Greetings from the Chair

It’s fall, finally, in Utah and, in fact, we had a first snowfall up at Snowbird last week! That’s a sign that Chapter meetings are upon us, plans are being finalized for next spring’s MLA in Boston, and the History of the Health Sciences Section will soon be holding an election.

Annual Meeting

The HHSS had a grand time at MLA in Seattle with programs, the Section Shuffle, the section business meeting and getting acquainted and reacquainted with one another in person. I want to thank Susan Sanders for her hard work as Incoming Chair/Section Programming representative and we can look forward to another exciting program at the 2013 annual meeting.

Susan and I had a great time at the Section Shuffle where we used the baseball theme of MLA President Jerry Perry having made all star baseball player cards for MLA luminaries such as Janet Doe and Marcia Noyes.

We also generated interest in the section and have seven new members as a result. The Section shuffle is a bi-annual event so it will be repeated in 2014.

Other events at MLA Seattle included Section Council which I attended Saturday May 10th. There were updates on the website and listservs, many reports and documents. The Section Shuffle did not have a budget from headquarters so it was self-funded by the sections and the HHSS contributed $250. MLA President Jerry Perry, Incoming President Dixie Jones, and Newly Elected Incoming President Jane Blumenthal all spoke about their priorities. Carla Funk also spoke about MLA’s organizational challenges, especially financial ones, in the past few years. They are looking at phased dues increases, virtual meetings, new management software, CE courses, and publication issues. The Section Council meeting gave each of them an opportunity to brief the group on their ideas before addressing the general membership. This meeting was followed by Section Council’s program planning meeting, which Susan attended for the Boston 2013 annual meeting.

Finally, I would like to call your attention to the immediate need for a section Nominating Committee Chair. We need to have an election at the end of 2012 for the positions of Chair-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer and for a Section Nominee for the MLA Nominating Committee ballot. Please consider getting more involved in Section activities by volunteering for a position or office. See below for more detail.

Elections 2012-13

This is an election year! We are looking for volunteers to run for 3 positions:

Section Chair
Joan Stoddart
joan.stoddart@utah.edu

Secretary/Treasurer

Historical of the Health Sciences Section
http://www.mla-hhss.org/
Chair-Elect – The HHS Section has a 2 year cycle of offices so the Chair-Elect will be looking forward to a six year commitment as an officer. The first 2 years involve serving on the Section Programming Committee for the upcoming annual meeting. That is where ideas are generated for the following year’s annual section programming. Based on the theme of the meeting, all the section representatives collaborate to develop interesting programs with one section taking the lead, and others, including Special Interest Groups or SIGs, co-sponsoring. After 2 years as Chair Elect, there are 2 years as Chair with responsibilities including providing the planning documents for MLA, semi-annual and annual reports for MLA, articles for *Incipit*, and leadership of the annual section business meeting. The Past-Chair responsibilities, another 2 years, are primarily to be the Section Council Representative. This involves commitment to a Saturday meeting at MLA.

Secretary/Treasurer – This is a 2 year commitment, with the officer hopefully able to attend the annual meeting, but perhaps less necessary to do so.

Section Nominee for the MLA Nominating Committee Ballot – This is an opportunity to have someone from the HHS Section on the Section Council Ballot and possibly advance to the national ballot for MLA Nominating Committee.

Being a section officer is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with MLA at the grass roots level. It is “MLA at work” so to speak, and very rewarding. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with the election as Nominating Committee Chair and working with Susan and me to recruit candidates or in running for office.

Joan Stoddart

HHS Business Meeting, May 2012
Photo by Stephen Greenberg
MLA 2013 Programming

Our section cordially invites you to attend HHSS’s invited speakers program at MLA 2013 on the topic of The Role of Alternative and Indigenous Medicine in Global Health: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives. The program will be presented on Tuesday, May 7 from 3:00-4:30.

Librarian Julia Whelan, MS, AHIP, will speak about the interesting and exciting roles of librarians who work in the domains of traditional medicine and complementary and alternative healing. These vary from information discovery and expert searching, to historical and contemporary collection building, and research team collaboration and education. Professor Lana Dvorkin-Camiel will share effective teaching practices in a natural products elective course that is offered to future conventional healthcare providers. Physician Paula Gardiner will discuss her research about the prevalence of herb usage among racial and ethnic minorities in the United States. Librarian and Historian Stephen Greenberg will introduce the program from a historical perspective, and connect complementary and alternative medicine from times past to current cultural health and illness narratives.

