

INCIPIIT

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Spring 2008

Greetings from the Chair

I invite you all to attend the History of the Health Sciences Section Business Meeting at MLA in Chicago. We will meet on Sunday, May 18 at 7:30-9:00 am in the Hyatt Skyway Room 273. This is a chance to meet other members of the Section, raise questions, and join in the discussion of some important issues. Among other things, this year we will be addressing our donations to MLA funds, the structure of Section Council, and an update on our new position on the Murray Gottlieb Jury. So, bring your coffees, lattes or teas and join us.

Please be sure to attend the History of the Health Sciences Section two program sessions; our Program Chair, Michael Flannery, has done an exemplary job in providing interesting and unusual sessions. (more information on pages 2-3)

There is also a new Section event at MLA this year: The MLA Section Shuffle. It will be held Sunday, May 18 from 6:00-7:00 pm. The

Shuffle is a chance for Sections to promote information about their activities. We have already had a number of volunteers work on the Shuffle and some creative ideas, e.g. dressing up as a medieval plague doctor, new brochures, highlighting our wonderful history links on our website and spotlighting Ed Holtum's simplified page turning software. Your participation is solicited; after all, who could resist dressing up as a medieval plague doctor?

The Section held another successful electronic election. This year we had only one office to fill, Section Candidate for Nominee to the MLA Nominating Committee. The ballot was emailed or mailed to 79 members on January 10. A total of 59 email and mailed responses were returned for a response rate of 74.6%. I was so hoping to reach 75% but this was still a very good return. If you did not receive a ballot, your name was not on the MLA list of 2007 paid members.

Thank you to **Suzanne Porter** for chairing the Section's Nominating Committee. Thank you to **Anne Maria Frketich** and **Cynthia Kahn** for reviewing the membership lists and listserv in preparation for the election.

Please join me in congratulating HHSS member **Heidi Heilemann** as the winner of this year's Murray Gottlieb Prize for her unpublished essay, *Envisioning the Unborn: Art, Anatomy and the Printing Press in the Early Modern Era*.

Suzanne Porter has donated a number of early *Incipit* issues and **Cynthia Kahn** and **Patricia Gallagher** are working on scanning these for inclusion on the Section website. If you find old issues of the *Incipit* as you clean out your files, be sure to contact Cynthia or Diane before you recycle them.

Hope to see many of you at MLA. (Don't forget to come and dance with the Bearded Pigs on Sunday evening.)

Diane McKenzie



Diane McKenzie
Section Chair

My email remains the same for now diane_mckenzie@unc.edu and although I am no longer working, I do check my email regularly.

"Quest for equality: opening librarianship to librarians of color"—Lisa Boyd

This paper will describe the legal process for opening librarianship as a profession for African Americans. It will also show how the successful legal strategy used by the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in the case of Louise Kerr versus the Enoch Pratt Free Library (1943 - 1945) opened librarianship including health sciences librarianship as a profession for African Americans and other people of color. Research for the paper relies heavily on primary sources, including records from the NAACP and Afro American Newspapers.

"Those Who Made A Difference: A Qualitative Study of Firsts"—Cynthia Henderson

Interviews of African American Medical Librarians who were the first to achieve milestones in the Medical Library Association (MLA) will be presented. These milestones are varied and include Chairing a National Committee or Taskforce, Chapter Chair, Section Chair, Special Interest Group Convener, Board Member, MLA Fellow and MLA Award Winners. Common themes found

in the backgrounds or work lives of the interviewees will be discussed. This presentation will celebrate the Medical Library Association accomplishments of these individuals. It will raise awareness of African American participation in the MLA.

"The first blood bank in the South: The John Gaston Hospital Blood Bank in 1938"—Richard Nollan

The first blood bank in the South opened its doors in 1938 at the John Gaston Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Although the technological barriers were nearly all overcome, social barriers remained. Before blood banking, donations had to come from family and friends: race was of little concern since patients and their families made the decision as to who would donate blood. Once blood banking was instituted, donors became anonymous and the origin of the blood for transfusion became more closely associated with social fears about the mixing of blood from different races. Separating blood by race was medically unsupported, but the Gaston Hospital blood bank acquiesced for a number of years. The racial arguments for the

segregation of blood could not be arranged to alter the generalizations of medicine.

