



SCALA NEWS

November/December
Volume 1, Issue 3

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

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SCALA Stuff

Depressed by the sight of falling leaves, chilly mornings, and the notion that the “Pittsburgh Winter” will soon be starting? Then come cheer up at the SCALA Meeting later this month! Our next meeting will be on **19 November 2004** at 6:00 in the large common rooms on the 5th floor of the SIS Building. Come see what we’re up to and meet our new faculty

liaison, Rachel Austin.

Rachel will be attending the Wednesday Faculty meetings each month to ensure that the student body has a represented voice. When you see Rachel, be sure to congratulate her on her new position!

This month, the SCALA movie will be *The Day after Tomorrow*, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Dennis Quaid. The movie tells the story of

a scientist (Quaid) trying to save the world from an approaching ice age, while his young son (Gyllenhaal) has been trapped in the New York Public Library by the shifting weather conditions. As always, snacks and refreshments will be served. We hope to see you all there!

Weekend Breaks at a Living Library

Later this month, SCALA will be going to one of the many “living libraries” of Pittsburgh: Phipps Conservatory, one of the largest Victorian hot houses in the United States. Located in Schenley Park, Phipps was constructed by Henry Phipps (1839-1930), a contemporary of Andrew Carnegie and one of the real estate barons of Pittsburgh during the Industrial Revolution. Currently, Phipps Conservatory

boasts thirteen different botanical rooms, including an Orchid Room, a Fruit and Spice Room, and the main Palm Court in the central structure.

The Conservatory also maintains several ongoing themes throughout the year. In November, you can look forward to the following events: The Fall Flower Show, through November 7th, highlighting the bounty of the harvest, the Medicinal Plants

Exhibit, from November 2nd through April, presenting the basic organic compounds used in medicines around the world, the Winter Flower Exhibit, from November 26th through January, Phipps is showing the splendors of winter flowers, including poinsettias, evergreens, and more.

We hope to see you later this month, but if you are unable to take the tour with SCALA,

See *Breaks*, page 6



Joey Nicholson
International Librarian

Serving Overseas

Travel, adventure, and romance: Europe has many lures for many different people. While it may seem like a distant dream, it is possible (even easy) to live and work in Europe. The MLIS is a flexible degree with the ability to take you far and wide in your career; working internationally is just one of the many options open to you at

the end of your degree.

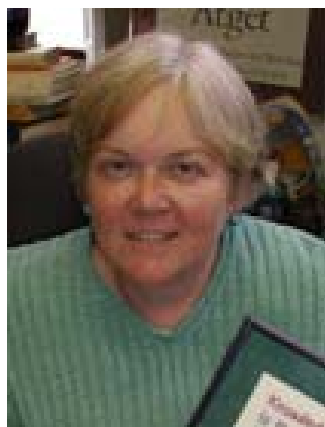
Starting out a career abroad can be difficult for Americans because of strict visa requirements. However, working on a six-month student visa during or after your degree program is a great way of getting your foot in the door and making some connections. While

options remain limited for Americans who wish to work in continental Europe, working in Britain has never been easier.

Through a program called BUNAC (British Universities North American Club), current students or students who have graduated within the

See *Overseas*, page 3

People to Know



Ellen Detlefsen

If you've been lucky enough to take a medical-based library course in your time at Pitt, or if you have LIS 2000 this semester, then you are already aware of the excitement that Ellen Detlefsen brings to any subject. Professor Detlefsen sat down with us last month to answer a few questions.

CB: What made you initially decide that Library Science was for you?

ED: My mother always wanted a library science degree, but was never able to do one so she promised her first-born daughter to librarianship (!), and, believe it or not, my third birthday was held at the local public library with the library card stuck in a cake on the circulation desk. Should I say that I was "doomed" to become a

librarian? From about 5th grade on, I knew that I wanted to be a librarian (and no one challenged me on that decision thereafter. It was the "right" job for a woman in those days). Had I to do it over, I'd give real serious thought to becoming a doctor, but women who grew up in the 50s and 60s were not often encouraged to enter the then-male-dominated professions...