Lead sponsor HHSS collaborated with our co-sponsors, Chiropractic Libraries Section, Corporate Information Services Section, Complementary and Alternative Medicine SIG, and Osteopathic Libraries SIG to bring you this fine group of speakers, and we hope you will join us.

Also, we welcome you to attend the HHSS Business Meeting on Tuesday, May 7 from 7:30-9:00 AM. The business meeting is a great place to meet section members, and discuss how we will continue to build a section that’s valuable and enjoyable for all who are interested in the history of medicine and allied health.

Susan Sanders, HHSS MLA 2013 Program Planner

Treasurer’s Mid-Year Report
May 2012 – September 2012

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<th>Credits</th>
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Between February 1st and August 31st, only 4 members have either joined or renewed their membership to the Section. The total sum of their section dues minus administrative fees is $47.80. This amount brings the account balance to $7,064.61. Last year at this time, 22 members had either joined or renewed their membership, which added $262.90 to the budget.

Deidra Woodson, HHSS Secretary/Treasurer
MLA Oral History Project

A retrospective indexing project, coordinated by Dee Jones, AHIP, Medical Library, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center–Shreveport, is now available on MLANET http://www.mlanet.org/about/history/oral_history.html#4. New indexes were prepared for thirty-seven oral histories published before 2009 that lacked any index or had an inadequate index. The project followed indexing standards and used controlled vocabulary. Where an oral history has a new index, a link to the index is provided in the list of interviewees on MLANET.

The complete history may be accessed through the instructions provided on the website. Histories without indexes on MLANET have indexes in the published copies.

Diane McKenzie

A Photo Archive Digitization Project 2007-2012

In mid-2007, the Philip A. Hoover, M.D. Library, Wellspan Health at York Hospital in York, Pennsylvania http://www.wellspan.org/body.cfm?id=246 sought grant support from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to organize, arrange, describe and preserve York Hospital’s historic photographs dating from 1880 to 2000 and hospital annual reports and statistical records dating from 1897-1969 and to create a digital catalog with searchable images and document descriptions.

York Hospital and Hoover Library

York Hospital was founded on July 14, 1880 and began operating as a 12-bed facility on April 28, 1881 in a 3-story converted dwelling. In 1929, it moved to its present location, a 28.5 acre site on South George Street. It has 500 beds and is an acute care community teaching facility, a regional referral center for certain medical and surgical specialties, and the only accredited trauma center in York County.

Hoover Library serves the health information needs of the medical staff, house staff, nurses, students and employees of WellSpan Health. The library is open to the York area community for health information needs. Hoover Library is located in the Medical Education Pavilion on the first floor of the Main Building, and it occupies the original space set aside for a library in 1929.

Project Evolution

As a result of researcher activity over many years, the photos and reports were stored in boxes and file cabinets in no particular order. To begin this project, all of the photographs were assessed and grouped into three categories: I. Architectural development and construction of the main hospital and its subsidiary buildings (the largest category); II. Nursing activities; and III. Medical staff activities.

A standard naming convention was set up with major elements of the photo listed in a planned order so that the identifiers could later be used in the digitization project.

Standard format:

Year(or approximate decade)_Location_Subject_Subject_Subject (as many as needed)_Photographer if known_Type of photo (color or bw)_Size of original_Accession number.

Example:

1970_Project 80_Fund raising_United Steel Workers 4407_Cooper_Gohn_Smith_Cole Steel and Equipment_bw_4x6_456
All photos were scanned at 1200 dpi so that the details would be clear. Using the standardized naming points allowed computerized searching by word or subject and served as a finding aid. As each photo was processed and described it was placed in an acid-free sleeve along with an accession number and filed by record group and then by decade within the group.

The Annual and Statistical Reports were non-photographic documents and were treated separately. The earlier published reports were placed in acid-free folders, identified by name and date, and filed by date in file cabinets set aside for receipt of completed archival records. When possible, they were saved as pdf files so they will not have to be handled except in extraordinary circumstances.

Since much of our photo collection is unique and therefore not available at any other location, we collaborated as needed on research questions with the library of the York County Heritage Trust. The PHMC grant project enabled us to share our collection with the Heritage Trust. We supplied them with an up-to-date digital copy of all of the architectural and construction photos in our collection and instructions on searching and viewing the files.

Public Benefit

In addition to serving as a clinical health information resource, the library also serves as the repository of historic information on York Hospital and maintains a small documents and artifacts collection as well as a history of medicine textbook collection.

