

# INCIPIT

Volume XX Issue 1

Spring 2009

## Greetings from the Chair

For the past three years I have used the Spring *Incipit* to invite you all to events at the MLA Annual Meeting. This year the Annual Meeting is in Honolulu, Hawaii, and it looks like only a few Section members will be able to attend – I counted 10 at last response. I am sorry that so many of you will miss the meeting and the Section's excellent contributed and invited sessions. I will also miss seeing you at the business meeting or in a program session or just in the convention center hallways. I promise to think of you and send *Aloha* thoughts your way.

Our Business Meeting this year is on **Monday, May 18 from 6:30 to 7:30 am** in Room 303B of the Convention Center. With only a one hour meeting it doesn't seem possible to push back the time even a little bit, but **I have ordered coffee**, and hope that will help. I enjoy the opportunity to meet Section members at these meetings – most of our contact is via the listserv so it is good to see the faces behind the email.

Our Section has been busy this year and there will be a number of interesting reports at the Business Meeting. We have sent out an annual report via the listserv, but here are some of things that have been going on:

**Lucretia McClure** has chaired the Section's **Advocacy for History Librarians Task Group** charged with exploring ways to

promote the recruitment, support, and retention of qualified history librarians in health sciences libraries. The task group members are Michael Flannery, Ed Holtum, and Suzanne Porter.

**A Blog-Wiki-Web Task Group** was charged with investigating the use of a blog, Wiki or other tools to improve Section communication. This group is also working with current Webmistress **Patricia Gallagher** to plan changes to our web page. **Cynthia Kahn** chairs this group backed up by **Emily Molanphy**, **Ed Holtum**, **Patricia Gallagher**, and **Susan Marshall**.

The **Policy and Procedure Manual** was revised and updated this year. Chair of the Procedure Manual Update was **Suzanne Porter**. The new revision is available on the Section website at the bottom of the page <http://www.mla-hhss.org/officers.html>

**Joan Stoddart** and **Diane McKenzie** worked on the **Library Directors and History of the Health Sciences Task Group**. They conducted a brief survey on history collections and backgrounds and interests of academic health sciences library directors. The information will be in a poster presentation at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

**Please join me in congratulating two of our HHSS members:**

**Trenton Boyd**, AHIP, Zalk Veterinary Medical Library, University of Missouri-Columbia, who

is the winner of this year's **Murray Gottlieb Prize**. His unpublished, winning essay is titled "The Lost History of American Veterinary Medicine: The Need for Preservation."

**M.J. Tooley**, AHIP, FMLA, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, University of Maryland-Baltimore, has been elected a Fellow of the Medical Library Association.

Welcome our new officers:

- Joan Stoddart, Program Chair/Chair Elect
- Dee Jones, Secretary/Treasurer

Joan and Dee assume their duties as Program Chair and as Secretary Treasurer after the 2009 Annual Meeting. At that time **Michael Flannery** becomes Section Chair and we can look forward to his leadership for the next two years. Michael brings an impressive background in history to the Section. He is Professor and Associate Director for Historical Collections of the University of Alabama Lister Hill Library and responsible for managing the Reynolds Historical Library, the UAB Archives, and the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences. He was the recipient of the 2002 Murray Gottlieb Award for his essay, "The Early Botanical Medical Movement as a Reflection of Life, Liberty, and Literacy in Jacksonian America." See: *Incipit* 2007 March, page 4 <http://www.mla-hhss.org/>



**Diane McKenzie**  
Outgoing Section Chair

[diane\\_mckenzie@unc.edu](mailto:diane_mckenzie@unc.edu)



**Michael Flannery**  
Incoming Section Chair

[flannery@uab.edu](mailto:flannery@uab.edu)

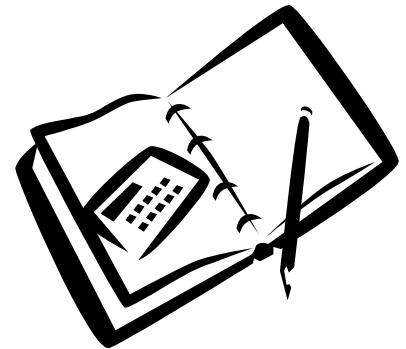
## Treasurer's Report

The following reflects account activity for the period, June 1 of 2007 through May 18 of 2008.

