Greetings from the Chair

As the new section chair, let me just say what an honor it is to hold this position and hopefully your confidence. With the Hawaii meeting, which I was unfortunately unable to attend, some leadership roles changed. Joan Stoddard is our program chair with Dee Jones as Secretary/Treasurer and Susan Sanders our membership chair. As immediate past-chair, Diane McKenzie also serves as our Section Council Rep. Thanks to everyone for their work and willingness to serve!

The big news I have to report concerns the advocacy document. Thanks to everyone for their input in helping the committee and special thanks goes to Lucretia McClure for spearheading the effort. If you haven’t taken a look at it yet, it is posted at this web site—have a look! I must say that our efforts have more than met our expectations. The January issue of JMLA will publish a revised version in its Comments & Opinions section.

Furthermore, in working with editor Susan Starr, an all-history focus issue of the journal is planned. If you missed the call for papers, papers are not to exceed 6,000 words (not including abstract and references). Deadline for all submissions is June 7, 2010 to meet a target publication date of January 2011. The following topical themes are deemed appropriate: History of medical libraries and/or librarianship; history of the book, printing, reading as it relates to the health sciences and medical bibliography; history of special collections in the health care professions (e.g., nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine); or articles related to the professional concerns of librarians in managing historical collections (innovations, outreach, best practices). Those interested should send mss. in MS Word or MS Word compatible formats as an e-mail attachment to the issue organizer, Michael A. Flannery. If you’re working on something along these lines, I look forward to your submissions; if you know of someone working on something along these lines, please urge them to submit.

I think there is a broader lesson here. It demonstrates the power of a Section working together to make itself heard among its peers. Working with Lucretia McClure, Ed Holtum, and Suzanne Porter, the committee did a good job of delineating the issues and offering remedial action. The assistance of Susan Starr has been indispensable in this process. For all of us in this Section, the value of history and the humanities is a given, but we’ve largely been preaching to the choir. Now, for the first time in a very long time, we have an opportunity to express the importance of historical inquiry to our colleagues. I look forward to updating everyone on our progress towards the focus issue.

Interested in helping with a committee?

Contact Joan Stoddard
joans@lib.med.utah.edu to work on the academic health sciences library directors’ interests in history collections committee.

Contact Diane McKenzie
diane_mckenzie@unc.edu to work on the JMLA project

Michael Flannery
Section Chair
flannery@uab.edu

Remember to renew your membership if you haven’t already. Onward and upward Section colleagues!
The meeting in Hawaii was small in numbers but meaningful for those who were able to attend. If you weren’t there, don’t worry, MLA has a ‘CD-Rom of MLA ’09’ available. These DVD’s include most PowerPoint slides as well as audio versions of all Plenary Sessions, Business Meetings, Open forums and Section Programming. Order it for your institution or borrow it through interlibrary loan from all NN/LM Resource Libraries.

General Sessions included the McGovern Lecture by Adam Bosworth on “Practicing Medicine in the 20th Century”, a discussion that sets the stage for health reform now happening; the Janet Doe Lecture by J. Michael Homan, “Eyes on the Prize: Reflections on the Impact of Evolving Digital Ecology on the Librarian as Expert Intermediary and Knowledge Coach 1969-2009”; the Joseph Leiter Lecture by Dr. Ben Young “The Impact of Diseases on Hawaii’s Medical History” and Dr. Terry Shintani whose lecture on Wednesday was entitled “Reverse Disease with Less Medication”.

The first session sponsored by the History of the Health Sciences Section was on Sunday morning, entitled “Infusing History into the Curriculum” moderated by Joan Stoddart. The first speaker was Pat Thibodeau whose paper was entitled “Fusing the Old and New: Integrating the Library’s History of Medicine Program to the Revised Curriculum”, followed by James Shedlock’s “Promoting Teaching of the History of Medicine in Undergraduate Medical Curriculum”. The third paper was presented by Patricia Gallagher entitled “Teaching the Next Generation: Introducing Health Research to Middle and High School Students” and the last paper in this session was Michael Flannery’s “Utilizing the Past in the Present Curriculum: Vesalius and Beyond”. All were well received and generated interesting questions.

