Biofeedback



Special Libraries Association Biomedical and Life Sciences Division

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Message From the Chair Janet C. Weiss

Te've turned a new page in the "annals" of SLA history. On January 1, the organization transitioned to a calendar year. Because of this, Laura Osegueda, I and other board members have held our past positions for 18 months. A big thank you to everyone involved.

In the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division (DBIO) we have been most fortunate to have a membership whose numbers have held steady and even increased slightly over the past couple of years. Our Public Relations Committee is in the process of collecting proposals for the redesign of our website. If you want to help with this process, send an email to Claudia Lascar. The Publications Committee accepts and publishes reviews of new materials in our newsletter, Biofeedback. Lend a hand and review new books, journals, or e-content by emailing Carla Lee. Have a good idea for a program at the conference? Email Diane Schmidt, our 2008 Seattle Program Chair. Know a vendor who might sponsor a program? Email John Tebo, our Fund Development Chair/DBIO Chair-Elect. Shortly, Laurie Scott, our Denver Program Chair, will be seeking moderators for our sessions at the conference in June. If you'd like to help out in a painless way and get some public speaking practice by introducing a speaker, email Laurie Scott very soon. Do you want to "get published"? Write an article of interest to fellow members and submit it to Susan Kendall, editor of *Biofeedback*, for consideration. Have time to help welcome new members to the division? Email Nancy Curtis to offer your assistance.

As with most volunteer organizations these days, we are always in need of members who can step up and participate in the activities of the division. There are tasks that can be finished in a few hours, some that span a few months, and a few that last an entire year. We need committee members, suggestions for program topics for the annual conference, mentors for our new grads, and new grads who want to find mentors. We need you.

On a more personal note, I would like to add that SLA has been a part of my professional life for more than thirty years. It is interesting to me that SLA can be a forum for professional development no matter what the stage of your career. We've sent out surveys in the past, but I welcome your direct emails. I want to know what SLA means to you. How has it impacted your career? Do you attend the annual conference on a regular basis? Does your employer support you in that? If you attend, do you prefer subject related programs or do you gravitate towards ones that will add to your ability to manage information, people, and/or e-content? What can this division do to support you in your professional life? We may not be able to solve the problems of the world. We know we don't have the answers to all the questions, but let's get the discussion going.

I look forward to meeting and hearing from many of you either in person or by electronic means.

Until then ...

Visit the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division Web Page:

http://www.sla.org/division/dbio/index.htm

Home Page Subcommittee: Carol Lepzelter Berry: clepzelter@anl.gov

Election Results David Duggar, DBIO Nominations and Elections Committee

f the 807 members of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division, 786 had provided SLA with an email address. The election was held during the month of November 2006 using SurveyMonkey. There were 81 validated DBIO online ballots. No print/mailed ballots were requested from John Sisson, N&E Committee Member. The vote breakdown is as follows:

John Tebo (Chair-Elect): 81 Deanna Johnson (Treasurer): 81 Ruth Gustafson (Secretary): 80

Congratulations to all of you who were elected, and thank you for agreeing to serve the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division in these next years. Thank you to the Division members who took the time to vote in the 2006 elections.

Call for Nominations—Run for Office!

The 2007 Nominations and Elections Committee of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division invites nominations (including self-nominations) for the offices of Chair-Elect, Director and Secretary. Those elected will begin serving on January 1, 2008.

The term span for the Chair-Elect is three years (Chair-Elect, Chair, Past Chair). For the Director and Secretary, it is two years.