<b>Beginning balance as of May 18, 2008</b>	<b>Assets</b> \$6,298.13
<b>Membership dues</b>	<b>\$513.85</b>
	<b>Debits</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,134.57</b>
<b>Balance ending as of April 4, 2009</b>	<b>\$5,677.41</b>

### Submitted by

**Edwin Holtum**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
History of the Health Sci-  
ences Section (HHSS)



## Welcome to Our New Officers

### Joan Stoddart

Joan Stoddart was elected Program Chair/Chair-Elect. Joan will serve as program chair for two years – that means planning the contributed paper sessions and shepherding these sessions during the meeting. She will then serve two more years as Section Chair, followed by 2 two years as Immediate Past Chair.

That means this is a 6 year commitment. She assumes her Program Chair duties at the Annual Meeting in Hawaii.

Joan received her B.A. in History from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and her MLAS from Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois. She has been with the

Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library since 1979 and has served as Reference Librarian, Clinical Medical Librarian, Head of Public Services and is currently Deputy Director. Her duties include library personnel administration and the History of Medicine Collection.



**Joan Stoddart**  
Incoming Program Chair /  
Chair Elect

[joans@lib.med.utah.edu](mailto:joans@lib.med.utah.edu)

### Dee Jones

Dee Jones was elected Section Secretary-Treasurer. This position is held for two years and Dee will provide minutes, take care of other correspondence, pay bills and manage Section dues. She assumes her Program Chair duties after the Annual Meeting in Hawaii.

Dee Jones, Head of Cataloging, has been at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport since 2003, where she is also responsible for the History of Medicine Collection and the

LSUHSC-S Archives. Dee received her B.S. in Consumer Services in Business from the Pennsylvania State University and her MLS from the University of Southern Mississippi. She created the website, [www.johnmcdonald.org](http://www.johnmcdonald.org), which celebrates the life and work of LSUHSC-S's Chancellor John C. McDonald, M.D., a pioneer in organ transplantation and organ sharing.

Dee has presented several posters on the history of medicine at both MLA and

the South Central Chapter of MLA (SCC/MLA). She has been a member of the History of the Health Sciences Section since 2005 and is a member of the Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences. Dee has served as chair of MLA's Oral History Committee and is currently Director of the Committee's Cumulative Indexing Project. She has also served as chair of the SCC/MLA History Committee.



**Dee Jones**  
Incoming Secretary /  
Treasurer

The Archives and Modern Manuscripts Program

[www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/collections/archives/ammp/index.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/collections/archives/ammp/index.html) at the History of Medicine Division

[www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/), National Library of Medicine is pleased to announce the release of a new digital archive of court case summaries published as the Food and Drugs Act Notices of Judgment.

<http://archive.nlm.nih.gov/fdani/>

The collection is a digital archive of the Notices of Judgment (NJ) for products seized under authority of the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act and the 1938 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The NJs are resources in themselves, but also lead users to the over 2,000 linear foot collection of the evidence files used to prosecute each case. These files include materials such as correspondence, lab results, photographs, and product samples and labeling. This collection offers insight into U.S. legal and governmental history, as well as the evolution of clinical trial science and the social impact of medicine on health.

The legal history of some of our best-known consumer items of today, such as Coca Cola, and companies like Merck Pharmaceuticals, can be traced in the collection.

Users can perform full-text searching and browse the archive by Case Title, Defendant Name, Adjudicating Court Name, Geographic Seizure Location, and Case Publication Date.

To preserve these NJs and make them accessible, a digital archive of both page images and metadata for each NJ was created. The archive was developed as a joint research project between HMD and the Lister Hill Center's Communications Engineering Branch <http://archive.nlm.nih.gov> (CEB). CEB's System for Preservation of Electronic Resources <http://archive.nlm.nih.gov/proj/sper.php> (SPER) is a set of Java-based applications currently used in conjunction with the DSpace [www.dspace.org/](http://www.dspace.org/) platform. Among other archiving and preservation functions, SPER performs automated metadata extraction (AME)

from TIFF page images, quality control review, and batch ingest of objects in an integrated fashion. SPER leverages the powerful archiving infrastructure and access mechanisms provided by DSpace for storage and dissemination, but the operations are modularized so that they can be used as standalone services or integrated with other repository or digital archive platforms or web services.