The second HHSS sponsored session was on Tuesday afternoon, moderated by Patricia Gallagher, entitled “Promotion and Development Fusions for Special Collections”. Included in that group were Maureen Knapp’s “Digitizing AIDS Awareness Posters”, Elaine Skopelja’s “Health Cranks in the Early 20th Century or Why the Public Health Past is Prologue to the Future” and Stephen Greenberg’s “Old Wine in New Bottles: Digital Projects from the National Library of Medicine’s History of Medicine Division”. These too are well worth listening to and viewing the slides.

Joan Stoddart and Diane McKenzie presented a poster entitled “Connecting Library Directors and the History of the Health Sciences Section”, illustrating the results of a survey of AAHSL directors to examine their interests in history of the health sciences. What they did find was that few health sciences library directors have a background in historical material, and not much is spent in their libraries on historical or archival endeavors. Directors say they are interested in learning more, however, and think the HHSS could offer web pages and learning opportunities for them and for their staff.
Another Shuffle

Section Council will be sponsoring a Section Shuffle event at MLA ’10 in Washington D.C. The Section Shuffle is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 2010, 5-6 p.m. HHSS won “best-in-show” last time – you must remember Ed Holtum as the Plague Doctor. We have brochures and bookmarks and possibly enough pins, but will need to work on another classy presentation.

Off-Site Attendance at 2010 MLA

A first at the 2010 Conference will be fee-based programming for non-attendees via a web portal. Included will be three presentations by Daniel Pink and some Section programming. Watch for more information.

New ALA Interest Group

There is a new Health Sciences Interest Group (HSIG) in the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) division of the American Library Association (ALA). The MLA Board approved a representative position to liaise with the HSIG. It was suggested that the first representative be from NAHRS.

Global Issues

The MLA Board of Directors established a MLA Librarians Without Borders® (LWB) Advisory Committee. The committee will be composed of seven members including a representative from the International Cooperation Section, a MLA Board liaison and the MLA International Affairs Officer as staff liaison. Members will be appointed for a three-year term.

The Board also approved the formation of The Cunningham Fellowship Evaluation Task Force which will be composed of seven members including a member from the International Cooperation Section.

I am not sure how HHSS has interacted with librarians abroad in the past, but it seems like this might be an interesting area to pursue. Have any Cunningham fellows spent time with international history or archive programs? Have any of you helped with history or archival programs in other countries?

Section Issues Task Force

I serve on the Section Council Issues Task Force with Margaret Vugrin (Cancer Section) as Chair, Christine Chastain-Warheit (Hospital Library Section), and Heather Moberly (Veterinary Medicine Section). We are focusing on three issues: Honoraria for speakers, Travel Stipends, and Retention of Officers and hope to provide guidelines and best practices for Sections.

Good Attendance at the 6:30 am HHSS Business Meeting in Hawaii

Honor, laud and glory to the 14 members who attended the 6:30am business meeting in Hawaii. A full quorum permitted our Section to approve the bylaws changes required by MLA. Particular thanks to those for whom rising in time for a 6:30 am is a major challenge.

Attendees


Chair, Diane McKenzie, called the meeting to order at 6:35 a.m. The 14 members present at the meeting constituted a quorum. Reports (annual report and various committee reports) that were sent out via email were reviewed. Minutes of the May 2008 Business Meeting were approved.

Chapter Council Sharing Roundtable 2010

We have requested that “Archives” be a topic at the 2010 Chapter Council Sharing Roundtable.

Continuing Education Course 2010

The Section is exploring the possibility of conducting a continuing education course during the 2010 MLA Meeting in Washington, DC. The course will be an introduction to rare book management and will be taught by Stephen Greenberg at the National Library of Medicine and should be able to accommodate up to 30 participants.