The Chair-Elect is Chair of the Fund Development Committee and raises funds to support programs at the Annual Conference for the Chair-Elect year. In addition to the Annual Conferences, the Chair-Elect is expected to attend the Winter Leadership Summits for the years that s/he is Chair-Elect and Chair to represent the Division in Cabinet and attend leadership training. The Division's Chair-Elect and Chair detailed descriptions of duties are located at http://www.sla.org/division/dbio/procedur/index.html

The Director serves as a member of the Division's Executive Board and initiates and develops ideas for Division planning and activities, acts as Parliamentarian at Division business meetings, reviews and revises the BIO Procedures Manual annually, and reviews the division's long-range plan. Detailed description of duties of the Division Director is found at http://www.sla.org/division/dbio/procedur/direct.htm

The Secretary serves as a member of the Division Executive Board and is responsible for recording minutes of the annual business meeting and Executive Board meetings at the annual conference. Detailed description of Secretary's duties is located at http://www.sla.org/division/dbio/procedur/sec.htm

Questions about these positions may be sent to Laura Osegueda, the Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, at laura_osegueda@ncsu.edu.

Nominations (including self-nominations) may be sent to any of the 2007 Nominations and Elections Committee members listed below:

Laura Osegueda, Chair laura_osegueda@ncsu.edu
David Duggar laura_osegueda@ncsu.edu

We look forward to hearing from all who are interested—DBIO needs you!



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Denver Conference PreviewLaurie Scott, Chair, 2007 Conference Programming Committee

Must-See Programs for Denver 2007

The Division's 2007 Programming Committee has created a wonderful line-up of stimulating sessions and continuing education, plus a not-to-be-missed tour for the Denver conference. Here are some of the highlights of sessions for which DBIO is the lead division:

Saturday, June 2

The PhD Experience: A full-day Continuing Education course, led by Dr. Michele Tennant and Dr. Kevin Messner, introduces participants to the training and activities of basic biomedical science researchers. The scientific method, nature of "research", and models of graduate programs will be addressed. Basic science disciplines (e.g. molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, etc.), model organisms and clinically-relevant technologies will be described. Ph.D. and M.D. training programs will be compared and contrasted. Attendees will explore the role that special libraries and librarians have in serving the needs of such researchers.

Sunday, June 3

Vendor Networking Breakfast: Enjoy a free breakfast while hearing about the latest innovations and products from vendors of interest to Division members.

DBIO Reception and Poster Presentations: Meet and mingle over hors d'oeuvres, while viewing your colleagues' poster presentations.

Monday, June 4

Issues and Innovations in Biomedical and Life Sciences Librarianship: DBIO Contributed Papers: Another free breakfast and the opportunity to learn about innovative projects your colleagues are undertaking.

First, Do No Harm—Information, Teamwork and Patient Safety: Medical Section program: Errors are inevitable in fast-paced, complex settings like hospitals. Information professionals can play a pivotal role in creating a culture of workplace safety; facilitating effective information and knowledge sharing through increased understanding of skills, including: teamwork, communication, assertiveness, decision-making, leadership. Although applicable in a variety of settings, the primary focus of the talk will be on patient safety. Speaker: Dr. Michael Leonard, Kaiser Permanente.

Tuesday, June 5

Mad Deer! Prions and Chronic Wasting Disease: Prions are infectious proteins that cause many diseases, in both humans and animals, called spongiform encephalopathies Two of the best known are bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease) and Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease. This program will address how prions are created, as well as the impact of resulting disease, notably chronic wasting disease, on wildlife in Colorado and other regions. Speaker: Dr. Mike Miller, Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Coexisting with Wildlife: What's that coyote doing with my cat?: Bears in our gardens, skunks under our houses, raccoons rumbling our garbage, deer munching our roses; it's becoming very common to encounter wildlife in our own backyards and towns. As our cities and suburbs expand, wildlife are being displaced or are moving into new habitats. Panelists will discuss their research and programs to help us coexist with the wild things. Speakers: Dr. Stewart Breck, USDA Animal Health Inspection Service's National Wildlife Research Center; Dr. Kenneth Logan, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Montrose, Colorado; Stephen Vantassel, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Wednesday, June 6

Future Shock! Libraries for Next-Gen Science and Scientists: Academic Sci-Tech librarians' roundtable: Facilitated discussions will focus on academic libraries and their roles in leading-edge science and the new generation of scientists.

