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Message from the Chair

Nancy Dickenson

Where does the time go? I can't believe that the first quarter of 2011 is over, and April is speeding by. Before we know it, it will be June and time for the Annual Conference in Philadelphia. I hope that many of you will be able to attend. If you are not able to be in Philadelphia for the big event, remember that SLA makes it possible for you to attend virtually. Whether in person or virtual, you can register at <http://sla2011.tornado1.com/registration/>. DBIO has a great array of programs planned by our program planning chair Howard Fuller. See Howard's article for more specifics on the programs. This year, we are especially proud of two programs. One, "Design Thinking" was selected by SLA to be a "Spotlight" session. The second, "Managing Metadata," has been designated as "Need to Know." Both will take place on Tuesday, June 14.

The conference has a lot to offer beyond our stellar DBIO programming. Three-time Pulitzer Prize winning author Thomas Friedman will deliver the keynote address to kick off the conference on Sunday, June 12. Researcher and consultant James Kane, who specializes in "loyalty," will give the closing address. I heard him speak at the 2010 Leadership Summit and I can't wait to hear him again. And last but not least: Don't forget to sign up for the culminating conference event, a tour of the Tastykake Factory. After that, your visit to Philadelphia will be complete.

In January, chair-elect Chris Hooper-Lane, 2012 conference program planner Jonathan Nabe and I attended the annual SLA Leadership Summit. Believe it or not, Jonathan began planning the schedule for the 2012 Chicago conference. Chris and I learned about many plans the association at large has for the future. We were able to meet and network with attendees from other divisions and chapters and began discussion with several groups to offer webinars, outside of annual conference, to our members. If anyone has a topic or speaker to suggest for programming of interest to our members, please contact either Chris or me.

As always, if there are issues of interest to you or topics that you would like to see the division address, let me know. I am looking for agenda items for our annual business meeting in Philadelphia. And I am also looking for more volunteers for committee positions. I promise you can find a job that you will enjoy. Don't be shy. Join in! Send any comments, concerns, or even compliments, to ndickenson@stanfordmed.org. I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the city of brotherly love. Safe travels.

Conference Preview

Howard Fuller, Philadelphia Program Program Chair

The Annual Meeting is just a few weeks away and the Divisions Programs are firmly in place. For the first time a DBIO program has been selected as a spotlight session, and another program as a need-to-know session, both giving the Division greater visibility in the Association and Greater Philadelphia area. Beside the required business meetings of the Division, Medical Section, and Natural History Caucus, DBIO will be hosting the following programs:

a) Design Thinking for Better Libraries: Deep Diving Into Our Wicked Problems: An SLA spotlight series program featuring Steven Bell, associate university library at Temple University. Summary: If you could put an impregnable bubble around your library to shield it from uncertainty, ambiguity and the rapidly evolving disruptive technology that pervades our information landscape, then you just might be able to avoid having to create change. Design is at its essence about change, and creating products, services and environments that provide elegant solutions to challenging problems. Be it library space, learning objects, websites or tutorials, librarians do design. To improve their design process, librarians should consider taking a more systematic approach referred to as design thinking. In the Spotlight Session, Steven Bell will introduce two schools of thought on how design thinking can help organizations to identify and develop creative, thoughtful solutions to their challenging problems. Applying design thinking to our practice will lead to better designed, future-proof libraries. (Tuesday, June 14, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 am). Sponsored by Annual Reviews and Springer.

b) So They Say You Have to Publish? Some Editors of Journal for Special Librarians Tell You How It's Done: A DBIO program led by one of the Association's leading thinkers, Tony Stankus. Summary: Information professionals working as subject experts at college & university libraries are under ever increasing pressure to publish articles in peer-reviewed journals of library & information science appropriate to their specialties in order to further professional knowledge and obtain tenure & promotion. This event will feature presentations & a panel discussions by the editors-in-chief of some of the major specialty journals of what it takes to come up with a publishable idea, execute it, submit it to their journals, and handle requests for revisions & even rejection letters, so that your manuscript & career stays on track. (Monday, June 13, 2:00-3:30 p.m.). Sponsored by Taylor and Francis.