CB: What first brought you to the University of Pittsburgh?

ED: My spouse accepted a position as a first year resident in the medical school, and I knew that there was a lib school here, so it seemed like a natural place for us to come for his residency. Little did we know that we would still be here thirty years later....

CB: You also have an

appointment with the School of Medicine, I believe. How do you balance these two positions?

ED: Both my LIS and my medical schoolwork are focused on the same things--medical information dissemination! An easy and powerful combination, eh? Many information breakthroughs happen first in medicine because it's a cutting edge ("life and death") environment where lots and lots of funding is available for research and training...

CB: As an academic professor as well as a medical librarian, what is an average day like for you?

ED: I don't describe myself as a medical librarian (but I have many good friends and colleagues who are

See *People*, page 4

"From about the 5th grade on, I knew that I wanted to be a librarian."

This will be useful in a bar...

The votes are in, and it seems that our constituent-based love of bad pick-up lines has prevailed: Suggestion #5 has won the contest with 50% of the vote and will be the slogan for the Fall 2004 SCALA T-Shirt. To refresh your memory, here is the winning suggestion:

Top Ten Librarian Pick-up Lines:

10. What's your call number, baby?
9. Would you like to check out my stacks?
8. Now you're what I call a library FINE!
7. Can I check you out over here?
6. I'd catalogue you under RC560.S43. Rowr!

5. My budget just got cut, care to buy me a drink?
4. I'm not a stalker; I'm a librarian...
3. Can I access your special collection?
2. I do collection development for 613.96 and 306.71
1. Did I mention I go to the University of Pittsburgh's School of Library and Information Science?"

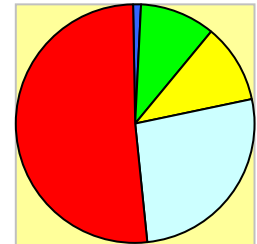
At the meeting last October, it was decided that the SCALA logo (the Panther image in the top corner of the front page of this newsletter) will appear over the left breast of the shirt, and the pick up lines will be printed

on the back.

T-Shirts will again be available in long and short sleeves. Please check the LIS Listserv a little later this month for more information regarding sales and sizing.

If you forgot to submit a suggestion, or have ideas for next semester's t-shirt, please don't hesitate to send them in. Come to a SCALA meeting and mention it to an officer or email Chris Brown at cab70@pitt.edu. On behalf of SCALA, thanks again to everyone who took the time to vote!

The Percent of Votes for the Fall 2004 T-Shirt Slogan



■ #1 ■ #2 ■ #3 □ #4 ■ #5

Serving Overseas, continued

Continued from page 2

past six months are eligible to work in Britain for a six month period. While many students participate in this program during their undergraduate programs, opportunities abound for students with graduate degrees. In particular, the library field in Britain is always looking for enthusiastic graduates to take temporary job placements.

Employment can be

found in many different ways. The easiest way is through one of several library and information service recruitment agencies located in London. These agencies can place you in any type of library from academic to government and from museum libraries to archives.

To find out more information please check out BUNAC's website at <http://www.bunac.org.uk/>. There you can find out more information

on working in Britain or one of the other programs they offer for working in Australia, New Zealand, Ireland or Canada or even volunteering in Peru or South Africa. For a first-hand account of what it is like to participate in the program and work in libraries in Britain, please feel free to email me.

~

By Joey Nicholson
JosephMNicholson@aol.com

"In particular, the library field in Britain is always looking for enthusiastic graduates to take temporary job placements."

People to Know, continued.

“Take at least one course in a topic that interests you that is NOT directly related to your intended career path.”

