



DUSLA

Drexel SLA
Newsletter



The Newsletter for Drexel University's Student Chapter of the Special Libraries Association

A Look Back at Fall 2005 and Winter 2006

Spring is here and with it comes a new season of activities and programs for DUSLA members. Before we move on, this newsletter takes a look back at everything we've done in these last six months or so.

Fall quarter began with the introduction of an almost entirely new set of DUSLA officers, including a new president who brought to the table some new ideas and ambitious projects to help get Drexel students more interested in becoming involved in the SLA. Together with our treasurer, program chair, and other DUSLA officers she managed to secure significant funds from the Graduate Student Association and other sources. This made for exciting prospects for the coming year. An ambitious list of events was developed.

DUSLA started off this past fall season with a social event in the 4th floor lounge of the Rush building on September 29th from 5:00 to 6:00 PM. Light snacks and beverages were served for all interested parties in attendance.

The president spoke briefly about some of the programs the chapter had planned for the following quarter. Luray M. Minkiewicz agreed to speak at the event. She spoke to the group about her job as Sr. Information Scientist/Content Strategist at the corporate/scientific library of the DuPont Company.

The event was well attended and turned out to be an great way to kicking off the busy quarter that followed.

Tours held during the spring quarter included the Library of Congress, Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Scott Memorial Library at Thomas Jefferson University.

Some other events didn't come to fruition due to lack of interest, which lead DUSLA leaders to send emails inviting all IST students to participate in a survey to determine who was interested in getting involved with the chapter, and what kinds of activities and programs that population would be most interested in taking part in. Results of that survey are discussed on page 3.



Winter quarter began with an event called, "Starting Out in SLA - Navigating Opportunities in a Professional Association." This also took place in the 4th floor lounge of Rush and had two interesting speakers. Peggy Dominy spoke about her experiences as Math & Science Librarian at Hagerty Library and

Lenore Hardy discussed her role as Director of Hahnemann Library. Each speaker also had employment advice and spoke about the routes they took to acquiring these positions. A number of other great events followed during the quarter including a tour of American Philosophical Society Library.

DUSLA intends to move forward in an effort to offer programs consistent with the desires of the respondents to the survey. So far this plan seems to be working out. The future will, no doubt, hold more interesting and exciting events.

Dan Lane

Library of Congress October 7, 2005

On Friday, October 7 fifteen students traveled with Drexel's chapter of the Special Library Association to the Library of Congress. The SLA took a bus, provided by Drexel IST, to Washington D.C. for a tour of the Library's music collection, housed in the Performing Arts Reading Room; and the prints and photographs collection, housed in the Prints and Photographs Reading Room. These two specially



L.C. Tour attendees.

designed tours are arranged specifically for students and professionals work in fields related to information science. It was surprising to find that the music collection includes no sound recordings, only sheet music. This material is kept in the Motion Picture & Television Reading Room. Also, although the Performing Arts Reading Room does have an online public access catalog it does not contain a bibliographic description for all items in the collection. A card catalog system is still the main means of accessing infor-

mation concerning the department's holdings. The card files occupy most of the space in the reading room. The Prints & Photographs Reading Room has an online public access catalog as well, which contains a great many viewable images, but in order to get a complete picture of the Library's holding a visitor has to thumb through hundreds of file cabinet drawers containing prints of photographs and other two dimensional

artwork divided into broad subject categories. The immense size of these collections makes establishing and updating cataloging systems a difficult and time-consuming activity. For more information on the Library of Congress visit www.loc.gov. For information on the Performing Arts Reading Room and the Music Collection visit <http://www.loc.gov/rr/perform/>. To learn more about the Prints & Photographs Collection see <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/>.

Dan Lane

Pew Charitable Trusts November 9, 2005

High above Market Street, the librarians of the Pew Charitable Trusts provide information services to one of the largest public charities in the country. On November 9, they welcomed seven members from DUSLA for a tour.

Bruce Compton, Research Manager and Archivist, gave a brief history of the Philadelphia-based Trusts which were established by four children of Sun Oil founder Joseph N. Pew and his wife Mary Anderson Pew. Michael Rissinger (MS '89), Cataloging Librarian, demonstrated their document management system. They use Sirsi software to catalog and store digital versions of reports generated by the Trusts' and its grantees. Melanie Sciochetti (MS '03), Research Librarian, demonstrated their intranet, which staff use to

access information services provided by the library.

The physical library, composed of two small rooms, is an attractive space where staff can read, research, and relax. The first room holds current newspapers and magazines and comfortable chairs. The main room includes the circulation desk, a small reference and book collection, and journals in philanthropy and other subjects relevant to the Trusts' current programs.

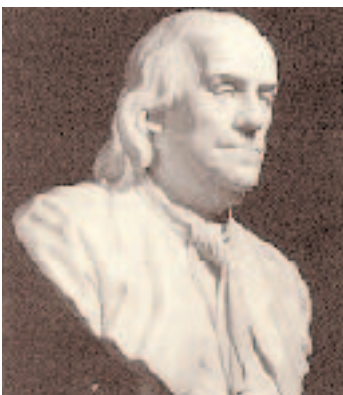
Among the attendees were Megan Manchester, Christine McCollum, Kate Inman, Rachel Fryd, Melissa Bishop, Gary Kaplan, and Tanya Finney. Tanya, DUSLA Programming Chair, organized the event with Melanie Sciochetti. The group extends their gratitude to Melanie, Michael and Bruce for an informative and memorable evening.

