Visiting Fellow Reflects on Her Year

Lonelyss Charles has completed a year-long fellowship with the Lamar Soutter Library. This was her second year as a Fellow with the National Library of Medicine (NLM) Associate Fellowship Program. The NLM is one of 27 institutes of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland.

During this past year, Lonelyss had opportunities to work with health professionals, educators, librarians, and library administrators to gain experience in developing and implementing information services within a large health sciences library setting. She received a BA degree in French Studies and Liberal Arts from Fisk University; an ME degree from Tennessee State University; and an MLS degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

Lonelyss is the author of several articles on the subject of low literacy adults seeking health information. Prior to working in the library field, she worked in the field of public relations and institutional advancement at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. SoutteReview recently asked her for her thoughts on her time at LSL.

SR: Why did you choose to come to the Lamar Soutter Library?
LC: I chose the Soutter Library based on the proposal that was presented to me. I read several other proposals from larger institutions but some of those proposals were, I felt, just living off of their school’s name. UMass presented itself as a viable library for me to work in and really advance myself in the medical library field. I made the best decision by coming here.

SR: What projects have you been involved in during the past year at the LSL?
LC: I have been working on several projects. I am creating a CME course in health literacy and communication, which will be ready for October. I created two collection development plans for the library on health literacy and medical professionalism. Also, I am in the beginning stages of a collaborative project between the Soutter Library and the World Health Organization. This is the Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative (HINARI).

The purpose of HINARI is to provide free or very low cost online access to the major journals in biomedical and related social sciences to local, non-profit institutions in developing countries. This project will be housed in the library and used by students who provide medical care in developing countries. I am glad to have been directly involved with these projects and initiatives that will be beneficial to this library and its librarians. I also traveled to other medical libraries and worked with our Regional Medical Library.

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Cultural Events Enliven Library

In 2004, to better define its identity as the intellectual and cultural hub of our campus, the Lamar Soutter Library established a Cultural Events Team. Since then, the CET has brought several events to the Library, combining elements from the medical sciences and the humanities.

Appearing in the Rare Books Room on October 7, 2004, Aaron Lazare, MD, Chancellor/Dean of UMMS, delivered his thoughts to a full house, as he quoted from his latest book, On Apology.

Poets Victoria Longino, Emily Ferrara, and Eve Rifkah read passages from their works at our next event on February 9, 2005. Visiting from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Associate Professor Longino accompanied her selections with commentary upon relationships between medicine and the muse. Ms. Ferrara, who is employed by UMMS' Office of Medical Education, read movingly from works inspired by the death of her son. Ms. Rifkah, an award-winning Worcester poet, read from her chapbook At the Leprosarium, whose verse evokes the voices of persons who lived in a lepers' colony.

On March 16, Dr. Alice Flaherty, Instructor of Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital, and author of The Midnight Disease, spoke on the neurological bases of writer's block. Beset with the little-known disease of hypergraphia, she also described the means by which she turned hypergraphia and a related depressive condition to her advantage.

On April 27, UMMS Associate Professor of Psychiatry Dr. Richard Berlin presented awards to the prize-winners of the first annual Gerald F. Berlin Prize for Creative Writing, a competition originated as a tribute to the doctor's father, who struggled with a severe chronic disease.

The event's welcoming and introductory remarks were provided by Michele Pugnaire, MD, Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education; David Hatem, MD, Co-Chair, Humanities in Medicine Collection; and Mai-Lan Rogoff, MD, Associate Dean for Student Affairs. In addition to Dr. Berlin, Dr. Hatem and Emily Ferrara, MA, teachers of a course in creative writing for UMMS medical students, served as judges.

Receiving awards were runner-up Brian Hyett (UMMS 2005), finalist Lara Antkowski (UMMS 2006), and winner Sushrut Jangi (UMMS 2009). Following readings by Antkowski and Jangi, Dr. Berlin read from his award-winning work How JFK Killed My Father.

The Team is presently planning events for 2006. All events are free and open to Library patrons and any other interested parties.

—JL

Go Local Massachusetts

Launched recently, Go Local Massachusetts is a web-based resource designed to help users identify local health services, healthcare providers, and health-related programs that correspond to the information about a variety of health topics found on MedlinePlus. Since 1998, MedlinePlus has supplied quality-filtered consumer health information on more than 650 diseases and conditions. Massachusetts joins Indiana, North Carolina, and Missouri as one of four states currently providing its residents with information to local health services through the “Go Local” project of the National Library of Medicine.

Now, residents of Massachusetts can use the Go Local Massachusetts link on MedlinePlus health topics pages to find information about related health services in their geographic area. For example, if you choose GLM from the MedlinePlus Lyme Disease page, you will be able to find links to Health Education Programs, Public Health Services, and Support Groups that address this disease in your town or region. GLM currently provides information for close to 2,000 services throughout the Commonwealth. The database is growing daily with the goal of becoming a comprehensive collection over the next 12 months.

Go Local Massachusetts is sponsored by the Lamar Soutter Library and the University of Massachusetts Medical School. It is made possible through funding from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region.

Questions or comments regarding GLM, as well as suggestions for sites/services to be included are welcomed. Please direct them to Sally Gore (sally.gore@umassmed.edu), Project Librarian, Lamar Soutter Library, UMMS.