"Opening doors: Contemporary African American Surgeons"—Jill Newmark and Margaret Hutto

This presentation will feature highlights of Opening Doors: Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons. The exhibition celebrates the contributions of African American academic surgeons to medicine and medical education. It tells the stories of four pioneering African American surgeons and educators who exemplify excellence in their fields and believe in continuing the journey of excellence through the education and mentoring of younger physicians and surgeons. Through contemporary and historical images, the exhibition takes the visitor on a journey through the lives and achievements of these academic surgeons, and provides a glimpse into the stories of those that came before them and those that continue the tradition today. An online web version is available at www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/aframsurgeons and a traveling version is currently touring throughout the United States

"Opening Doors: The African American Connection in Medical Librarianship"

Moderator:
Michael Fitts

Sponsored by the
History Section and
African American
Medical Librarians
SIG.



"A philosopher's medical utopias: Ernst Bloch and the history of medicine"—Kevin O'Brien

Ernst Bloch (1885-1977) was an influential German philosopher whose life spanned much of the tumult of the twentieth century. His wide-ranging work centered around his concept of utopia, which he defines in part as the ability of human beings to create intimations of an existence free from social and other forms of limitations that confront them in their lives. While medicine was not a central concern of Bloch's philosophy, his three-volume work *The Principle of Hope*, which is widely recognized as his masterpiece, contains a fascinating chapter titled "Medical Utopias." In this talk, my purpose will be to show to what degree, if any, medicine and health contribute to Bloch's idea of human longing for a better existence.

"Artificial Hearts, Endoscopes and Other Cool Stuff"—Judy Chelnick

Researchers often overlook artifacts as a source of information as they investigate their subject matter. Artifacts like any other document such as a diary or laboratory notebook can expose the nu-

ances of a society's beliefs, values, ideas and attitudes. A historical artifact, such as the Star Spangle Banner possess an emotional quality which is not always tangible and cannot be measured. Whereas two pieces of molded plastic held together by a strip of Velcro which is the Jarvik-7 artificial heart, the very same artificial heart implanted in Barney Clark twenty-five years ago this December and kept him alive for 112 days, evokes a morbid fascination. My talk which will be supplemented by power point will discuss medical artifacts as primary documents, and explore ways in which the tools of the health care profession can be incorporated into the fabric of a research project.

"Veterinary medicine's contributions to human health"—Diane Fagen

Veterinary medicine is inextricably linked to human medicine. This presentation will examine historical examples of cooperation between the fields from the earliest days of organized veterinary medicine in the United States through the third decade of this 20th century.

"Claudius Mayer and Frank (Brad) Rogers: the End of the Index-Catalogue and the Origins of the modern Index Medicus, a personal history"—Kathel Dunn

Claudius Mayer was the editor of the Index-Catalogue when the decision was made to discontinue it; Frank B. Rogers was the Director of the Library who made the decision to cease publication. From the present day the decision has the aura of inevitability: that the desire for current information quickly obtained was the obvious choice. For Mayer, however, the Index-Catalogue was a "perfect key" to the medical literature used by those who were thoroughly trained in medicine. The users of the Index-Catalogue, he would assert, expected to find "genuine gold ... when they [took] the Index-Catalogue in their hands." It was the historical nature of the Index-Catalogue that made it gold. The medical historian would use his knowledge of the past to make connections, synthesize and analyze current literature and present both together as an integrated whole. This paper reviews the actions that immediately preceded the closing of the Index-Catalogue.

"Interconnections: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Medical History"

Moderator: Patricia Gallagher

Sponsored by the History and Vet. Med. Sections and Mental



Introducing Your Section Officers

Diane McKenzie, Chair (2006-2009)

I worked at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Health Sciences Library for 20 years. Before moving to North Carolina, I worked at the University of Washington,

School of Public and the University of Idaho. After retiring in the fall of 2007, I moved back to the Northwest. My interests are in Oral History, the history of women in medicine

and health care, history of health care to the underserved, and history of public health, especially tuberculosis and water borne diseases.



