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Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School

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Trio Retires with 2003

Now enjoying their retirement: (left to right) Pat Joyce, Gael Evans, Peg Spinner.

As the final days of December passed into memory and history, so also did the years of Library service rendered by Gael Evans, Pat Joyce, and Peg Spinner, who have now moved into their well-earned retirements. Having devoted a total of nearly sixty years to the Lamar Soutter Library, these staff members will be greatly missed by colleagues and patrons alike.

Contributions to the LSL by Gael and Peg lay chiefly in the field of Reference work. Earlier in her career, Ms. Evans (whose tenure at LSL began in the days of the Nixon administration) also oversaw the serials and government documents collections. She witnessed the growth of the Library from its fledgling origins—its main collections having been drawn from those of the Worcester District Medical Society and the University of Pittsburgh—to its status today as a repository of resources that includes several thousand e-journals complementing the collections' traditional print-based materials.

For most of the past decade, Ms. Spinner was similarly proactive in meeting the information needs of LSL patrons. Peg established a solid liaison presence with UMass departments, and was appointed adjunct faculty status for the Department of Family and Community Medicine. She delighted in sharing the Library's resources with patrons, whether the patron were a medical student, physician, nurse, departmental clerical worker, or member of the general public.

With their Reference skills, Gael and Peg helped answer literally thousands of patrons’ questions, and, in the teaching of hundreds of classes, enabled countless

Interview with Javier Crespo

Javier is the Director of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region (NN/LM, NER). (Staff at the Lamar Soutter Library affectionately refer to this program by its former name, “RML” or “Regional Medical Library.”) He became the RML Director on May 11, 2003. Prior to this promotion, Javier was the Projects Coordinator at the RML. He came to the Lamar Soutter Library in 1999 from the University of Illinois as the University of Massachusetts HealthNet Coordinator. SoutteReview recently talked with him about the role of the RML and his position as its Director.

SR: Congratulations, Javier, on your promotion. Could you please tell our readers what the role of the Regional Medical Library is and what your duties as the RML Director entail?

JC: The role of the RML is to be the support center of the National Library of Medicine for this region. One of the most important aspects of the National Library of Medicine’s mission is to train health information professionals, such as health science librarians, on the many resources available at the NLM’s website. Our staff train library and health care workers on resources like PubMed, ToxNet, and DOCLINE, the NLM’s interlibrary loan system.

Our country’s health science libraries make up the National Network of Libraries of Medicine because they work together to perform many functions. These functions include sharing of their resources, filling the information needs of unaffiliated health care providers, and doing the important work of out...
The University of Massachusetts Medical School is currently undergoing the accreditation process of the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME), the nationally recognized accrediting authority for medical education programs leading to the M.D. degree in U.S. and Canadian medical schools. Accreditation is a process of quality assurance in postsecondary education that determines whether an institution or program meets established standards for function, structure, and performance. The accreditation process also fosters institutional and program improvement. The Library is one of the educational resources evaluated during the accreditation process. The LCME accreditation process consists of four distinct steps that take slightly more than a year to complete:

1) assembly of facts regarding the institutional setting, medical curriculum, students, faculty, and educational resources. This information is compiled into a database;
2) review, analysis, and critique of this database by various subcommittees (comprised of faculty, students and administrators);
3) compilation of an executive summary, based on the collected data and the individual subcommittee reports; and
4) a site visit by the LCME, March 7 - 10, 2004.

Last February, the Library's Management Team began compiling information for the Library's database section. Some of the information detailed in the database includes information about the Library's journal subscription, book, audiovisual, and database holdings for the past three years; the number and makeup of Library staff members; how the Library supports medical education; hours of operation and usage statistics, and how the Library provides faculty and students with access to its resources from off-campus sites. All of the database information was submitted to the University's LCME Executive Team in early April.

The next step in the process began in early June, when nineteen Working Groups were formed across the University, to address several questions, regarding a specific aspect of the Medical School. Working Group number seventeen was charged with addressing questions about Library and IS Resources. These questions asked the group to evaluate the print and non-print holdings of the Library, to comment on the adequacy of information technology services as they relate to medical student education, and to comment on the sufficiency of the integration of services with the School's major clinical affiliate sites.

The group was also asked to evaluate the usability and functional convenience of the Library, and assess the contributions of Library and Information Services staff to the education of medical students and the professional development of faculty members with regard to teaching specific skills, retrieving and managing information, and interaction with the curriculum committee to coordinate resources with planned curricular design.

The members of the LCME Working Group number seventeen included:

Elaine Martin, Chair
Director of Library Services
Lamar Soutter Library

Deanna Lucía, Resource Person, Associate Director, Administrative Services, Lamar Soutter Library

Sheldon Benjamin, Associate Professor, Director of Psychiatric Education and Training
Andrew Cocichiarella, Student

Wim Crusio, Professor, Department of Psychiatry

The Role of the Library in the School’s LCME Accreditation Process

Nicholas Genes, Student
Tom Honeyman, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology
Mark Madison, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine
Lyn Riza, Instructional Technologist, Department of Information Services
Bill Rorer, Associate Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology
Ralph Zottola, ACIO, Dept. of Information Services

At the end of August, the Working Groups' reports were submitted to the University's LCME Executive Team, for review and editing, to be included in the 30-page Executive Summary. In early December, the final Database, Executive Summary, and Appendices Sets were mailed to the LCME.