The PHMC-supported photo archives project enables us to locate various pieces of hospital history in an accurate and timely manner. Further, the organization of the photo collection will assist in answering specific questions of a historic medical nature posed by our own staff and York community patrons.

One of the goals of our project was to link the digitized photographs to our library website so that a wider audience might learn and write about local medical history and broader regional and state history as well. After considering several photo indexing software packages, and in consultation with our eHealth Department, we selected NeoPhoto http://www.neophoto.com/. NeoPhoto allows display of the photos but protects the original data and archiving information from user alteration or corruption. It does permit copying of the image. NeoPhoto also allows internet linking and provides an excellent way to post these photos on the library’s SharePoint portal.

Because we are a hospital and must assure patient confidentiality, the photo archive is only accessible at public access workstations at our onsite network library computers.

Conclusion

While the requirements of the PHMC grant have been accomplished and final reports submitted, additional photos continue to find their way to the library’s collection. Our photo archive project has taken on a life of its own.

Sue Shultz
Director of Library Services
Wellspan Health at York Hospital
sshultz@wellspan.org
Tobacco Industry Audiotapes and Videotapes Added to MHL

The Medical Heritage Library (MHL) at http://archive.org/details/medicalheritagelibrary collects digital documents in the history of medicine in support of scholarship in the interrelated areas of medicine and society. The University of California, San Francisco’s Legacy Tobacco Documents Library Multimedia Collection (http://legacy.library.ucsf.edu/about/multimedia.jsp) contains audiotapes and videotapes related to the advertising, manufacturing, marketing, sales, and scientific research of tobacco.

Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch, NJ Celebrates 125th Anniversary

Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch, New Jersey is celebrating its 125th anniversary with a year-long series of events including an anniversary convocation, dedication of a historic plaque, lectures for local historical societies, and an exhibit at the Monmouth County Archives Day. Elsalyon Palmisano, working as consulting archivist, is developing an official archives for the hospital, preparing documents and photographs for digitization, and collecting artifacts for an exhibit.

Link to http://www.barnabashealth.org/hospitals/monmouth_medical/about/125anniversary.html and download a copy of the 125th Anniversary brochure.

Frederic Pachman
Director, Altschul Medical Library
fpachman@barnabashealth.org

The University of Iowa John Martin Rare Book Room: Academic Course Support across the Campus

Since beginning my position as the Curator of Rare Books in 2010, I have had numerous opportunities to work with faculty and their classes. As of fall 2012, course requests have increased substantially, and the variety of courses has been interesting.

As part of the College of Medicine’s Orientation, I gave a lecture entitled “Human Dissection – Historical and Social Reflections” to the 155 first year medical students. The lecture was required and covered anatomy and dissection from the classical period to the present. I highlighted the historical and social context, presented numerous classic anatomy atlases, and reviewed the historical and present processes for the procurement of bodies.

In mid-September I worked with an English Department class on “Topics in British Culture and Identity: Medical Influences on 19th Century Literature”. I selected 45 volumes from the following syllabus topics: Alternative Medicine, Body Snatching, Disease & Mental Illness, Medicine and Science, Nature of Man, and Vivisection. I presented 25 of the 45 to the class of 27 undergraduates. Following the class session the students will pick at least one volume to specialize in for a research project. As with most of my courses, I prepared an annotated bibliography.

The Art and Art History course “Elements of Art” focused on illustrations of bones and skeletons. I presented some of the classic works to the 14 undergraduate students who then made drawings from our collection of actual bones.
An English Department course on “Readings in 16th and 17th Century Genres: Nonfiction Prose” will be meeting in the Rare Book Room in October. The 8 graduate students will be focusing on the texts of William Harvey (the library owns 35 editions).

The course "Masterpieces of Art: Masterpieces of Architecture; and Masterpieces of Art: The Garden as Paradise" in the Art and Art History department will be meeting in the Rare Book Room throughout the spring. The class of approximately 120 students will be coming to the Rare Book Room in sections of 20 to study our fine collection of herbals.

Supporting courses around the campus has been great fun, informative for me, and the students love the interaction with our very engaging collection.