Continued from page 2 consummate medical library professionals-- they keep me well-connected to the real world), so my days are more like those of a true academic; i.e. I schedule my own hours and days, with classes to meet twice a week plus student appointments, too many committee meetings, and not enough time for all the work of keeping current with an explosive field of study. Also not enough time to file away all those interesting things I do read and feel compelled to keep!

CB: As a medical (and special) librarian, what organizations would you recommend joining to students who would like to travel down a similar path?

ED: The Medical Library Association

(www.mlanet.com) and its regional chapters (<http://pmhslibraries.org/pghmla>) and the American Medical Informatics Association (www.amia.org)

CB: If you could, what advice would you give to every student in the program?

ED: Take at least one course in a topic that interests you that is NOT directly related to your intended career path (i.e. children's lit or history of the book or government information or library instruction. or preservation or consumer health information...).

CB: Can you recommend a class (that you don't teach!) that every student should try to take in their time at Pitt?

ED: Hmmmm...Probably History of Books,

Printing and Publishing (which I *used* to teach, but do not anymore.... *sigh* (it's a favorite topic!) [Editor's Note: LIS 2280: Wednesdays 6-8pm next semester]

CB: Recommend a restaurant that every student should try to go to during his or her year in the program.

ED: La Feria, [5527 Walnut Street, (412) 682-4501] the tiny Peruvian restaurant cum arts/crafts gallery, on the second floor above Pamela's on Walnut Street in Shadyside - try their limeade, their salad, and their bread pudding (and the Andean entrees ain't bad either!)

CB: Thank you Ellen for the great tips and advice.

The Department Has A Listserv? Whaaaa?

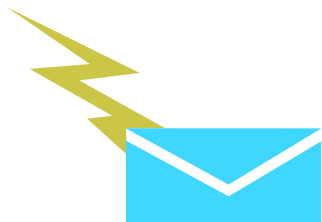
One statement constantly being uttered by new and returning student alike is, “We have a listserv?” We do! And it's a great way to keep in touch on what's going on in the building, what speakers may be coming to campus, and what positions are opening around the country.

If you haven't joined yet, SCALA strongly suggests that you sign up. Here is how you can do it: **1.** Send an email to mlis-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. **4.** From there, you'll receive an email from Majordomo@mail.sis.pitt.edu. **5.** Follow the instructions in that email, and you'll be on the listserv in minutes!

~

By CA Brown
cab70@pitt.edu



Society of American Archivists

This month SCSAA is hosting "Confused & Frightened About Your Future in Archives?" an Archivist Panel Discussion. It is scheduled for Sunday, November 7 at 4:00PM in 503 SIS Building. The featured speakers include:

Karen Gracy
Professor/Moving Image Archives and Preservation, University of Pittsburgh

David Grinnell
Accessions Archivist, Pittsburgh Regional History Center

Martha Berg:
Archivist, Rodef Shalom Congregation

Miriam Meislik
Archivist/Photograph Curator, Archives Service Center

Kate Colligan
Academic Archivist, Archives Service Center
The next general meeting of SCSAA will be held on **Monday, 15 November 5:00PM, SIS Building.**

Special Libraries Association

The Student Chapter of the Special Libraries Association will not be meeting in November. Instead, the group is planning a field trip to the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation later this semester. Even if you are not a member of SLA, the organization

encourages everyone to come on the field trip and learn about the large selection of botanical information available within the city. The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation was founded in 1961 and covers topics from rare books (dating back to

the 12th century) to art history to social and cultural commentary. For more information on the Institute, visit on the web at <http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/>.

For more information on SLA's Field trip, contact Chris Brown at cab70@pitt.edu.

Carnegie Library Tour

Later this month, SCALA will be taking a tour of the newly remodeled main branch of the Carnegie Public Library. We invite all students to come with us and learn about the various changes designed to improve the Carnegie. To get you ready for the tour, here are 5 quick facts about the Carnegie Library:

5. The Library was originally built on a

budget of \$800,000.