The current content consists of over 6,800 cases (over 4,300 pages) covering actions against Drugs and Devices from 1940-1963. As we complete work on other portions of the collection they will be released on an ongoing basis. Users are welcome to visit the library to use the hard copies at any time.

Future releases:

- Foods and Drugs, 1908-1943 (31,000 cases/21,000 pages)
- Foods, 1940-1966 (30,000 cases/9,800 pages)
- Cosmetics, 1940-1964 (256 cases)

For questions about the digital archive of FDA court cases, please contact John P. Rees, Curator, Archives and Modern Manuscripts Program, at [reesj@mail.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:reesj@mail.nlm.nih.gov)

**“The (Notices of Judgments) NJs are resources in themselves, but also lead users to the over 2,000 linear foot collection of the evidence files used to prosecute each case.”**

## What's New at UNC-Chapel Hill

**Special Collections at the Health Sciences Library of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill** is pleased to announce both a revamped web site and a new blog, 'The Carolina Curator'. The web site features the following sections: Exhibitions; Highlights; Digital Collections; Historical Collections; Archival Collections; Oral History; Research Resources; UNC Health Affairs History; the Bullitt History of Medicine Club; Friends of the Library; etc.

Notable recent activities in Special Collections include digital initiatives that have

resulted in the digitization of historical North Carolina journals in public health, dentistry, and eugenics, with additional core health-related titles anticipated. A current exhibition (with corresponding online version) at the Health Sciences Library traces the history and development of the newly-renamed UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. The Bullitt History of Medicine Club now offers its lecture series online as MP3s and has inaugurated an annual essay competition, the McLendon-Thomas Award in the History of Medicine. On March

30, 2009 the Health Sciences Library hosted a lecture by UNC's Nobel Laureate, Professor Oliver Smithies; a collection of Smithies' Nobel-related materials can be accessed in the Highlights section of the Special Collections web site.

The Carolina Curator blog is an open-ended forum for the history of the health sciences, and serves to alert readers to news and events, useful resources, and the activities of Special Collections at the UNC Health Sciences Library.

### URLs

- [www.hsl.unc.edu/specialcollections](http://www.hsl.unc.edu/specialcollections)
- <http://carolinacurator.blogspot.com>

For questions about special collections at the HSL-UNC, please contact Daniel Smith at [dlsmith@unc.edu](mailto:dlsmith@unc.edu)

In June, Walter Diggs, the son of Dr. Lemuel W. Diggs, donated nine matted boards containing a total of 57 blood cell paintings from the 1960s by the Memphis artist, Dorothy Sturm to the The University of Tennessee Health Science Center Library – Memphis, Tennessee. The individual paintings on paper depict blood cells in various forms including erythrocytes, granulocytes, plasmodocytes, monocytes, and neutrophils, along with a series on infectious mononucleosis. An online exhibit of some of the images is available at <http://library.utmem.edu/history/DorothySturmExhibit>

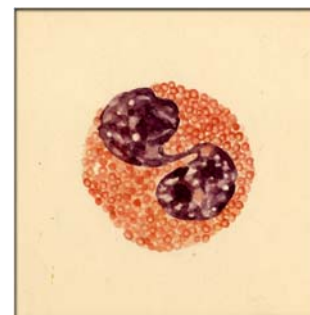
Dorothy Sturm is a well-

known artist with a national reputation, who became interested in medical illustration. She was trained as an artist, and was fascinated in the boundless combinations of shapes, colors and textures that were revealed by the microscope. She established her reputation at a time when there was an increasing demand for the illustrator's talents and there were few who were adept at doing so using a microscope. The photographic technology of the day was not up to the task of producing the quality images suitable for educational use. Dr. Diggs, a University of Tennessee professor, commissioned these images as a teaching

tool for faculty and students.

Sturm (1910-1988) was born in Memphis. She is known for her watercolors and enamels, and for her pioneering work on illustrating human blood cells. In addition to the images in these series, she also produced images that were published in the internationally acclaimed *The Morphology of Human Blood Cells* authored by Dr. Diggs, Ann Bell, and Dorothy Sturm.