Living the High Life: High Altitude Medicine: This session will explore what impact the high altitude of Denver has on visitors (such as conference-goers) and on people who live there full time. Speaker: Dr. Benjamin Honigman, CCAMP (Colorado Center for Altitude Medicine and Physiology).

Thursday, June 7

Tour: Denver Museum of Nature and Science: You definitely won't want to miss the chance of a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum, located in the heart of beautiful City Park. This enormous facility just completed an incredible expansion and now includes a state-of-the-art Planetarium! We will experience nearly ninety wildlife exhibits from around the world in diorama form. A hands-on experience in the "Hall of Life" Experimental Gallery allows you to explore fitness, nutrition, genetics, stress and substance abuse. Prehistoric Journey is an exhibit not to be missed—take a 3.8-billion-year journey through the history of life, including the Museum's famous dinosaurs. The cost for this tour is only \$20, which includes transportation to and from the museum. This is a half-day tour in the morning.

Other events you won't want to miss include the business meetings at which you can learn more about the Division's plans for the future. These meetings are the Division's Business Meeting, Tuesday morning at 7:00, and the Open Board meeting on Wednesday, also at 7:00. Members of the Natural History Caucus will meet on Monday afternoon.

Among the sessions the DBIO is co-sponsoring are two continuing education courses, a session featuring Roy Tennant and a session on "designer drugs." More details on these will be found on the online planner and in the spring issue of *Biofeedback*.

Many thanks to all the members of the committee for their hard work in putting together these great programs. We all look forward to seeing DBIO members in Denver!

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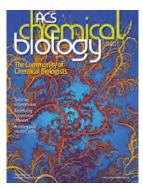
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IAMSLIC Liaison Report Jean Crampon, Liaison to IAMSLIC

The 32nd Annual Conference of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) took place on October 8-12, 2006 in Portland, Oregon (http://www.iamslic.org).

The conference had the theme "Every Continent, Every Ocean." There were 88 attendees from 26 countries from North America, Europe, Africa and the Pacific Islands. South American members were unable to come this year. Funding from both IAMSLIC and the UN helped to bring some of the librarians to the conference. I was co-chair of the silent auction for the Guin Fund this year, which raised over \$1,200 to help bring members from less developed countries to the conference.

Various topics were addressed at the conference. Some focused on technology and service. One speaker talked about his library's experience with the Google Book project. He found that usage jumped about ten percent and that items were scanned without damage and their library received a copy of the scan. Items that are determined to be too brittle are not scanned. Problems with many digital projects were discussed, and the differences in standards for metadata make interoperability a nightmare. One speaker talked about "folksonomies" as a way for terminology to be agreed upon. One session suggested that librarians be leaders in trying out some new technologies. It is not enough to participate in chat for reference purposes, we need to have our own chat identities and consider participating in such areas as the Alliance Library System's Second Life where there is a 3-D virtual environment and you can choose your own avatar (identity). See www.secondlife.com for more information. Resources to help with metadata for citations included Connotea, Cite-U-Like and Del.icio.us. See also http://marinemetadata.org

During the meeting, there was an endorsement and implementation of an Aquatic Commons, discussion of which began at the Rome meeting last year. The Commons would be a central repository of aquatic-related materials that would be available for all members and their home institutions to use.

The regional groups from IAMSLIC are active in many projects. In Ghana they are trying to get information into the hands of the fishermen, not just the researchers. Across the African continent fourteen countries are cooperating to make digital information available. Both the Africa and Latin America regional groups have major projects (Odinafrica and Odincarsa, respectively) to digitize materials, such as theses and organizational reports, to make them more accessible. Differences in copyright laws made some of the projects possible there that would not be possible in other geographic areas. These sessions segued nicely into the next day's theme of *Open Access Projects*. All of Europe seems to be involved in digital projects with country rules varying (e.g., Belgium's marine institute requires there be a repository for research materials from all of their scientists across the country). Eastern Europe is also trying to get a better definition of what resources are available and to make them accessible. Reports of U.S. projects in open access and institutional repositories came from Monterey Bay, Woods Hole, the Smithsonian and the University of Florida.