Gary Kaplan

American Philosophical Society March 6, 2006

In 1743 Benjamin Franklin founded the American Philosophical Society to promote the advancement of colonial knowledge concerning what were then called the "natural philosophies." We would call natural philosophy: science, medicine, mathematics, technology, agriculture, and others. In the early days of this country the Society held close ties to many of the important individuals in these fields. Up until the mid-19th century the American Philosophical Society played a number of important roles closely associated to the government. It was an unofficial national library, patent office, and science academy.

In its current state, the American Philosophical Society consists of three buildings: Philosophical Hall, Library Hall, and Franklin Hall. DUSLA members and friends toured Library Hall March 6, 2006. Arriving at 3:00 PM, we entered the main hall and met our tour guide. Roy Goodman explained to us what the American Philosophical Society represents and briefly went over the history of the organization. He discussed the organization's continued scientific and historical endowments and



told us about their ongoing conservation efforts. The group then ventured upstairs into a conference room where we were shown some of the works in the Franklin collection, including books and other materials on subjects like economic botany and world exploration. We then traveled up into the stacks. These stacks are closed to the public and contain many valuable manuscripts and one of a kind pieces of archival materials. There in the stacks the group met Kelly and John who were working on an archive copying project. The photocopies they were creating were to be used by researchers in an effort to preserve the originals. They have decided not to scan materials, since it would take more time and would require the creation of a great deal of metadata. For search purposes it is simply easier to thumb through the actual paper documents.

Because our student survey demonstrated an interest in archives we asked Martin L. Levitt, Ph.D., APS librarian, to come by to present the group with an introduction to the Temple Archives Program. Dr. Levitt is a history professor at Temple and is in charge of the program.

Dan Lane

We Asked and You Responded: Results of the DUSLA Student Interest Survey

In November 2005, DUSLA conducted an online survey to help us determine how best to serve Drexel's LIS population. The survey link was emailed to all iSchool graduate students by the iSchool office, and the survey was identified as a tool to discover how our organization could better fulfill the needs of these students.

Student librarian-tested and scientifically unproven (it turns out that none of us are exactly expert statisticians), I give you the highlights of the long-awaited results from the DUSLA Student Interest Survey.

100 students responded:

- o 57 On Campus
- o 43 Online

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Of the 100 students who responded, 57 identified themselves as On Campus students and 43 as Online students. This information was interesting to us because it showed that almost half the potential DUSLA members might never step foot on campus or even live anywhere near Philadelphia. They, therefore, could best benefit from online programming and communication, which is why we have made development of our website one of our top priorities.

Our web team, Christopher Curry, Bob Olczak, and Karen Anello are taking on the enormous task of re-designing and updating the website in order to make it the go-to place for Drexel library students. They are incorporating new technologies, including RSS feeds and mp3 recordings from SLA events, and they have added a link to our very own chapter blog. We hope that our website will complement students' educations and give online students the opportunity to become more involved in the SLA community. Check out our website at www.ischool.drexel.edu/slادrexel.

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Students were interested in finding out more about the following types of libraries (respondents could select more than one):

- o 56 Academic
- o 46 Digital
- o 42 Art
- o 30 Corporate
- o 19 Medical
- o 11 Law

Also mentioned: Music, School, Historical Society/Archives, Rare Books, Museum, Nonprofit, Radical, Community, & Military.

Students were interested in participating in the following types of activities (respondents could select more than one):

- o 58 Educational (e.g. lectures, training...)
- o 57 Career-oriented (e.g. tours, networking sessions...)
- o 27 Social (e.g. happy hours, movie nights...)
- o 7 Online/Distance programming
- o 1 Critiquing courses & professors

Students were interested in participating in the following specific activities (respondents could select more than one):

- o 43 Trip to NPR
- o 39 Tour of the Library Company
- o 35 Tour of the American Philosophical Society
- o 30 Fundraising for Librarians Without Borders
- o 28 Overview of the Temple Archives Program
- o 25 Mentorship Program
- o 17 SLA Annual Conference
- o 9 Tour of QVC
- o 7 Online/Distance Programming

Students preferred to be contacted via:

- o 73 Email
- o 14 No response
- o 8 IST Online Newsletter
- o 3 DUSLA Website
- o 1 Flyers in Rush
- o 1 RSS Feed

Melissa Bishop

If you'd like to receive emails from us regarding upcoming events and opportunities, or if you are interested in becoming more involved in DUSLA, please contact Melissa Bishop at mjb952@drexel.edu.

The SLA Student Chapter of Drexel University is a platform for students to explore special librarianship and the information profession; an opportunity to engage with library and information professionals; an opportunity for networking, interaction, and community building; a promotion of the Special Libraries Association.

Drexel University's Student Chapter of the Special Libraries Association Officers:

Melissa Bishop: president
 Megan Manchester: secretary/treasurer & gsa liason
 Tanya Finney: program chair
 Rachel Fryd: social chair
 Dan Lane: newsletter editor
 Christopher Curry: co-webmaster
 Bob Olczak: co-webmaster
 Karen Anello: web content editor
 Kate Inman: communications chair & ist liason
 Tim Siftar: chapter advisor
 Gary Kaplan: alumni liason
 Pete Konin: sla philly liason

For more information about Drexel's chapter of the SLA visit our website at:
<http://www.ischool.drexel.edu/slادrexel>
 SLA national: <http://www.sla.org>
 Philadelphia Chapter of the SLA:
<http://www.sla.org/chapter/cphl>