrooms, and a Victorian glass-domed atrium. A wind-tunnel classroom that demonstrates bird-flight is currently being constructed.

The Aviary is currently home to over six
See Aviary, page 6

New Faces, New Position

“SCALA wants creative people who are willing to go the extra mile.”

A new semester has begun, and the SCALA executive board has changed yet again. SCALA welcomes our new Vice-President of Member Relations, Edward Schroth and our New Webmaster, Emily Forwood. Please congratulate Edward and Emily the next time you see them!

SCALA would also like to announce that a

position is still available on the executive board: Secretary/Treasurer.

Joining SCALA in a leadership position is a wonderful chance to learn more about the American Library Association, work with your instructors on a more personal level, and gain practical experience working on committees and in groups.

The position of Secretary / Treasurer involves keeping the minutes of the meetings and managing the finances; however, it is not limited to just that. SCALA wants creative people who are willing to go the extra mile.

If you are interested in doing more for SCALA, please email any of the executive board officers for more information.

People to Know: Sherry Koshman



*Sherry Koshman,
Visiting Lecturer*

“The new waves of library students seemingly have a little more pressure to get up to speed on technologies that affect their specialization.”

CB: What made you decide to go into library science?

SK: The field's user orientation toward technology inspired me to go into library science. Library and information science is unique in that we are not necessarily developers or programmers, however we can quickly learn, use, test, teach, and adapt new technologies and make them palatable to our users.

CB: How has working in an academic setting with the new waves of library students affected your view of library science/the role that librarians play in society today?

SK: I have frequently told students that the role of the intermediary will never disappear since the technology keeps

changing and people require help in using it effectively. The Web presents an excellent example of the volatility we face. The new waves of library students seemingly have a little more pressure to get up to speed on technologies that affect their specialization. The students going through the program have the potential to learn both theory and practice in a meaningful way that will help them successfully contribute to their jobs and to society at large. It is a great time to be in this field.

CB: Every librarian seems to have a type of laughable "horror story" from their first years on the job: the patron who asked if they could have an extra copy of a book on the shelf, children bringing wildlife into the

library, etc. Do you have one?

SK: One amusing moment is when I worked in a law firm library in downtown Montreal. One afternoon I picked up a telephone call from one of the lawyers, who was not bilingual. Luckily my exposure to French allowed me to parse the torrent of French from the person who asked for an online commercial database search. I kept reiterating phrases back to the caller to make sure I understood. It must have been quite funny to overhear that conversation. Needless to say, I worked harder on my Quebecois French! Today this problem would probably not exist due to the pervasiveness of e-mail services and requests.

See People, page 4

Midwinter Meeting Suggestions

ALA's Boston Midwinter Meeting has come and gone, and several students were lucky enough to attend this year. While there, SCALA recruited them (as well as several alumni from the program) to submit the best suggestions they learned while attending the meetings and workshops. Here are some of the most interesting:

If someone gives you a business card, jot down a few notes on the back after your conversation. It will help you remember the person, and your recollection of the conversation might impress them the next time you meet.

Students should not be intimidated about going to any meetings they are interested in attending... members are very open to having students attend. Even better, ask someone you know if you can tag along with them to a meeting--it's great networking.

The New Members Round Table seems like a great way to get acquainted with other new members/students and they are quite an active group.

Make sure you take enough resumes with you; and make sure they're printed on resume paper. If you don't want to waste

paper, take blank resume paper and your resume with you on a memory stick. You can print off a few copies every day at your hotel's business center.

New Member's Round Table offers a free resume review service. You chose what kind of librarian reviews your resume (academic, public, etc.) and it only takes half of an hour. The service is extremely helpful!

It's okay to leave a meeting or discussion group if you are not interested in the topic—don't be afraid to walk out. It's not rude because the meetings

See Tips, page 6

Career Advice from LISCareer.com

If you're unsure about your resume, what to do to beef up your interpersonal skills, or are just nervous about the idea of job hunting, you should check out the website www.liscareer.com at least once a month. LISCareer offers monthly essays on topics ranging from career planning to networking, all from individuals working in the field of library science. Although a few of the earlier months are missing, the essays

are archived back to November of 2001, making it incredibly easy to find an essay that would interest the neophyte librarian.