c) Managing Metadata: Balancing the Need for Information and the Legal Risk: An SLA 'need-to-know' program featuring Julie Gable, president of Gable Consulting LLC. Ms. Gable has spoken extensively on this topic and most recently published on this topic in the September/October 2009 issue of Information Management. Summary: As metadata becomes discoverable in more states information professionals need to know the ramifications of metadata and its uses other than to enhance content organization and discovery. Types of metadata that can come back to hurt you (and you don't even know you're sending it): your name, your initials, your organization's name, the name of your computer, the name of the network server or hard disk on which you saved the document; other file properties and summary information; the names of previous document authors, track changes, document revisions, document version, template information, comments, macros, hyperlinks, routing information, non-visible portions of embedded objects; linking and embedding (OLE) objects. (Tuesday, June 14, 2:00-3:30 p.m.). Sponsored by the American Chemical Society.

d) It's All Hallway!: An unconference approach to professional development, hosted by the Medical Section. Summary: Unconferences are participant-driven events that provide an informal and open environment for learning and sharing of ideas, resources and best practices. This unmoderated panel will feature case studies and best practices of two unconferences: HealthCampNYC, a regional health unconference focused on health literacy and

community health and SLA's unconference sessions. At the end of this session, attendees will understand what an unconference is, learn about past unconferences, and be able to develop and facilitate their own unconference at their organization. (Monday, June 13, 10:00-11:00 a.m.)

e) **The Specify 6: Museums Specimen Database**, co-sponsored by the Natural History Caucus. Summary: Specify is a biological database application for museums and herbaria which processes specimen information for computerizing holdings, manages collection management transactions, and mobilizes species occurrence data to the web. The Project is supported by the US NSF and the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute. Andy Bentley will address the basics of Specify—history, installation, implementation and all modules etc.—and implications on collections management. Followed by demos of any features that attendees would like to cover thereafter, as well as a Q&A session. (Wednesday, June 15, 10:00-11:30 a.m.)

As we do each year, the Division will once again host our very popular **Vendor Relations Roundtable** on Sunday, June 12, from 12-1:30 p.m. This year's presenters are: Dialog, Infotrieve, the National Library of Medicine and the Nature Publishing Group.

Our **Contributed Paper session** is on Monday, June 13, from 8:00-9:30 a.m, sponsored by Portland Press Ltd., and we will participate in the **All Science Contributed Poster Session**, sponsored by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press.

The **Division all member business meeting** will be held Tuesday, June 14, from 12-1:30 p.m. This is open to all Division members and is a ticketed lunch event. It is sponsored by Rittenhouse Book Distributors.

A huge thanks to everyone who has helped in making the Philadelphia program a success.

From the Medical Section

Lisa Chow, Medical Section Chair

Heading to SLA 2011 in Philly in June? Check out the Medical Section program on unconferences.

The Medical Section is hosting "It's All Hallway! An Unconference Approach to Professional Development" on Monday, June 13, from 10-11:30a.m.

Unconferences are participant-driven events that provide an informal and open environment for learning and sharing of ideas, resources, and best practices. This unmoderated panel (speakers: Lisa Chow, Karen Huffman and Mary Talley) will feature case studies and best practices of two unconferences: HealthCampNYC, a regional health unconference focused on health literacy and community health, and SLA's unconference sessions.

At the end of this session, attendees will:

- understand what an unconference is
- learn about past unconferences
- be able to develop and facilitate an unconference at their own organization

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Book Reviews

The Heart of Leadership: Inspiration and Practical Guidance for Transforming Your Health Care Organization

M. Barbara Balik and Jack A. Gilbert

Chicago; AHA Press. 2010

ISBN: 978-1-55648-374-5

Reviewed by Lorri Zipperer

Leaders. Who are they? When that word is used, do we automatically think C-Suite (CEO, CNO, CMO,CKO) or do we consider individuals among the ranks of the worker bees who help us to boldly go where none has gone before?

Balik and Gilbert's publication, *The Heart of Leadership*, while focused on the former, is destined to influence the latter. By synthesizing the experience of hospital CEOs around important leadership themes—both personal characteristics (such as “their words and actions match”) and organizational characteristics (such as “engaging everyone” and “aiming high”)—the authors provide insights and direction on what makes leaders successful.