The final step in the accreditation process awaits us March 7-10, 2004, when the LCME survey team will come to the Medical School campus for a site visit. At this time, the survey team will conduct a site survey to verify an updated information compiled in the School's medical education database, clarify any issues that are unclear, inspect the environment and facilities for learning, and meet with administrators, faculty members, and students. At the completion of the visit, the team will meet with selected members of School administration to summarize its findings about the program's strengths and areas of noncompliance.

While preparing for the accreditation process is a time consuming endeavor, Library management appreciates the opportunity to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Library, and to investigate new areas we can serve and new ways we can provide our services.

For more information about the LCME please visit: http://www.lcme.org.  

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and quirks that made Gael, Pat, and Peg the unique individuals they are. We will miss Gael's regaling us with lore and legend of the Lamar Soutter Library, as well as her love of rabbits. We will miss Pat's dry wit, and the twinkle in her eye when she would tell us about her last trip to the Emerald Isle. And we will miss Peg's penchant for keeping lists, as well as her quiet but commanding presence in her public address announcements at the Library's Open Houses. Good luck to them all!  

Crespo Interview continued from page 1

reach. The Regional Medical Library supports the network through training, network support, and offering funding opportunities for outreach and technology improvement. There are eight Regional Medical Libraries in the United States.

A newer focus of the NLM has been to reach out to consumers and the public health workforce in order to provide them with quality health information. These are very different audiences and they use different resources than health science librarians and healthcare workers. The public health workforce has a wide array of information resources available to them like PubMed and the Partners website (http://phpartners.org). The primary resource for consumer health information is MedlinePlus (http://medlineplus.gov).

SR: Could you share with us your library experiences that led to your promotion as RML Director?

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New Forces Affecting Scholarly Publishing

Anyone working or studying in today's academic environment has been impacted by the fact that libraries are finding it increasingly difficult to keep up with the staggering costs of journal subscriptions. Libraries whose collections focus on science, technology, and medicine (STM) are particularly hard hit, as the cost of journal subscriptions in these fields has increased more rapidly than in other areas of study. The ownership of many STM journals by a small number of publishers has only exacerbated the problem.

In response to what many are calling the "scholarly publishing crisis," some new publishing models have emerged. Two of the most prominent and recent alternative publishing initiatives are BioMedCentral (BMC) and Public Library of Science (PLoS). BioMedCentral is an independent publishing house committed to providing immediate access to scholarly work and faces other pressures when trying to decide where to publish their research. Those faculty members awaiting tenure and promotion are faced with the pressure of publishing in their fields' most highly regarded journals. In addition, tenure and promotion committees have been slow to acknowledge electronic publication as a means of communicating research. So what can faculty do to regain control over their research?

Create Change, "a resource for faculty and librarian action to reclaim scholarly communication," suggests the following strategies for faculty who are interested in shifting control of scholarly publication away from commercial publishers and back to scholars:

- Modify any contract signed with a commercial publisher to ensure their right to use their own work as they see fit, including posting it to a public archive.
- Submit papers to quality journals that have reasonable pricing practices.
- Refuse to review for unreasonably expensive journals or to serve on their editorial boards.
- Encourage discussion of scholarly communication issues and proposals for change in departments and schools.
- Include electronic publications in promotion and tenure decisions.
- Support research libraries' cancellations of expensive low-use titles.
- Invite library participation in faculty departmental meetings to discuss scholarly communication issues.
- Include librarians when they meet with a publisher's representative.

Create Change is co-sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) and the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) (Source: http://www.createchange.org).

To help shed more light on the numerous issues surrounding open access and scholarly publishing, the Lamar Soutter Library and the Office of Medical Education are planning a workshop to be scheduled in the Spring. Please check the "What's New" section of our website (http://library.umassmed.edu/) for more information.

Some excellent websites for background information on scholarly publishing:

- http://www.arl.org/ocomm/newnewrep.html
- http://www.lib.uconn.edu/about/publishing/scholarlycommunication.html
- http://www.lib.iastate.edu/libinfo/reptempl/scholcomm.html
- http://www.library.cornell.edu/scholarlycomm/
- http://info.lib.ui.edu/sepb/sepb.html
- http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/scholarly/

To assist us in meeting your needs, please address your comments or concerns about the scholarly publishing environment to:

Barbara.ingrasia@umassmed.edu

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JC: My background in medical librarianship has always had an outreach component to it. I got started in health science librarianship by way of an RML funded project and I've pretty much worked with Regional Medical Libraries in some capacity since then. At the University of Illinois at Chicago, we provided training to health centers and community health agencies on our library's resources. I worked as a project coordinator there and helped to install desktop computers at health agencies, providing them with Internet access that allowed them access to health information. I came to UMass in 1999 as the University of Massachusetts HealthNet Librarian. In that position, we provided desktops and Internet access to UMass affiliated health centers for health professionals, students and consumers.