Besides ranging in topics, the essays also range in style; from the hilarious "Why I Won't Hire You" (December 2004) to the helpful "The Interviewing Process Broken Down" (April 2002), the essays amuse while providing valuable information to the reader.

Pricilla K. Shontz, the

Webmaster of LISCareer.com is the former president of the New Members' Round Table of ALA and has worked in academic, medical, and public libraries. Her co-editor, Richard Murray is a member of the New Members' Round Table and is a catalogue librarian; between the two, you are guaranteed insight into how to survive and succeed in any type of library. LISCareer.com is a website all new librarians should visit.

AMERICAN
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION



MIDWINTER
MEETING

"Between the two, you are guaranteed insight into how to survive and succeed in any type of library."

People to Know, continued.

From People, page 2

"When confronted with a new technology, theory or assignment, analytical enthusiasm is the key to being successful at Pitt and in your future career."

CB: When you were getting your degree, what class affected you the most?

SK: During my Master's degree, I took an outstanding management course taught by a former special librarian. The textbook was excellent and I never forgot the principles of planning, organizing, controlling, staffing, and budgeting. These principles are timeless and can be applied to project management, technology development, and any work situation that requires administrative vision and direction. I have shared these with my students and taught them how to utilize current technology to realize these

management principles in a library and information services environment.

CB: Getting away from libraries, many students are new to Pittsburgh; can you recommend one event or restaurant or attraction that they should see during their time here?

SK: I enjoy going to a new Indian restaurant on North Craig Street called "Indica" [257 North Craig Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Phone: (412) 605-0500]. The food is good and the building's interior is reminiscent of restaurants I used to go to while living in Montreal.

CB: If you could sit down with all the new students entering the program this semester,

what piece of advice would you give them for being successful at Pitt?

SK: We have students who enter the program for various reasons so that is an interesting question. Pursuing a graduate level education is analogous to running an obstacle course. Do you evaluate the obstacle and surmount it, or do you feel defeated and retreat? When confronted with a new technology, theory or assignment, analytical enthusiasm is the key to being successful at Pitt and in your future career.

Read a transcript of Sherry Koshman's full interview online on the SCALA webpage at www.sis.pitt.edu/~scala/

Listserv (Take Two!)



SCALA exec board members are constantly being asked about the department listserv. Yes, we do have one and yes, you should be on it. Scholarship announcements, employment opportunities and information on the department can all be found on it. To help you join, we're

rerunning this article from the November issue. Good luck signing on!

1. Send an email to mli-l-request@mail.sis.pitt.edu. **2.** In the body of the message type "subscribe" (you don't have to include the quotation marks). **3.** Do not type anything into the subject

heading. (this is very important!) **4.** From there, you'll receive an email from Majordomo @mail.sis.pitt.edu. **5.** Follow the instructions in Majordomo's email, and you'll be on the listserv in minutes!

~

By CA Brown
cab70@pitt.edu

Society of American Archivists

SAA stands for Society of American Archivists, a professional organization dedicated to the advancement of archival theory and practice in the United States. Founded in 1936, SAA is considered to be one of the premier professional organizations in the archives field. The student

chapter of SAA at the University of Pittsburgh was established in 1993, making it one of the first in the nation.

The first meeting will be sometime in early February to discuss topics for a poster to present at the annual SAA conference in New Orleans in August. Anyone interested in

attending the conference or presenting a poster is welcome to attend. Topics for posters are due Feb. 15th. Look for fliers in the SIS building for information on the meeting time.

For more information on SAA, contact Cassie Pyle at clp24@pitt.edu or visit SAA's homepage at www.sis.pitt.edu/~saa/.

Special Libraries Association

The Student Chapter of the Special Libraries Association has applied for official recognition as a University of Pittsburgh student organization.