The centerpiece of the book is a collection of conversations with 10 healthcare leaders, some more known than others, but all with experience and a story to tell to demonstrate key elements of leadership behaviors. Each of these capsules is shaped around a set of provocative questions (such as “what makes a good day and a bad day”) to flesh out the elements of what makes leaders tick and what allows them to take their organizations effectively through change to high achievement in patient care.

Even though the context of the discussion is healthcare, there are tools and thoughts here that can be applied to any professional aiming to drive improvement. A chapter entitled “Guidance for Growing Leaders” presents a set of questions to ask oneself to support personal progression toward enabling leadership tendencies and building behaviors to support that goal. A diagnostic tool serves as an interesting assessment piece when exploring a colleague's interpretation of the leadership capabilities of an individual. A chapter is included to assist organizations to recruit leaders and bring the right people on board to support organizational efforts. Lastly, a readings list provides additional fodder for leadership development.

There are certainly leaders in librarianship. The leaders profiled in this book serve as excellent models for others who aim high, no matter what field they are in. *The Heart of Leadership* can serve as a tool to identify librarian leaders and articulate their strengths in a broader context that demonstrates their potential to impact organizational performance in a language that those that fund and support special libraries may respond to.

Echoes of Life: What Fossil Molecules Reveal About Earth History

Susan M. Gaines, Geoffrey Eglinton, and Jurgen Rullkotter.

New York: Oxford University Press, 2009

ISBN: 0195176197

Reviewed by Dorothy Barr

In 1936, German Chemist Alfred Treibs identified organic molecules extracted from ancient rocks as fossil remains of chlorophyll and suggested that other types of molecules might also have left recognizable traces. However, World War II intervened, and, because of his opposition to the Nazis, Treibs lost his university post. The concept he proposed languished for years before others followed up and coined the term “biomarker” for the types of molecules that provide evidence about some of the earliest and most elusive forms of life on earth.

Today, biomarkers are used across disciplines from chemistry to climatology to paleontology to evolutionary biology. *Echoes of Life* is the story of the discovery of these molecules. Author Susan Gaines was trained as a chemist and oceanographer but now writes full time. Geoff Eglinton was an early proponent of the biomarker concept, and much of the book is about his involvement. Sometimes it reads almost like a detective novel, as he stumbles across clues from random discoveries and casual colleagues. Jurgen Rullkotter is an organic geochemist in Oldenburg, Germany. Although the book is by no means light reading, neither is it a textbook, making it a good addition to academic science libraries.

Honeybee Democracy

Thomas D. Seeley

Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2010

ISBN: 0691147213

Reviewed by Dorothy Barr

It's been many years since Karl von Firsch demonstrated that honeybees used “waggle dances” to indicate to hive-mates the location of good food sources. Another researcher, the German Martin Lindauer, was puzzled by how the bees decided where to settle after they swarmed. His observations led him to the conclusion that they employed dancing for this purpose also. Following up on this, Thomas Seeley, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell, has confirmed the use of waggle dances by swarming bees, for which the selection of an appropriate new home is literally a matter of life and death. *Honeybee Democracy* describes his work in a very readable way.

Through a series of elegant experiments on an island in Maine, Seeley and his students set up different artificial hives and waited for the bees to swarm. They then watched the swarms closely and marked individual bees to see what was happening. They knew that most of the time the bees chose the best site for their new hive, and following individual dancers allowed them to follow the action. The dances indicate the locations scout bees have visited, and the scientists recorded and graphed these. Over time, more and more scouts began to dance for the better sites, until a consensus was reached, and most were dancing for one spot. Then the swarm took off and settled in their new home, which was almost always the best one in terms of location, height from the ground, internal area, size of opening, and other criteria.

The book shows once again the remarkable ability of honeybees to communicate and, in this case, to make important joint decisions in a manner that really can be called “democratic.”