Bylaws Change

The Section Bylaws have been changed to reflect the fact that the past chair of the section serves as the Section Council Representative. The current chair is the alternative and if neither the chair nor the past chair can attend, they can appoint someone to attend. Since a quorum was present, this change in the Bylaws was voted upon and approved unanimously. Motion by Lucretia McClure and seconded by Stephen Greenberg.

Murray Gottlieb Award

Trenton Boyd, the 2009 recipient of the Murray Gottlieb Award, discussed the research that led to his award-winning paper “The Lost History of American Veterinary Medicine: the Need for Preservation.” Lucretia McClure discussed her service on the Gottlieb Jury for the past two years and stressed the importance of always having a member of the History of the Health Sciences Section included as a jury member.

Advocacy Task Force Report

The report, “Advocating for History of the Health Sciences Libraries and Librarians” prepared by Lucretia McClure, Mike Flannery, Ed Holtum and Suzanne Porter, was presented and discussed. The following statement is taken from the document and explains its purpose: “This advocacy document is, therefore, proposed so that MLA once again takes the lead responsibility in recapturing its own heritage in recognition of the value and importance of history in the healthcare professions and of the historical collections so ably managed by specialists in this field.” A motion calling for a vote to accept the report was made by Lucretia McClure and seconded by Stephen Greenberg. The report was approved unanimously. The report will be distributed via email to the membership of the History of the Health Sciences Section and shared with the membership of the Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences and the American Association for the History of Medicine. The report will also be submitted to the Journal of the Medical Library Association for possible publication.

Program Proposals 2010

Incoming Program Chair, Joan Stoddart, requested ideas for the 2010 section programming. Each section is requested to provide 3 ideas for programs. Ideas discussed for the 2010 section programming include (1) A panel discussion centered on the concepts set forth in the Advocacy Report; (2) The pros and cons of electronic books and their impact upon collection development; (3) Contributed papers on the topic of Bioethics. A possible focus will be to highlight hidden bioethics collections.

History of Medicine Publications

A discussion ensued about which publishers traditionally publish history of medicine materials. Catherine Arnott Smith has expressed an interest in conducting research to determine where articles and books with a history of medicine focus are published.

Goals for 2010

The following goals were identified for 2010: (1) support the Advocacy Report; (2) encourage the editors of the Journal of the Medical Library Association to publish articles of historical interest and importance; (3) explore new technologies and new means of communication, such as blogs and wikis.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Dick Miller and seconded by Joan Stoddart.

Minutes submitted by Dee Jones, Secretary/Treasurer, History of the Health Sciences Section
News from Member Organizations

ORAL HISTORIES OF TWO HEALTH CARE LEADERS RELEASED

The Center for Hospital and Healthcare Administration History announces two new publications in the Hospital Administration Oral History series:

Ruth M. Rothstein in First Person: An Oral History

Ruth M. Rothstein has been an influential leader in Chicago for decades, serving at the helm of Mt. Sinai Hospital Medical Center and later at Cook County Hospital. While at Mt. Sinai, an inner city hospital, Mrs. Rothstein emphasized the importance of reaching out to the residents of the North Lawndale neighborhood on Chicago’s near west side.

In the early 1990s, Mrs. Rothstein was asked to take over leadership of Cook County Hospital. She had a negative initial reaction to this idea because of the magnitude of the challenges presented by the aging physical plant and the complexity of the organizational structure. Instead, she argued for the creation of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services, which encompassed the County Hospital, several smaller hospitals, the Department of Public Health, and a system of clinics. Mrs. Rothstein became chief of that Bureau and remained there for over 10 years. A crowning achievement was the building of the John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, a replacement of the old Cook County Hospital. Another bricks-and-mortar accomplishment was the building of the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, an outpatient facility for the care of HIV/AIDS patients. Mrs. Rothstein continues her contributions to the health care field today by serving as board chair at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science.

