Greetings from the Chair

It is an honor to serve as the 2013-15 Chair of the History of Health Sciences Section. I hope to draw on the passion and dedication of my predecessors and the new ideas and enthusiasm of all members as we build on our section’s contributions and achievements. We are approaching our 50th anniversary in 2016!

My interest in medical history was piqued by some personal research. I read online about the history of my birthplace, Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital in Jersey City, N.J., and discovered that my Mom’s attending physician was Dr. Lena Edwards. Dr. Edwards was the first female African American to be board certified and practice obstetrics at the hospital. She is recognized and honored in the NLM Changing the Face of Medicine exhibition. Without this historical online collection, how would I ever have known? If this is my story, how many greater, more intriguing stories are there of medical and allied health history and of libraries and medical librarians? For example, where would you find out who is known as the first “unmedicated” president of MLA?* Who will tell these stories, and how can we best share them? Finding answers to these questions are some of the topics that I hope to discuss with section members this year. Individually and as a group, we can be advocates for the history of health sciences librarians and our historical libraries. We can be researchers and authors of histories not yet explored, written, or made accessible to others. I urge members to read “Advocating for History of the Health Sciences Libraries and Librarians: a Position Paper” at http://www.mla-hhss.org for practical ideas, and to work as a community of knowledge builders in the history of medicine and allied health professions. (Flannery et al.)**

A good way to stay in touch with section members for support and sharing ideas is to participate on the listserv. To join the list, click on http://mla-hhss.org/mailman/listinfo/hhss_mla-hhss.org. We are thankful to Donna Hirst for being listserv Chair and maintaining a forum where members can discuss topics, ideas, issues, and concerns about our common interests. In the future, I would like to hold a few Twitter events or Hangouts from Google+ as another way of communicating with each other. If you would like to work on promoting use of social media in our section, or have input, please e-mail me at sanders-su@umkc.edu.

We look forward to meeting you in person at 2014 MLA in Chicago! Everyone is welcome to the section’s business meeting (TBD), and, if you have items for discussion, please send them to any board member or to me. A highlight of last year’s meeting in Boston was a tour of libraries and places with a connection to the history of medicine. Lucretia McClure was instrumental in arranging a tour of the Countway Library, Warren Anatomical Museum, and the ether dome and surgical simulation facility at Massachusetts General Hospital. Joan Stoddart coordinated the day’s schedule, and facilitated our trip. Seven of us were able to arrive early in Boston to take the tour, and we thank Lucretia, Joan, and our hosts (Jack Eckert and Dominic Hall.
of Harvard’s Countway Library and Michelle Riley, Martha Stone, and Kevin Synnott of the Massachusetts General Hospital) for a memorable day. We look forward to Joan leading the way in 2014 at Chicago for another tour of historical collections and sites, so look for future announcements.

New Leadership

HHSS welcomes individuals into leadership roles in the section, and we have several transitions going on as people become familiar with their new roles. Megan Rosenbloom, who will be Incipit editor, is working with newsletter editor Melissa Nasea. Leslie Behm, who will be website manager, is working with current web manager Pat Gallagher. Claire Joseph, who will be New Member Chair, is working with Susan Sanders. We appreciate the dedication, time, work, and creativity of experienced members who are sharing their expertise and knowledge with the new leaders. We look forward to the contributions of new individuals and thank them for their willingness to become section leaders!

Time to Renew

We encourage and ask you to renew your membership in HHSS for the 2013-14 year. Dues are $10.00 to support the only section dedicated to sharing our profession’s history. As a new member, you will have opportunities for leadership roles within the section and meet and work with a supportive group of friendly, congenial people! New members receive a section lapel pin and a handsome bookmark. New members (or any member) who needs a pin can contact Susan Sanders at sandserssu@umkc.edu and one will be mailed to you.


HHSS Librarians Tour Historic Library Sites in Boston

A small but hearty group of seven librarians came to MLA in Boston a day early to take advantage of a few of the many treasures offered at two of the city’s most prestigious institutions. With many thanks to Lucretia McClure for helping to plan the day; to Jack Eckert, Public Services Librarian, and Dominic Hall, Curator of the Warren Anatomical Museum, at Harvard’s Countway Library; and, finally, to Michelle Riley, Vice President, Martha Stone, Librarian, and Kevin Synnott, Program Manager, at the Massachusetts General Hospital. It was a wonderful experience for all.