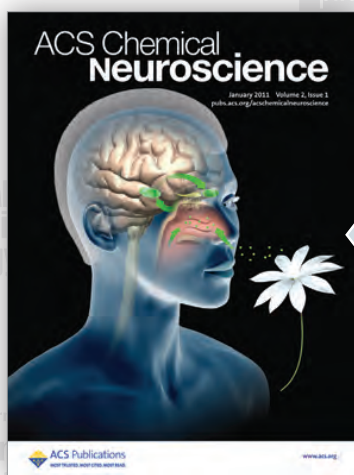
Reviewed by Claudia Lascar

This book is written by Dr Graham Scott, Head of the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Hull. His interest, dedication, and commitment to education is reflected by his statement taken from his [Web page](#):
“My current research interests are concerned with the ways in which students learn about biology. Specifically I am interested in the value of student autonomy in learning and the ways in which learner autonomy can be better developed. I am interested in experiential learning, student managed learning and the value of fieldwork.”

Essential Ornithology introduces the student reader to the biology of birds by examining first the controversial question of the dinosaur origins of birds and their subsequent evolution. Feathers, and all aspects of migration, constitute the subject of chapter two and three. Avian reproduction is then discussed in chapter four and five. Chapter six covers foraging and avoiding predators, and chapter seven covers the issues of conservation and survival. This concise introduction to the subject covers an extended array of topics. This is possible due to the precise organization of the subject matter into seven chapters, each divided further into three to seven sub-chapters. In addition, each chapter has several “concept” boxes located on the margins of the page, which define terms such as: synapsids vs. diapsids (Chapter 1), or tell users where to advance into the text to find information on a specific term. In other words, this “concept” box serves as a glossary, but, instead of being placed at the end of the text, which is usually the case, it is situated where it is needed. As a consequence, the reading and understanding of the text by the novice student is not as difficult as otherwise might have been. In addition, there are many graphs, drawings, and color pictures that help elucidate the text. Several case studies are also offered, such as “Evolution in Action: Natural Selection and the Morphology of the Finch Bills” (Chapter 1). Every chapter has a summary and questions for discussion. Some of the chapters have also appendices. Another interesting and very useful feature of this book is the position of references. There is no bibliography at the end of each chapter or at the end of the book. The references are located in the margins of the pages, next to the text that requires it. However, there is an index at the end.

To summarize, this is an interesting book in more than one way: first, because of its breath of coverage within such a concise text, and second, because of the use of innovative features to make student learning more effective. I recommend this book for all libraries supporting undergraduate biology degrees.

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—Outsell, Inc. Insights Report,
September 28, 2010

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Member News and Publications

New Members

Dorothy Barr,
Membership Committee Chair

Current DBIO membership is now 554, up from 541 in January 2011.

DBIO welcomes these new members:

John Paul Altieri, Bensalem PA USA
Sarah Barrett, Seattle WA USA
Jacqueline Bronicki, Ypsilanti MI USA
Virginia Brown, Collingswood NJ USA
Catharine Canevari, Winston Salem NC USA
Arin Cole, Tacoma WA USA
Jessica Dewey-Hoffman, San Jose CA USA
Peg Eby-Jager, Los Angeles CA USA
Holly Egebo, Green Bay WI USA
Kelly Grossmann, Holly MI USA
Catherine Jex, Salt Lake City UT USA
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Jennifer Lege Maturra, Philadelphia PA USA
Talitha Matlin, Escondido CA USA
Morgan McAllister, League City TX USA
Laura Menard, Chapel Hill NC USA
Sharon Rivers, Murrysville PA USA
Marissa Roberto, Brooklyn NY USA
Mary Sereda, Natick MA USA
Kathy Spicer, Tucson AZ USA
Chandra Stehle, Scottsville AZ USA
Vida Vaughn, Louisville KY USA
Amy Yonick, Cheswick PA USA

Welcome to all! Please let us know if we missed your name.