The paintings will be housed in the library's Health Sciences Historical Collections as part of the Dorothy Sturm Collection.



**EOSINOPHIL**

For questions about medical illustrations “The Blood Cells of Dorothy Sturm”, please contact Richard Nollan at [rnollan@utmem.edu](mailto:rnollan@utmem.edu).

## Two New Projects at Lane Medical Archives, Stanford University Medical Center

Recently the Lane Medical Archives mounted an exhibit showcasing the scholarship of Michael Marmor, professor and former chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Stanford. Dr. Marmor has explored the question of whether changes in vision may have played a role in changes in the styles of visual artists. In the exhibit at Lane, two great Impressionist painters, Edgar Degas and Claude Monet are highlighted. The exhibit, “What Degas and Monet Saw,” includes not only reproductions of their paintings alongside computer-simulated versions of the ways the artists probably

saw their work given their failing eyesight; it also includes displays of historical ophthalmological instruments from the Lane Archives collection of artifacts. The exhibit has provided a great opportunity not only to spotlight recent scholarship by Stanford faculty in a strikingly visual medium, it also has provided an outreach opportunity for the archives to raise awareness of the breadth of its holdings.

Also related to visual materials, the Lane Archives has recently received the David L. Bassett collection of human anatomical images and placed all the images online for free viewing at

<http://lane.stanford.edu/bassett>. The Bassett collection was developed by Stanford anatomist David Bassett in collaboration with William Gruber, who had designed the Viewmaster system of stereoscopic imagery. Over the course of their seventeen-year project, Bassett and Gruber painstakingly created a comprehensive atlas of the human body, completed in 1962. The online version of the collection is covered by a Creative Commons license that allows users to copy and use these low-resolution digital versions for free for educational and research purposes.

For questions about the “What Degas and Monet Saw” exhibit, or the David Bassett collection of anatomical images, please contact Drew Bourn at [dbourn@stanford.edu](mailto:dbourn@stanford.edu).



## MLA '09 Annual Meeting and Exhibition

“Aloha Kakou E Komo Mai .....”

The MLA '09 Annual Meeting Wiki <http://mla09.wetpaint.com/>

begins with this Hawaiian greeting meaning: “greetings to you all and welcome”. Stay on top of developments in the annual meeting at the Wiki

and the MLA website [www.mlanet.org/am/am2009/](http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2009/)

Aloha—see you in Honolulu May 15-20, 2009.



## HHSS Listserv

We invite all MLA and HHSS members to join the official HHSS listserv.

The members-only listserv will be used to promote and communicate activities of the Section. It may also be used as a forum for its members to discuss relevant issues and concerns.

Be assured that email traffic will not overwhelm any of us. It will, however, pro-

vide a convenient means to communicate.

While joining the listserv is an optional benefit of being a member, we strongly urge members to sign on.

Instructions for Signing On

- Send an email message to [majordomo@mlahq.org](mailto:majordomo@mlahq.org)
- Leave the subject line blank

- In the body of the text, enter: subscribe [hhss@mla-hhss.org](mailto:hhss@mla-hhss.org) your email@place.org
- Respond to the email you receive to authenticate
- Receive confirmation and begin participating

## Publication Information

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## HHSS at MLA '09

*Infusing History into the Curriculum*

History of the Health Sciences Section, Public Services Section, Libraries in Curriculum SIG

Sunday, May 17

11:00 am—12:30 pm



*Promotion and Development Fusions for Special Collections*

History of the Health Sciences Section, Veterinary Medical Libraries Section, Mental Health SIG

Tuesday, May 19

1:00 pm—2:30 pm



*Threatening Fusions: When Ideologies and Demagogues Meet Ideas and Libraries*

Relevant Issues Section, History of the Health Sciences Section

Wednesday, May 20

9:30 am—11:00 am



*History of the Health Sciences Business Meeting*

Monday, May 18

6:30 am—7:30 am

Convention Center, Room 303B



Posters:

- *Connecting Library Directors and the History of Medicine*
- *The Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition of 1909*
- *A Centennial Look at Why a Fusion of the Past and Present will Shape Our Future*

Sunday, May 17

11:00 am—12:30 pm