4. The building was dedicated in 1895.

3. Though the building contained a library, museum, art gallery and music hall, it did not contain public restrooms. They were added in the 1920s.

2. A storytelling pit was added to the Children's room in 1984.

1. In the 1980s the Music and Art sections were

merged. They now occupy the north wing of the 2nd floor.

Information from this article came from the Carnegie Library main branch homepage, located at <http://www.clpgh.org/locations/main/>.

For more information on SCALA's tour of the Carnegie, contact Jessica Schelleng at jks16@pitt.edu



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QUICK FACTS

SCALA Meeting:
19 November 2004

SLA Meeting:
No meeting this
month

SAA Meeting:
15 November 2004

Infinity Meeting:
TBA

Weekend Breaks, Continued.

Continued from page 1
then here is the bottom
line on touring Phipps
Conservatory:

Admission Fees:
Adults: \$6.00
Senior Citizens: \$5.00
Student with ID: \$4.00
Children 2-12: \$3.00
Under 2: Free

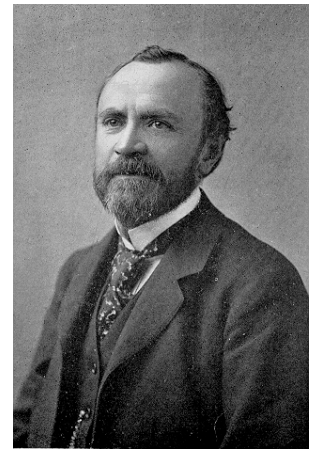
Members: Free
Please note that as a
Pitt Student, you are
allowed Free admission
with your student ID
during the School year;
Student Admission is
charged during the
summer months.

Hours:
Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Thursday: 9-5
Friday: 9-9
Saturday & Sunday: 9-5

Parking:
Parking is available in
front of the building
between the main
entrance and Flagstaff
Hill. Parking Permits
are required, but can be
obtained without cost
from the ticket booth
before entering.

Other Information:
Please note that as
Phipps is currently
renovating and
remodeling the existing
structure, entrance is
now available through
the outside garden.
When construction is
completed, entrance
will resume from the
main lobby. At this
time, the outside garden
will once again become
free to the public.

For more information
on SCALA's November
tour of Phipps
Conservatory, please
contact Sarah Doughty
at smd26@pitt.edu



Pictured: Henry Phipps

Searching Through Clusters.

Tired of Google? Bored
with Yahoo? Want to
impress your colleagues
and friends with your
knowledge of searching
the World Wide Web? If
so, try Clusty
(www.clusty.com), a new
search engine developed
by Carnegie Mellon
University alumni
Jerome Pesenti, Chris
Palmer and Raul Valdes-
Perez at Squirrel Hill-
based web firm,
Vivisimo.

Like Google and Yahoo,
Clusty can search for web
pages, images, shopping,
and news stories, but
also has features that
allow you to search an
encyclopedia, hunt
through eBay, and look
for blogs (web sites
containing journal

entries, headlines and
articles compiled by a
user) on the web.

Clusty's main feature is
its ability to cluster
similar topics in a side
window, allowing the
searcher to peruse
individual categories.
For example, by typing
"library" into the Clusty
web search, ten different
subheadings appear:
University; Library of
Congress; Virtual
Library; Public Library;
Science Library; Online
Library; Digital Library;
National Library;
Photographs; and Open
Source, Graphics. The
Clustering feature may
be used to group search
results by URL and
source, not just topic.

The search engine also

features an advanced
search that allows the
user to choose what
sources for Clusty to
search; these include
MSN, Lycos, PubMed
and FirstGov. Given
these government related
links, the search engine
might be easier for
patrons to use when
looking for more
officially recognized
information.

Try Clusty for yourself;
when used properly, it is
another great way to find
information!

~
Gathered from
information provided by
visiting lecturer Sherry
Koshman.