As is usual with this conference, we also hear from the scientists. We learned about the indigenous fisheries and a digital library for natural resources in Oregon (www.oregonexplrer.info). The North American Benthological Society presented their history and their interest in partnering more closely with IAMSLIC members. They produce the top journal for freshwater, *Hydrobiologia*, and are now producing a new title, *Zootaxa*.

Next year's Annual Conference will be in Sarasota, Florida, October 7-11, 2007.

MLA Liaison ReportMichele Tennant, Liaison to the Medical Library Association

LA Officers Elected for 2007-2008–Election results are in, and the following MLA members will assume their new offices during MLA Annual Conference in May: Mary L. Ryan, President Elect; Gary A, Freiburger and Laurie L. Thompson, MLA Board of Directors; Eric D. Albright, Kristine M. Alpi, Marcus Banks, Elizabeth K. Eaton, Patricia A. Hammond, Teresa L. Knott, Beverly Murphy, Debra C. Rand, Jean L. Siebert, M.J. Tooey, Nominating Committee.

- New MLA Webcast Set for Spring—"Survival of the Fittest: Strategies to Prove Your Library's Value". See http://www.mlanet.org/education/distance_ed/marketing/index.html?focus_20061221 for additional information (to be updated). The spring webcast will occur on March 7, 1:00 p.m. (Central time).
- The 2006 Webcast—"Moving at the Speed of Byte: Emerging Teachnologies"—is now available for purchase in a variety of formats. 2.0 to 3.5 of MLA CE credits are available for viewers. See http://www.mlanet.org/order/store/cat/advanced search result.php?keywords=Byte for ordering information.
- MLA Annual Conference—May 18-23, 2007, Philadelphia, PA. A number of program details have been announced; check the MLA Web site at http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2007/index.html for updates. The conference theme is "Information Revolution: Change is in the Air" and will be held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. Advance registration will begin in January, with "Early Bird" registration rates running to April 16. A sneak peek at section programming and CE classes (without dates and times) is available on the website. Featured speakers include the noted bioethicist Arthur Kaplan, medical library director Henry Lemkau, Jr. and former NLM deputy director (current NCBI management consultant) Kent A. Smith.

MLA's Board Meeting was held in Chicago, September 14-15, 2006. Presentations were made by current President Jean Shipman (MLA's Health Information Literacy proposal to the National Library of Medicine), President-elect Mark Funk (presidential priorities) and Director Carla Funk (update on ALISE; see MLA Liaison Report in the fall 2006 *Biofeedback* for details). New rules were approved for election of MLA fellows; nominees must now have at least fifteen years of continuous membership in MLA. It is now allowed that more than five fellows be elected per year. MLA annual conference sites have been approved for 2011 (Minneapolis), 2012 (Seattle) and 2013 (Baltimore), pending negotiations with the facilities (for a list of future annual conference sites and dates, see http://www.mlanet.org/am/meetings.html). Other business included the approval of Librarians without Borders Task Force recommendation to establish a T. Mark Hodges International Service Award, approval of the charge for the standing committee on Professional Recruitment and Retention and approval of policy changes to the Consumer Health Information Specialist program. MLA's Board will meet February 8-10, 2007 in Chicago.

Journal of the Medical Library Association Blog—A blog has been created to complement "JMLA Case Studies in Health Librarianship", a new feature in JMLA. See http://jmlacasestudies.blogspot.com/ for current and archived postings.



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Book Reviews

Secrets of the Savanna by Mark and Delia Owens Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006 Reviewed by Dorothy Barr

Then this book first arrived at my house, I began it with some trepidation. Books about animals with strong conservation messages can be upsetting and even depressing, leaving one with a sense of hopelessness. However, I was pleasantly surprised. Although the book certainly has its poignant and disturbing parts, I often had difficulty putting it down, and, in the end, came away with new knowledge and a sense of hope.