Michael Flannery, Chair-elect (2007-2009)

Michael A. Flannery, MA, MLS, is Professor and Associate Director for Historical Collections at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Michael is the editor of *The English Physician*

by Nicholas Culpeper originally published in 1708 now reissued in a new edition by the University of Alabama Press; and, with Katie Oomens, editor of "Well Satisfied with My Position": *The Civil War*

Journal of Spencer Bonsall by Southern Illinois University Press (both released in 2007).

Michael Flannery, wearing the red tie, is in the far right of the picture.



You are Invited to Join: HHSS Listserv

We invite all MLA and HHSS members to join the official HHSS listserv.



The members-only listserv will be used to promote and communicate activities of the Section. It may also be used as a forum for its members to discuss relevant issues and concerns.

Be assured that email traffic will not over-

whelm any of us. It will, however, provide a convenient means to communicate.

While joining the listserv is an optional benefit of being a member, we strongly urge members to sign on.

Instructions for Signing On

- Send an email message to major-domo@mlahq.org

- Leave the subject line blank
- In the body of the text, enter: subscribe hhss@mla-hhss.org your email@place.org
- Respond to the email you receive to authenticate
- Receive confirmation and begin participating



Just what is the office of Candidate for Nominee to the MLA Nominating Committee?

Each Section is allowed to submit one name to Section Council for consideration as a candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee. **We have elected Joan as this candidate.** Next, the members of Section Council narrow the list of candidates to only six people. These six Section Council candidates are then part of the general ballot for the MLA Nominating Committee in the fall, along with candidates from Chapter Council and others. A total of

nine people are then elected to the MLA Nominating Committee. Whew! It is a long process. We hope that Joan will be one of the elected to 2009 the Nominating Committee.

The 2008 MLA Nominating Committee members are Ysabel R. Bertolucci; Ellen Gay Detlefsen; Sandra G. Franklin; Charles J. Greenberg; Elaine Russo Martin; Gerald (Jerry) Perry; Chris Shaffer; Julia Sollenberger; and Michele Spatz.

Just to finish off this information, here is the charge for the Nominat-

ing Committee:

1. Prepare a slate of 2 nominees for the office of President Elect.
2. Prepare a slate of 2 nominees for each open Board of Director positions.
3. Assemble the candidates' biographical statements, photographs, written statements of consent to serve, and prepared statements of aims as officer of MLA.
4. Submit a proper ballot with all accompaniments to the Board of Directors by September 30.

Nominating Committee—
Candidates

[www.scouncil.mlanet.org/
NomCommCand.htm](http://www.scouncil.mlanet.org/NomCommCand.htm)

Become a Member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals Today

Join over 1,100 academy members and discover what medical librarians are saying...

"Before AHIP, I was like a fish out of water - now I am swimming!"
—Vanina Chavari, AHIP Library Director, Health Resources Center Medical Library, Alpena General Hospital, Alpena, Michigan

"The AHIP program allows me to continue my personal journey in service, and—learning in my personal and professional development."
—Peter Droese, AHIP MassHealth Health Policy Library, Executive Office of Health & Human Services, Commonwealth of Massachusetts-Boston

"As a new medical librarian, having an AHIP mentor to guide me in all aspects of professional development has been invaluable."
—Danielle Carlock, AHIP, Polytechnic Campus Library, Arizona State University-Polytechnic-Mesa



Further information and an application can be accessed at www.mlanet.org/academy/ or contact Lisa C. Fried, MLA, at 312.419.9094 x28 or email mlapd2@mlahq.org.

Section Officers

Chair	Diane McKenzie
Chair-Elect	Michael Flannery
Secretary/Treasurer	Edwin Holtum
Immediate Past-Chair	Patricia Gallagher
Section Council Rep	Joan Stoddart
Section Council Rep Elect	Patricia Gallagher

Link to the full list of Section Officers and Committee Chairs

[www.mla-hhss.org/
officers.html](http://www.mla-hhss.org/officers.html)