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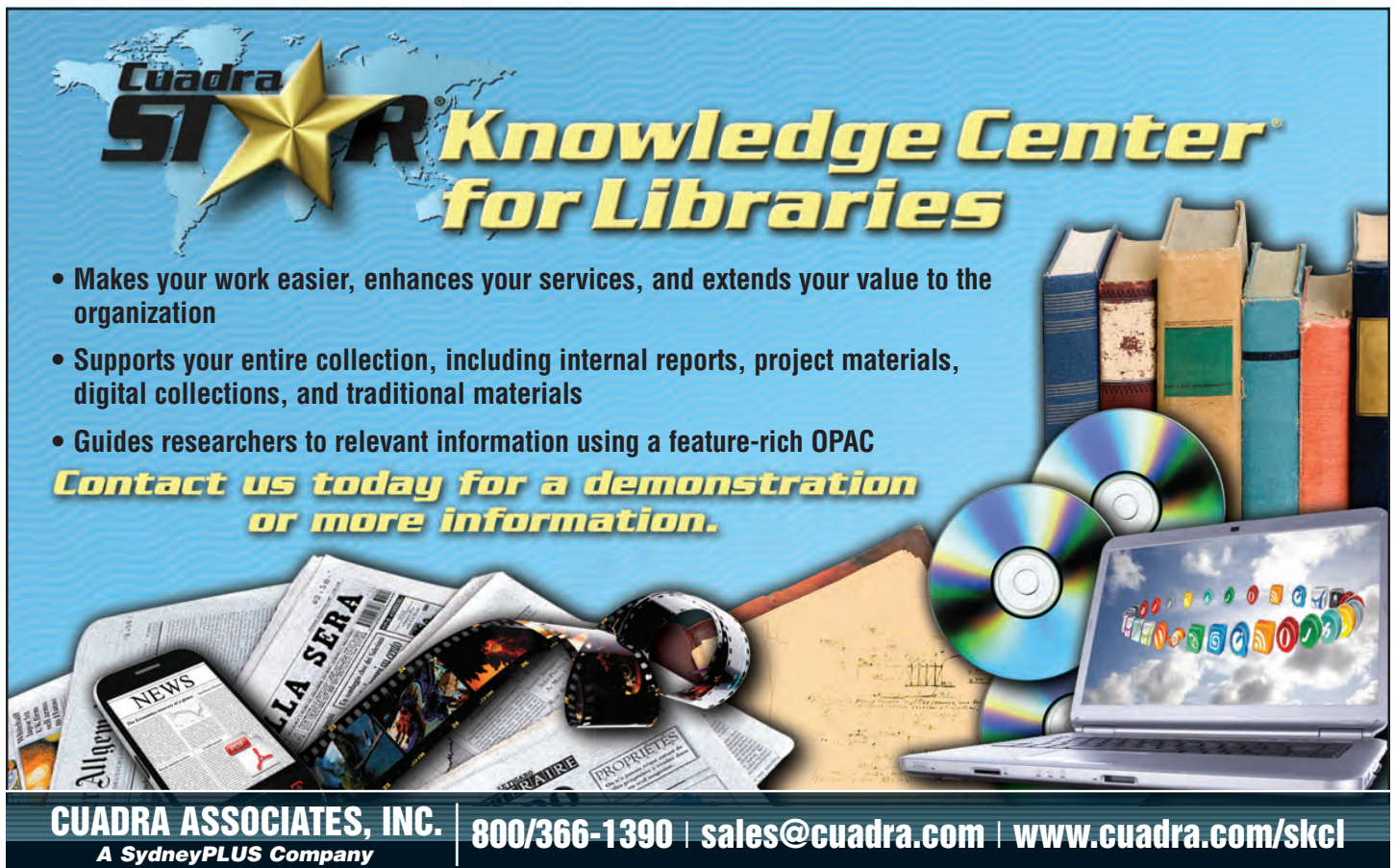
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Member Publications

Alanna J. Jenkins, DBIO Member

Barr, D. (2010). "Reaching Students Where There Go: Embedding Library Resources in Course Content." *Science & Technology Libraries*, 29 (4).

Emily Glenn and Betsy Rolland. 2010. "Experimenting outside the Information Center: Non-Traditional Roles for Information Professionals in Biomedical Research." *Information Outlook*, 14(7):26-29. (This was a research project funded by SLA; see the [SLA press release](#)).



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For a complete list of current board and committee members, see the Division Website at: <http://units.sla.org/division/dbio/inside/officers/officers.html#exec>

Biofeedback

Special Libraries Association

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