The Owenses first went to Africa in 1974, and their book *Cry of the Kalahari* was an international bestseller and winner of the John Burroughs Medal. *Secrets of the Savanna* recounts their experiences in Zambia, where they took on the seemingly impossible—and certainly very dangerous—task of trying to put an end to the poaching that was then widespread. They had to battle not only the elements but the corruption that oppressed the local people and allowed the poachers to continue. Slowly they enlisted support and provided villagers with other means of survival.

The story is sometimes heartbreaking, and the struggle to just carry on against enormous odds often seems doomed to failure. But the Owenses persevered and, in the end, succeeded in improving life for all the inhabitants of the northern Luangwa Valley. In the process they learned a great deal about the people and also about elephant society.

We know from many recent studies that elephants are highly social animals, with the females and young living together in tight-knit extended family groups with a matriarch, usually the oldest female, in charge. She is the one who carries the knowledge of where food and water are to be found and how to survive in a hostile environment. The males generally hang out together in loose groups, with the oldest bulls keeping the youngsters in check. Poachers, however, usually kill the oldest animals, both male and female, for their tusks, and the result is chaos in elephant society. The females don't know where to go or how to take proper care of each other, their babies, or even themselves, and the young males run wild in unruly gangs. Rebuilding a stable society is a long and difficult process.

One of the phenomena the Owenses noticed was that there were plenty of young elephants around, but not enough females who seemed old enough to be their mothers. Elephant cows do not generally become sexually mature and able to bear calves until their teens (and they are pregnant for almost two years!). Only by watching a young orphan female they named Gift, unable to find her way into a herd and therefore forced to survive on her own, did the Owenses figure out what was happening. Deprived of a stable family group, Gift became pregnant at an incredibly early age and gave birth when she was still a youngster herself. Her struggles to survive and to take care of her calf when she had not had a normal loving upbringing herself are very moving, and it is also chilling to think of possible human parallels.

Some collaborative books are very difficult reading, as the two voices sometimes clash. The Owenses avoid this by alternating chapters; Mark supplies background information, and Delia provides the stories. Occasionally the book slips into sentimentality, but the writing is often vivid and always believable (it is, after all, completely true) and even compelling. Recommended.

Postmortem: How Medical Examiners Explain Suspicious Deaths

By Stefan Timmermans

Chicago; University of Chicago Press: 2006.

Reviewed by Lorri Zipperer

That medical examiners do has nowadays become a part of many people's routines. With the popularity of the "CSI" television programs and its distribution on cable networks and DVD rentals, many viewers are quite familiar with Grissom, Sara, Catherine, Gill and Brass as they utilize scientific gadgetry, analytical brilliance and grizzled know-how to determine the unseemly odd ways that people die.

Fans of the series will not be disappointed by *Postmortem*, Stefan Timmermans' book on medical examination. The author provides exquisite detail and deep scholarship—sprinkled with black humor—that places the profession of forensic pathology in the context of its role in society, science and the greater good by exploring its past and its future.

Postmortem discusses the practice of medical examiners from a variety of clinical contexts. Heart disease, suicide, child abuse and murder provide the opportunity for the author to illustrate how these professionals collect and analyze the evidence to shape and inform their determinations. Timmerman spent three years observing medical examiners at work and draws anecdotally from that experience to effectively augment his comments and research with stories from the front line. His respect for what medical examiners do and the knowledge and fortitude it takes to do their job is evident. The author closes with a layman's view of an autopsy.

The book provides this detail within the context of the political, social and public health influences on the profession, its funding and ability to recruit and hire the scientists it needs to remain robust and contributive. The book's notes are informational and its bibliography extensive. It's a fascinating read.

The Beginning of the Age of Mammals By Kenneth D. Rose Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 2006 Reviewed by Roger Beckman

The author has taught a graduate seminar on mammalian evolution at Johns Hopkins University for over twenty years. That experience and the dearth of general books on the subject were motivations for writing this book. A related book that had a similar focus was *Mammal Evolution* by Savage and Long¹ but was published in 1986. Much new material and discoveries have been made since then.