The day began with Jack Eckert hosting the “treasures” of the Countway Library portion of the tour. He shared the general history and organization of the library building, followed by a sampling of books, pamphlets, and objects that he had put on display in the rare book room to illustrate the breadth and depth of their collection. He shared several dozen items along with many fascinating stories about their origins. This was followed by a brief glimpse of the Warren Anatomical Museum, also housed in the Countway, and narrated by Dominic Hall. https://www.countway.harvard.edu/menuNavigation/chom.html

After a quick trip across town, and lunch in the hospital cafeteria with Massachusetts General Hospital librarian Martha Stone, we began with a fascinating tour through the historic and, of course, famous hospital. It is the third oldest hospital in the country, having been founded in 1811 and built by architect Charles Bulfinch. The Ether Dome at MGH, which opened in 1821, is best known as the surgical amphitheater where inhaled ether was demonstrated in a surgical operation in 1846. Although it has been repurposed many times over the past 200 years, the ether dome is a fascinating room to visit http://www.massgeneral.org/history/exhibits/etherdome .
Our final stop was arranged at the last minute. Kevin Synnott, Program Manager of the MGH Learning Laboratory, welcomed us to the observation deck for MGH’s recently opened simulated operating room. The OR is used to train inter-professional OR teams on surgical mannequins and requires that they scrub up just like in a real operation in the identical ORs next to it. Here is a LibGuide http://libguides.massgeneral.org/content.php?pid=89648&sid=752316

A history tour is being planned for Chicago in May 2014 so if you have ideas about libraries, archives or museums that should be visited, please contact me, Joan Stoddart, at the Eccles Health Sciences Library. If you would like to help plan the outing which will probably take place on Friday, May 16, the day before MLA begins, please let me know, too.

Joan M. Stoddart, Immediate Past Chair

HHSS 2013 Business Meeting

Many of the attendees at the HHSS 2013 Business Meeting are present in this photo taken by Stephen Greenberg.

Seated: Deidra Woodson, Susan Sanders, Melissa Nasea, Joan Stoddart
Standing: Richard Nollan, Donna Hirst, Heidi Heilemann, Leslie Behm, Patricia Gallagher, Frederic Pachman, Stephen Greenberg
# Treasurer’s Mid-Year Report
May 2013 – September 2013

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Please note the correction in the table above. The History of the Health Sciences Section (HHSS) membership dues received on February 22, 2013 was incorrectly recorded as $657.28, which was three cents higher than the actual amount received ($657.25). Therefore, the balance as of the Business Meeting on May 7, 2013 should have been recorded as $6,871.96.

At the 2013 Section Program, “The Role of Alternative and Indigenous Medicine in Global Health: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives,” one of the speakers was unable to accept his $75.00 gift card due to strict gift policies enforced at his institution. As a result, Susan Sanders, Past President, who had received a reimbursement check from the Treasurer for purchasing the gift card, refunded the amount of the gift card ($75.00) to the HHSS treasury.

The HHSS treasury currently has a balance of $7,365.21.

**Deidra Woodson**, HHSS Secretary/Treasurer
MLA 2014 in Chicago

The primary responsibility of the HHSS Chair-Elect/Program Chair is to plan the HHSS program for the upcoming MLA meeting. The planning process for the May 2014 HHSS program actually began before the May 2013 meeting. It is confusing, time-consuming, exhausting and then, when you think you’ll never finish developing the program theme, it’s done! There are an amazing number of steps still to be completed, but I now get the pleasure of presenting the HHSS program to you. We are sponsoring one program and co-sponsoring two.

HHSS is sponsoring “Celebrating Our Information Future Using the Treasures of the Past”. Our cosponsors are the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section, Corporate Information Services Section, Health Association Libraries Section, Technical Services Section, and Osteopathic Libraries SIG. **Description:** The time to collect and preserve your archival, historical, and special collections is today. Come learn how libraries and associations have collected, preserved (both physically and digitally), and used their treasures to celebrate the past and prepare for the future. Treasures such as archives and special collections, whether in physical or digital format, can help the library provide information about their institutions’ histories. They are useful in physical and virtual exhibits. They can celebrate events such as 10th, 25th, and 100th anniversaries and begin or end friends and fund-raising campaigns. Rather than waiting for a last minute request, attend this session and start planning for your organization’s future by celebrating its past.