Donna Hirst  
Curator of Rare Books

**Fellowships & Travel Grants in the History of the Health Sciences**

The Historical Collections (HC) unit of Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham, announces the Reynolds Associates Research Fellowships in the History of the Health Sciences for 2013. In conjunction with the unit’s friends group, the Reynolds Associates, HC is pleased to announce the availability of short-term awards of up to $1,000 to individual researchers studying one or more aspects of the history of the health sciences during the 2013 calendar year. Intended to support research using the HC unit as a historical resource, the fellowship requires the on-site use of at least one of the unit’s three components, which are the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences, Reynolds Historical Library, and UAB Archives. Anyone who wishes to use HC for historical research may apply, regardless of his or her academic status. Information about the fellowship application process can be found on the web at [http://www.uab.edu/reynolds/fellow](http://www.uab.edu/reynolds/fellow). The application deadline is **December 31, 2012**, and awards will be announced by February 28, 2013. For further information on the Historical Collections unit and its three components, please visit the web at [http://www.uab.edu/lister/deptsunits/historical](http://www.uab.edu/lister/deptsunits/historical).

The Osler Library of the History of Medicine of McGill University sponsors a travel grant, designed to assist scholars who need to travel and establish temporary residence in Montreal in order to use the resources of the Library. The Library has the largest collection of rare and secondary material in medical history in Canada, manuscripts and archives of such notables as Sir William Osler, Wilder Penfield, Norman Bethune, and Maude Abbott, medical ephemera, and 2,500 medical prints. Our monographic, serials, and ephemera holdings are listed in the McGill Library Catalogue. The grant is available to historians, physicians, graduate students and others interested in medical history. It carries an award of $1,500 (Canadian) and must be held for 2-4 weeks during calendar year 2013. $2,000 will be made available to those requiring 4 weeks to complete their research. Applicants should email or mail the application form, along with a curriculum vitae and a description of the project, specifying the relevance of the Osler Library’s holdings to their research. The application form and a contact for more information are found at [http://www.mcgill.ca/library/library-using/branches/osler-library/grant](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/library-using/branches/osler-library/grant). The applications are considered by a Committee which gives preference to specific and clearly described projects. The deadline for applications is **December 31st 2012**, and candidates will be informed of the results early in 2013.
Linda Hall Library is pleased to announce that resident fellowships for 2013 are now available. Though the Library is open to anyone who wishes to use the collections, fellowships up to $3,500 per month will assist scholars in financing a research visit. Resident fellowships are offered for the duration of 1 to 9 months in support of research projects in science, engineering, and technology; in the history of science, engineering, and technology; or in interdisciplinary topics that link science or technology to the broader culture. Applications from U.S. and international scholars are welcome. Recipients of fellowships are expected to work full time on their research projects while at the Library, to engage with other resident scholars, and to offer a presentation on their work to the general public. Doctorate-seeking scholars, post-doctorate scholars, and independent scholars who can demonstrate similar professional or academic experience are eligible to apply. The application deadline for 2013 fellowships is January 3, 2013. Recipients will be notified in early spring 2013. Please see http://www.lindahall.org/fellowships for more information and application instructions.

The Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, the largest academic medical library in the United States, will offer two annual fellowships to support research in the history of medicine. The Francis A. Countway Library Fellowships in the History of Medicine provide stipends of up to $5,000 to support travel, lodging, and incidental expenses for a flexible period between June 1, 2013 and May 31, 2014. Besides conducting research, the fellow will submit a report on the results of his/her residency and may be asked to present a seminar or lecture at the Countway Library. The application, outlining the proposed project (proposal should not exceed five pages), length of residence, materials to be consulted, and a budget with specific information on travel, lodging, and research expenses, should be submitted, along with a curriculum vitae and two letters of recommendation by February 15, 2013. Applications and supporting materials may be by sent mail or electronically. The appointment will be announced by March 15, 2013. For more information go to https://www.countway.harvard.edu/menuNavigation/chom/fellowships/about.html

**HHSS Listserv**

We invite all 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 overwhelm 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 majordomo@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

Questions? Contact Listserv Chair Donna L. Hirst at donna-hirst@uiowa.edu
Section Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers and their terms:
Chair: Joan Stoddart, 5/11-5/13
Chair-Elect: Susan Sanders, 5/11-5/13
Secretary/Treasurer: Deidra Woodson, 5/11-5/13
Immediate Past-Chair Chair: Michael Flannery, 5/11-5/13
Section Council Representative: Michael Flannery, 5/11-5/13

Committee chairs:
Bylaws: Patricia Gallagher
Continuing Education: Stephen J. Greenberg & Patricia E. Gallagher
Listserv: Donna L. Hirst
Membership: Susan Sanders
Newsletter: Melissa Nasea
Task Force on Advocacy for Staffing and Support of History of Health Sciences Programs: Lucretia McClure
Oral History Committee Liaison: Patricia Gallagher
Murray Gottlieb Prize Jury Liaison: Stephen J. Greenberg
Program: Susan Sanders

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