This is a book about fossils and is well illustrated. The illustrations are mostly of the fossil bones and teeth along with many cladograms or phlogentic trees that represent the evolutionary relationships of the taxa. The illustrations are a key part of the book. Some are original illustrations and others are reproduced from a wide variety of sources. A few illustrations that caught my eye were the following: one of the oldest known eutherians, the lineage that produced modern placentals, two hypotheses of locomotion in *Leptictidium*, an extinct insectivore-like animal, and proposed niche-partitioning by flight level in Eocene bats.

The book concentrates on mammalian evolution in the Early Cenozoic, a critical time with regard to "early adaptive radiation of almost all the major clades of extant mammals." The goal is to present the current interpretations of the mammalian fossil record while critically evaluating the evidence and analysis.

The cited references cover forty-eight pages and cover the literature through the end of 2004 with a few more recent references.

This is a scholarly book and is appropriate for libraries serving graduate and upper level undergraduate students as well as professionals working in the areas of paleontology and mammalian evolution. It helps us understand, as the author states, "the extraordinary history of life" and thus has some use for more general collections.

1. Savage R, Long, M. 1986. *Mammal Evolution: an Illustrated Guide*. New York: Facts on File, Inc.

Member News and Publications

Member Publications

Compiled by Claudia Lascar, Chair, Public Relations Committee

October 2006-December 2006

Barr, D. (2006). "A Change in Library Procedures Becomes an Opportunity to Encourage Electronic Alerting Options." Poster presented at the North Atlantic Health Science Libraries' Annual Conference, Hartford: CT, October 15-17.

Blanton-Kent, B., Carla, H.L., and O'Bryant, F. 2006. "IEEE/IEE Digital Library." *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship* 46 (Spring). Available at: http://www.istl.org//06-spring/databases1.html

Clark, C. 2006. "Revitalizing a Brand: The NIH Library Story." *Information Outlook* 10(11): 17-22.

Stimson, N.F. and Nobunaga, W.Y. 2007. "John H. Hickcox's Confession: An addendum." *Government Information Quarterly* 24(1):216-217.

Tennant, M.R., Tobin, C.T., Sherwill-Navarro, P., and Jesano, R. 2006. "Evaluation of a Liaison Librarian Program: Client and Liaison Perspectives." *Journal of the Medical Library Association* 94(4): 402-9, e201-4.

Tobin, C.T, Tennant, M.R., Sherwill-Navarro, P., and Jesano, R. 2006. "Subject Specialization in a Liaison Librarian Program." *Journal of the Medical Library Association* 94(4): 446-8.

Vaida A.J., Zipperer, L. 2006. "Safe Medication Information Delivery: The role of the Medical Librarian." *Patient Safety and Quality Healthcare* 3:42-45. Available at: http://www.psqh.com/novdec06/librarian.html

Wood, M.W. "Facilitating Compliance with the Required Search for Alternative." Oral presentation at the Quality Assurance and Regulatory Compliance Training, Roche: Palo Alto, March 13, 2006.

Wood, M.W. "Web-based searching for alternatives." Oral presentation at the U.C. Davis Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) - Advanced Workshop, Davis: CA, April 27, 2006.

Wood, M.W. "Techniques for Searching the AAT Literature." in *Handbook on Animal-Assisted Therapy: Theoretical Foundations and Guidelines for Practice*, edited by Fine, A.H., 2nd edition, Elsevier: Amsterdam, c2006.

Zipperer L. 2006. "High Reliability, Information Work and Patient Safety." *National Network*. 31:4-5,7. MLA Liaison Report,

Executive Board 2007 Biomedical and Life Sciences Division

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Past-Chair: Laura Osegueda laura_osegueda@ncsu.edu

For a complete list of current board and committee members, see the Division Web site at: http://units.sla.org/division/dbio/people

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