SR: How do your outreach activities of today differ from outreach that you performed in earlier positions?

JC: My roles in library outreach can be summarized in three distinct phases. Phase I included my work as a project coordinator for an RML funded project. I was the person doing the work of the project. In Phase II of my career, as Consumer Health Information Coordinator at the RML, I assisted project managers and coordinators throughout the work of their projects. Now, as Director of the RML, my responsibilities can be summarized as Phase III. I work with libraries to develop projects for submission to the NLM. Part of my job now is to shepherd these projects for their final approval.

SR: Can you give us an overview of the staff of the RML?

JC: They are a great staff, all of them. They are very dedicated to providing services to our various populations. Our coordinators are at once educators and project managers. We have a coordinator for each of our program areas: network and resource sharing, technology awareness, outreach and education, and consumer health information. They're out on the road a lot, providing training, and meeting with our network members.

We have a financial assistant and an administrative assistant who make sure we have the things we need to keep us going. You really have to believe strongly in what you are doing in order to work in a Regional Medical Library. The RML staff is required to do considerable traveling all around New England and elsewhere, and that can be exhausting at times. But we love what we do.

SR: How would you describe the progress of the RML in the past two years?

JC: We have grown much in this time. We constantly dedicate ourselves to learning what we need to know in order to excel in what we do. That's not just learning the skills needed in our own areas, but learning about our region and everyone involved in healthcare. There's a lot to uncover. My challenge as the RML Director is to find new areas to serve and new ways to serve those areas. We have assorted populations in New England that need quality health information, and we strive to meet those needs.

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Copyright Workshop
a Success

On October 23, 2003 the Library, in collaboration with the Office of Medical Education, hosted a copyright workshop titled “Educators, Technology and the Law.” Over 30 members of the Medical School’s faculty and staff attended this workshop at which Linda K. Enghagen, J.D. and Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, focused her presentation on copyright and how it relates to teaching and publishing in today’s digital environment. Professor Enghagen addressed such topics as determining ownership in an academic setting, rights of owners, copyright in the classroom, the TEACH Act, Internet issues, and when copyright permission needs to be obtained.

For handouts from Professor Enghagen’s presentation please contact Jim Comes at 508-856-6810 or james.comes@umassmed.edu.

The Library and the Office of Medical Education also plan to co-sponsor a workshop on open access publishing in the Spring. Stay tuned for the date and location. DL

Early Childhood Resource Center at the Lamar Soutter Library
http://library.umassmed.edu/ecrc/

The Lamar Soutter Library in collaboration with the Pediatric Family Resource Library was awarded a contract from the Massachusetts Department of Education, Early Learning Services to host the Early Childhood Resource Center. The Central Massachusetts Center is one of five located throughout the Commonwealth. The Center features a variety of resource materials for the early childhood community. Materials are available on loan (at no cost) to teachers, students, administrators, child care providers, parents and anyone else interested in the education and care of young children.

The resources in the Lamar Soutter Library are geared towards the educator and/or child care provider. This collection includes curriculum development materials, multi-media learning kits and the Kids on the Block puppet troupe. The Kids may be borrowed with their scripts for group programs on the following subjects:

- Autism
- Cerebral Palsy
- Deafness
- Divorce
- Emotional Disturbance
- Mental Retardation
- Visual Impairment

The resources located in the Pediatric Family Resource Library are more appropriate for parents and children. These resources include books and videos on child health, parental “how-to” guides, and a large collection of children’s books. The Pediatric Family Resource Library is located on the 2nd floor of the Benedict Building and is open:

- Monday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Friday Closed

For further questions on this new library service, call Nancy Harger at 508-856-3334 or Len Levin at 508-856-6028. NH

We wish to thank the following individuals for their donations of books and journal issues to The Lamar Soutter Library during 2003:

Margaret Barton-Burke; Greg Began; Gael Evans; Harvey Fenigsohn; Richard Fenton; Stephen Fish; Jeffrey Geller; Lillian Goodman; Khalid Mahmoud; E. Marcus; The Family of Sandy Marks; Carmie McGreehan; C. Barber Mueller; Robert Sarkisian; Cindy Su; Tolga and Hande Tuncer.

The Library accepts offers of materials in good condition, published primarily during the past ten years, for possible addition to the main collection. Older items, with special historical significance and value, may be offered for possible addition to the Rare Books Room. Financial donations are also welcomed.

We particularly encourage faculty, researchers and staff to donate a copy of any books they have authored or edited.

For more information, please contact Barbara Ingrassia, Associate Director for Technical Services, at 508-856-1041. Again, thank you to those who have made items available to our collection.