Robert M. Sigmond in First Person: An Oral History

Robert M. Sigmond’s long career in the health care policy arena has been influenced significantly by recommendations issued by the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care during the Great Depression of the 1930s. These recommendations on the overall structure of the health care system included an emphasis on group prepayment that was soon to be realized in the widespread establishment of Blue Cross plans. Mr. Sigmond, who has been a hospital administrator, the executive director of health planning agencies, and an adjunct professor and scholar in residence, spent part of his career shepherding the relationship between Blue Cross plans and hospitals. He was for many years an advisor on hospital affairs to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

In his oral history, he recounts the development of Blue Cross, his longtime friendship with Walter J. McNerney, who became head of the Blue Cross Association (BCA), and his liaison work with BCA and the American Hospital Association. He also explores issues related to the Voluntary Effort (VE) of the 1980s and efforts to continue the cost containment impetus after the VE ended, which later led to his work on the community benefit of hospitals.

The full text of the two new oral histories is available on the Center web site (see the sidebar for the Web address). The Center for Hospital and Healthcare Administration History was established by the American Hospital Association and the American College of Healthcare Executives and is coordinated by the AHA Resource Center. For more information about the Center and its programs, visit the web site or contact Jeanette Harlow, director, at (312) 422-2050.
Call for Presentations

With the theme of “Americans Divided and United: Multiple and Shifting Solidarities,” the Program Committee for the 2011 Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting in Houston intends to present a wide-ranging program that will encourage critical discussion of the issues now driving the best scholarship in all subfields of United States history. The Committee invites proposals that cover any and all periods within the full chronological sweep of the American past, from pre-Columbian years to the twenty-first century, and the rich thematic diversity that has come to characterize contemporary American history writing and teaching. The program will feature sessions on the ways in which Americans have been separated from and united with one another in a variety of historical contexts, but the Committee welcomes proposals on topics beyond this year’s designated theme. The program aims to include public historians and independent scholars as well as those teaching at universities, colleges, community colleges, and secondary schools. In general, the program should reflect the full diversity of the OAH membership in the United States and abroad.

Beginning October 1, 2009, the program committee invites the submission of panels and presentations that deal with these and other issues and themes in American history. OAH welcomes teaching sessions, particularly those involving the audience as active participants or those that reflect collaborative partnerships among teachers, historians, and history educators at all levels. We urge presenters to continue the ongoing transition from simply reading papers to more actively “teaching” the topic of their sessions. Wherever possible, proposals should include presenters of both sexes and members of ethnic and racial minorities. OAH encourages more senior historians to present their own research, and welcomes debate on challenging and controversial issues.

If you have questions about these policies, please email the OAH meetings department.

Policies

OAH policy prohibits individuals from participating in two consecutive annual meetings in the same role and limits individuals to appearing only once on the program in a given year. All participants must preregister for the meeting. Participants who specialize in American history and support themselves as American historians must be members of the OAH.

Submission Procedure

Proposals should be submitted electronically to the OAH Proposal System beginning October 1, 2009.

http://db.oah.org:8080/dbproject/login.jsp

Please download proposal system instructions before beginning your submission. Complete session proposals most often include a chair, participants, and, if applicable, one or two commentators.

http://www.oah.org/meetings/2011/instructions.html

We welcome proposals for roundtables and workshops as well as for sessions with papers and comments. Chairs may double as commentators, and commentators may be omitted in order for the audience to serve in that role. Sessions with commentators should have no more than three paper presentations.

All sessions should have substantial time allotted for audience questions and comments. We prefer to receive proposals for complete sessions but will consider individual paper proposals as well. All proposals must include the following information:

1) A complete mailing address, e-mail address, phone number, and affiliation for each participant

2) An abstract of no more than 500 words for the session as a whole

3) A prospectus of no more than 250 words for each presentation; and

4) A vita of no more than 500 words for each participant

The deadline for proposals is Thursday, February 25, 2010.

2011 Program Committee

Manfred Berg, University of Heidelberg, Holly Brewer, North Carolina State University, Hasia Diner, New York University, David Gutierrez, University of California San Diego, Martha Jones, University of Michigan, Moon-Ho Jung, University of Washington, Peter Kolchin, University of Delaware, Cochair, Paul Kramer, Vanderbilt University, Naomi Lamoreaux, Yale University, Joanne Meyerowitz, Yale University, Cochair
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 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

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