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 UMMS 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...continued on page 2

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...continued on page 2

NEW LIBRARY HOURS (Beginning March 1)
Monday - Thursday 7:30 am - 11:00 pm
Friday 7:30 am - 9:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am - 11:00 pm
Hours are subject to change due to exams, holidays, and weather conditions. Please call 508-856-2511 for current library hours.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS
Circulation 508-856-6099
Reference Desk 508-856-6857
Document Delivery 508-856-2029
Interlibrary Borrowing 508 856-2080
Library Administration 508-856-2205
Government Documents 508-856-2473
Journal Information 508-856-2388
Acquisitions 508-856-1041

Winter 2004
The Role of the Library in the School’s LCME Accreditation Process

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
- Deanna Lucia, Resource Person, Associate Director, Administrative Services, Lamar Soutter Library
- Sheldon Benjamin, Associate Professor, Director of Psychiatric Education and Training
- Andrew Cocchiarella, Student
- Wim Crusio, Professor, Department of Psychiatry
- Nicholas Genes, Student
- Tom Honeyman, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology
- Mark Madison, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine
- Lynn Riza, Instructional Technologist, Department of Information Services
- Bill Royer, 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 and update 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.

Further reading and activities associated with the LCME accreditation process include:
- 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.
- 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?
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 free access to peer-reviewed biomedical research. BioMedCentral’s portfolio includes over 100 journals. All articles published in these journals are immediately archived in PubMed Central (the National Library of Medicine’s digital archive of life sciences journal literature, which is freely accessible and unrestricted) and are conveniently searchable in PubMed. Authors who publish original research in the journals published by BioMedCentral retain copyright over their work (Source: www.biomedcentral.com).

Similarly, Public Library of Science is a nonprofit organization of scientists and physicians committed to making the world’s scientific and medical literature a public resource. PLoS journal articles undergo rigorous peer review and are subject to high editorial standards. PLoS’ inaugural journal, PLoS Biology, was published in October, 2003. PLoS Medicine is expected to follow sometime in 2004 (Source: http://www.publiclibraryofscience.com).

Each of these entities is published in its own unique way, while sharing the goal of being more responsive to the needs of researchers and libraries, and emphasizing the idea that scholarship and research should exist for the public good.

While the advantages of publishing in freely available, online journals that provide immediate access to scholarly work may be obvious, many faculty often face 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 field’s 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 unnecessarily 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’ cancellation 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.lib.uconn.edu/about/publications/scholarlycommunication.html
- http://www.lib.iastate.edu/libinfo/reptempl/scholcomm.htm
- http://www.library.cornell.edu/scholarlycomm/
- http://info.lib.ui.umn.edu/sept/sept.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.Ingrassia@umassmed.edu.

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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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.

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 Begin; Gael Evans; Harvey Fenigsohn; Richard Fenton; Stephen Fish; Jeffrey Geller; Lillian Goodman; Khalid Mahmood; 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.