We are cosponsoring “Evolution of the Librarian: New and Changing Roles”. The sponsor is the Health Association Libraries Section. **Description:** Just as the styles of buildings that house the books have changed over time, so has the job description of the librarian evolved to meet the changing needs of patrons. This contributed papers session explores the multifaceted roles encountered by the modern health sciences librarian such as: digital data manager, accidental archivist, medical records manager, copyright officer, digital content creator, course manager, instructional designer, and other unique roles not described here. This session offers the opportunity to share the new materials, novel methods, and nontraditional roles encountered in the modern health care environment.

We are also cosponsoring “Promoting Ethical Awareness among Health Sciences Librarians” The sponsor is the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section. **Description:** Health sciences librarians must consider the ethical boundaries of their work on a daily basis, regardless of the environment. Do health librarians engage in patient education, for instance, or is that the realm of other health professionals? Is it ever ethical for librarians to withhold information from a library user? This session will feature contributed papers that “build on our past” approaches to library ethics with an eye toward revealing our future in the process.

I hope you will be able to attend some or all of these programs at MLA.

**Melissa Nasea**, Chair-Elect/Program Chair

**Library Director Frederic C. Pachman Honored for Preservation Work**

Frederic C. Pachman AHIP, Director of the Altschul Medical Library at Monmouth Medical Center, received the 2013 Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award from the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) during its annual conference. The Award “recognizes a New Jersey Library Association member who, over a substantial number of years, has made exceptional contributions to the awareness, understanding, and/or preservation of archival and library materials in New Jersey.”

Mr. Pachman has served as an officer in the NJLA History and Preservation Section and as a member of the New Jersey State Library – Preservation Study Advisory Committee. He addressed the audience, celebrating the role of Librarians and those who “promote services that showcase history”, urging attendees to recognize the preservation of history and archives as a “core function and service that we provide our patrons” and that “it is vital for libraries to ‘do history’”.

Melissa Nasea, Chair-Elect/Program Chair
Fellowships in the History of the Health Sciences

The Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine of Harvard University offers fellowships to support research in the history of medicine. The Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine will provide one $5,000 grant to support travel, lodging, and incidental expenses for a flexible research period between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. The application deadline is March 15. 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, 2014 and May 31, 2015. The application deadline is February 15, 2014. https://www.countway.harvard.edu/menuNavigation/chom/fellowships.html

The UCLA Library Special Collections Short-Term Library Research Fellowship Program supports the use of special collections materials by visiting scholars and UCLA graduate students. Several of fellowships are for the history of the health sciences. The application deadline is December 9, 2013. http://www.library.ucla.edu/special/fellowships

From the Outgoing Editor

I’ve enjoyed being the Incipit editor for the last three years. Reminding someone that I need their article, finding the proper name of an organization, finding a link playing “nope, not here today”, and trying to keep on my publication schedule (especially when I know that I caused this particular delay!) is not a lot of fun. Learning something new about a colleague, reading about a new resource (or one that is new to me), working with the HHSS leaders, and seeing a page that is now easier to read is fun. Seeing the new issue on the HHSS site and knowing that other people can learn new things is why I’ve enjoyed being the editor.

In the spring 2013 issue I wrote “Looking for a Few Good Members”. I knew I needed to move from editing Incipit to planning the 2014 HHSS program. The “New Leadership” section of Susan Sanders’ article welcomes three new people to leadership roles. Megan Rosenbloom of the University of Southern California is the incoming editor. Megan has a lot of editorial experience, and I have enjoyed working with her. Welcome to Incipit, Megan!

Melissa Nasea

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: Susan Sanders, 5/13-5/15
Chair-Elect: Melissa Nasea, 5/13-5/15
Secretary/Treasurer: Deidra Woodson, 5/11-5/13
Immediate Past-Chair Chair: Joan Stoddart, 5/13-5/15
Section Council Representative: Joan Stoddart, 5/13-5/15

Committee chairs:
Bylaws: Patricia Gallagher
Continuing Education: Stephen J. Greenberg & Patricia E. Gallagher
Listserv: Donna L. Hirst
Membership: Claire Joseph
Newsletter: Melissa Nasea
Incoming Newsletter: Megan Rosenbloom
Oral History Committee Liaison: Patricia Gallagher
Murray Gottlieb Prize Jury Liaison: Stephen J. Greenberg
Program: Melissa Nasea
JMLA Associate Editor, “Clio’s Column”: Michael Flannery

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