Coming up this February, SLA will be hosting the first of the "Breakfast with a Librarian series." More details will be released

when they are finalized, so watch for fliers in the SIS building posting announcements and for information via the department listserv.

A tour of a library at a downtown law firm, Kilpatrick Lockhart LLP, is scheduled for February 11, 2005 at 11 a.m.

The position of Vice President of Programming is still available. Please contact Sarah Doughty at spekkle24@yahoo.com for more information regarding the position, SLA, and its activities this semester.

Infinity

Infinity is the graduate student organization dedicated to preservation issues. The group will be hosting a tour of the Carnegie Library's William R. Oliver Special Collections Room on Friday, January 28th at 3:00p.m. Students can meet Infinity members for the tour in the lobby of the Carnegie at 2:50.

The tour should last about an hour and plan to go Dutch treat afterwards for a late lunch/early dinner. [Editor's note: Or save your appetite for the snacks at the SCALA meeting later that evening!]

Meetings for the group will be announced later this semester; keep your eye out for signs in the SIS building telling you

when the meetings will be beginning.

For more information on Infinity, contact Amber Morgan at morgana@carnegiemuseums.org or visit Infinity's homepage, located at www.sis.pitt.edu/~infinity/.



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Position Available!

Secretary/Treasurer

Email Chris or Jessica if interested in joining the SCALA Exec Board!

QUICK FACTS

SCALA Meetings:
28 January 2005
18 February 2005

SLA Meeting:
TBA

SAA Meeting:
TBA

Infinity Meeting:
Thursdays at 5

The National Aviary

From Breaks, page 1

hundred birds from every continent except Antarctica. With this exception, every other major eco-region is represented.

The National Aviary is the perfect way to chase away the winter blues; here is the bottom line on touring:

Admission Fees:

Adults: \$6.00
Senior Citizens: \$5.00
Children 2-12: \$4.50
Under 2: Free
Members: Free

Hours:

9a.m-5p.m. Every day of the year except Christmas.

Parking:

Parking is available behind the Aviary, free of charge. Please note, however that the

parking lot is small and fills up early in the day. Meter parking along the street is another option.

Buses:

The following buses stop at or near the National Aviary: 16A, 16B, 16F, 54C, 500.

Directions:

(from Oakland)

Take I-376 to Pittsburgh. Follow the signs for the North Shore and I-279 North. Cross the Fort Duquesne Bridge and take the North Shore exit to the left. At the stoplight, turn right onto Allegheny Avenue. At the second stoplight, turn right onto Western Avenue. At the third stoplight, turn left onto Arch Street. The Aviary is on your left. The parking lot is accessible

at the end of the street.

For more information on the National Aviary, please visit their homepage at: www.aviary.org or contact them at (412) 323-7235.



Pictured: a Crowned Victoria Pigeon. The largest Pigeon in the world, from Australia. The bird can be seen and approached in one of the free-flight rooms in the National Aviary.

Midwinter Suggestions

From Tips, Page 3

overlap. Many people often move freely from room to room looking for interesting topics.

Even if you're still in school and aren't working at a library, put as much information as you can on your name badge: Include your home city, and the University of Pittsburgh. Many alumni will approach you and ask about classes. It's a great way to network and sell yourself.

If you can, try to stay until the last day of the

conference. Vendors do not want to ship their samples home, so they are either sold for a reduced amount or given away for free.

While it's fun to eat in large groups, it also makes it very difficult to get seating quickly. Try to keep your group small so you don't miss events while waiting for a table.

Pack an extra (yet sturdy) canvas travel bag to carry home all of the freebies you'll receive from the vendors and merchants. You'll be grateful for it

on the return trip!

Don't feel guilty if need to "get away" from the conference for a while. Take a few hours and explore the city and what it has to offer within walking distance or short transit ride. It will help you clear your head and be more focused when you return.

Be sure to have fun while you're at conference. You've worked very hard throughout the year. Enjoy yourself!