—SG
NIH Public Access Policy Goes into Effect

On February 3, 2005, the National Institutes of Health announced its policy on enhancing public access to archived publications resulting from NIH-funded research. As of May 2, 2005, NIH-funded investigators are requested and strongly encouraged to make their peer-reviewed final manuscripts available to other researchers and the public at the NIH National Library of Medicine’s (NLM) PubMed Central (PMC) (http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov) immediately after the final date of journal publication. Authors are given the option to release their manuscripts at a later time, up to 12 months after the official date of final publication. NIH expects that only in limited cases will authors deem it necessary to select the year-long delay period.

Authors and/or their institutions should ensure that their final manuscript submissions to PMC are consistent with any other agreements, including copyright assignments that they may have, or enter into, with publishers or other third parties. While individual copyright arrangements can take many forms, NIH encourages investigators to sign agreements that specifically allow the manuscript to be deposited with NIH for public posting on PubMed Central as soon as possible after journal publication. The kind of language that an author or institution might add to a copyright agreement could include the following:

Journal acknowledges that Author retains the right to provide a copy of the final manuscript to NIH upon acceptance for journal publication or thereafter, for public archiving in PubMed Central as soon as possible after publication by Journal.

How will authors benefit from submitting their full text articles to PMC?

By submitting their peer-reviewed manuscripts, authors will enjoy several benefits of the Policy.

• PIs and institutions can use the manuscript submission as an alternative means to fulfill the existing requirement to provide publications as part of progress reports. Beginning with progress reports submitted August 1, 2005 (i.e., progress report submissions for Fiscal Year 2006 funding), a reference to the PMC submission identification number may be included in progress reports in lieu of submitting a hard copy of the publication.

• By adding their manuscripts to PMC, authors benefit from the modern information technology tools already available (e.g., PubMed, GenBank, Genome Map Viewer, Molecular Database, MedlinePlus, Clinical Trials, Taxonomy, Small Molecules (PubChem), DNA, Protein Sequences, and Protein Structures, etc.) that are being used currently with thousands of full-text articles already submitted by 178 journals. These tools will help scientists explore information across scientific fields or within narrow topical areas.

• Authors have the ability to ensure timely public access to their research manuscripts. Once their manuscripts are electronically available to the public and researchers through PMC, authors benefit from greater visibility of their research. In addition, publishers can submit the full-text journal article and any publisher links to the article or article corrections for posting on PMC.

Will NIH’s Public Access Policy harm scientific publishing?

At this time, NIH is not aware that there will be a substantial impact. For example, only a portion of articles published in scientific journals result from research funded by the NIH. In addition, the NIH Public Access Policy does not affect authors’ freedom to choose the vehicle or venue for publishing their results.

The Lamar Soutter Library is preparing a guide for its authors with more information on the process. In the meantime, please consult the following links:

Public Access Policy Website: http://www.nih.gov/about/publicaccess/

NIH Manuscript Submission (NIHMS) System: http://www.nihms.nih.gov/


Implementation Plan: http://www.nih.gov/about/publicaccess/publicaccess_imp.htm

Questions and Answers: http://www.nih.gov/about/publicaccess/publicaccess_QandA.htm

Public Access Policy Mailbox: PublicAccess@nih.gov

—PG, BI
SR: What were your daily activities at the LSL?
LC: My daily activities were mainly to immerse myself into the day-to-day operations of the library as well as to bring new insights here. Also, I was active on the Disaster Planning Team and the Electronic Resources Team.

SR: What have you learned from your year at the LSL?
LC: I have gained new management skills, plus new experiences. I truly believe that the relative youth of this library allows the Management Team to create new opportunities to expand optimal service to our patrons and our community. We can enhance our own forms of excellence. I have seen the day-to-day challenges and joys of working as a public medical librarian. The staff of the Lamar Soutter Library has been quite helpful in providing me with these insights.

SR: How will you use these experiences for your own future?
LC: I will take the memories of working with each staff member with me as I move forward in my career. It has been a very insightful and rewarding experience to have worked at the Lamar Soutter Library.

SR: We wish Lonelyss the best as she moves forward with her future pursuits.

Web Tribute to Founder Launched

The LSL marked the ninety-sixth anniversary of Dr. Lamar Soutter’s birth on March 9, by unveiling a web site detailing his life and accomplishments (http://library.umassmed.edu/soutter). This, the Lamar Soutter Web Exhibit, was created as a permanent tribute to the founding dean of UMMS by Library staff members Gael Evans (retired), Judy Nordberg, and Robert Vander Hart.

Information and photos were gathered from near and far—from such diverse points of the compass as Fairbanks, Alaska; Concord, New Hampshire; Saranac Lake, New York; and Lake Constance, Friedrichshafen, Germany. Contributors from the UMMS community include Richard Aghababian, M.D., Kelly Bishop, Joyce Cariglia, W. Clifford Fisher, Michael Foley, M.D., Muriel Sawyer Harrington, Jeffrey Long, Anthony Maciag, and Milly Spence. In addition, Mrs. Lamar Soutter and H. Brownell Wheeler, M.D. provided personal vignettes of Dr. Soutter.

Director of Library Services Elaine R. Martin, D.A., announced, “The unveiling of the Lamar Soutter Web Exhibit marks the beginning of the first phase of a library initiative to document and archive the history of UMass Medical School. The library is grateful to the dedication and hard work of former and current staff who planned and implemented these initiatives and to the financial contribution from the John S. Efstatthiou Memorial Fund, without which this would not have been possible.”