

HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1990

ADMINISTRATION

Facilities Management has been busy this past month installing battery powered emergency lights throughout the building. These lights will enable staff and patrons to find their way around or out of the library during an electrical black out.

Renovation of the auditorium has been completed and classes are already being held in it.

ACQUISITIONS/SERIALS

Human Interest Story of the Month: A gentleman named Nelson Hyman came to the library today to ask the impossible. Approximately 20 years ago, he gave his father's medical books to this library. Inside of one of those books was a picture of his mother. He wanted to know if anyone had found the picture and saved it, hoping that someone would come back for it someday. He did not know the author of the book, the title of the book or even how old the book might be. We guessed the book might be 1930's or 40's. He was certain that it was not one published in the 1800's. On the other hand it might have been Welch Medical Library...

NOTES FROM HISTORICAL/SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

HSL TEAMS UP WITH MPT: In conjunction with a PBS series on the Civil War scheduled for broadcast September 23-25, Maryland Public Television is planning a segment focusing on elements of the war in and around Maryland. They are including some highlights devoted to Dr. William Slaughter Adams, who graduated from our School of Medicine in 1859, and later went on to serve with the Union Army at Antietam. Rich provided the MPT camera crew with several items, including a portrait of Adams, as well as his original

doctoral thesis and the matriculation record from 1859 verifying his successful graduation. We're looking forward to the program, and will try to advise about the exact air time.

MILESTONES IN MEDICAL HISTORY

This will conclude our series on the history of anatomical study, and in this segment, we turn our attention to the more sinister side of the subject. From the late-eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century, it was common for the bodies of executed criminals to be handed over to medical colleges for dissection. Because of this association with undesirable individuals, the broad concept of dissection likewise assumed an undesirable meaning. Instead of being a clinical and instructional procedure, dissection connoted mutilation and dismemberment, and was therefore generally considered a criminal act equally heinous. In the mean time, legislation in many parts of the world made it extremely difficult for medical colleges to legally obtain specimens for study.

In order to deal with this scarcity, the practice of grave-robbing became a widespread and financially lucrative business. Those who were highly skilled in this unseemly art became known as "Resurrectionists," and in many cities around the world, angry citizens organized Resurrection Riots to destroy the students' dissecting room facilities, in attempt to protect the safe resting places of their own friends and loved ones. Our own

Dr. John Davidge was the victim of one such raid at the location of his class instructions on Liberty Street, before the construction of our medical school building in 1812.

But one of the most famous incidents concerns one of our later faculty members, Granville Sharp Pattison, who was involved in a lengthy Resurrection trial in 1813. At that time, Pattison was becoming a prominent lecturer in anatomy at the College Street Medical School in Glasgow. On the very night of her internment, Pattison and several cohorts effected the illegal exhumation of the remains of one Mrs. Janet McAllaster. Although this was but one of many such incidents in which Pattison was involved, grief and outrage led Mrs. McAllaster's family to seek out and prosecute the culprits. Strong suspicion and evidence led them to Pattison's door, and a very heated and complicated inquiry ensued. Although all parties implicitly believed that Pattison had stolen the body, he was eventually acquitted by a verdict of "not proven." This case is also significant in that it represents one of the first cases in which dental records became a part of forensic procedure. But even in spite of this, Pattison's attorneys succeeded in preventing the opposition from clinically and undeniably proving that the *body* (not just the resultant disclosed parts) was in Pattison's possession. In spite of not being explicitly proven, the implicit understanding of guilt lay underneath the verdict, with the understanding that a severe sentence would be imposed if the "guilty" party should be convicted of the same act again.

It took much time and effort at public awareness before dissection could eventually be recognized as a legitimate research technique aimed at the ultimate betterment of society.

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INFORMATION SERVICES

Vacations are over, and the students are about to hit. We are steeling ourselves and ready to hit back with a barrage of seminars and orientations for all those new faces.

There will be new faces among our staff as well. We are very pleased to welcome two new Information Specialists as of the day after Labor Day. Barbara Coon comes to us from the Florence A. Moore Library for the Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. She is a graduate of Drexel University College of Information Studies and has had lots of reference experience, including instructing students on CD-Rom products. Johnson Kuma helps Janet to add a more international presence to our department, and helps Don to add a more masculine one. Johnson hails from Kenya and has, among other things, taught high school biology in Liberia. Just prior to coming to HSL, he was the serials librarian at City University of New York at LaGuardia Community College. They are both very charming people, and we are sure everyone in the library will enjoy having them around.

Diane edited the CD-Rom Directory of Maryland which was published by the Maryland Library Association this month. The directory lists the CD-Rom products operating at all the libraries in the state. Diane has also been elected Program Chair for BARLIE this year, and she's busy trying to get some programs organized. Diane will be taking over from Don this fall as Pharmacy school liaison.

Patty and Sandy co-taught a Pro-Cite class to graduate nurses interested in setting up a large database of pain management articles. Patty and Pam co-taught the PLUSS class for secretaries. Patty told 160 graduate nurses about the wonders of the Health Sciences Library at Davidge Hall in August.

Patty also went to the University of Maryland at Shady Grove. Yes, that's right, Shady Grove -- yet another extension to UM. UMSG will serve as a teaching site for several different programs

including social work and graduate nursing, and representatives from all UM libraries met in August to discuss how libraries should meet the needs of a student body in an area in which no four-year academic library exists.

Janet went back to the old sod in August to attend her sister's wedding in Ireland. Now she's rested and ready to tackle the Social Work orientations and school-wide seminars in the fall.

Phyl and Patty co-taught a Grateful Med class made twice as exciting as usual when the fire alarms went off, spilling bewildered class attendees into the alley. Phyl and Sandy have participated in three orientations at the Medical School Teaching Facility for first year med students. Phyl is on top of things as usual and orchestrating the administration of the seminars this fall, as well as taking over the orientations for both the undergraduate nursing students and medical students. You may see Charlene rushing around with boxes of handouts in an effort to keep up with Fall activity.

Mary Ann is working hard to get the dental students acquainted with the library. Don, after vacationing in New England, is making sure that the Reference Collection is up-to-date and is getting ready to train new staff in the midst of the expected hordes of University of Maryland students.

MJ attended the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association's Executive Board meeting in August and got a well-deserved vacation in Bethany Beach.

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PERSONNEL UPDATE

BENEFITS FORUM

The first UMAB benefits forum held on July 18 with the topic of Educational Assistance Programs was an apparent success. About 50

people attended and participated in the discussion which was a brown bag affair. As usual, some questions raised required some research with written answers to be sent to all who attended the forum.

The next benefit forum will be scheduled in the fall and will concern tax sheltered annuities. The date for this will be announced later.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment for health insurance will be from October 15 - November 15 this year. The good news is that completing new forms will not be mandatory. New forms will only be needed if a change is being made.

INJURY IN BUILDING

As an addition to all the planning for emergency situations, please note the following.

In the event that a library user who is neither a student nor an employee is injured in the library, we need to make sure that someone in the library gets the name, address and phone number of the injured party. There should also be written documentation of incident. This information should be sent to the Director's Office to be placed on file. We need to do this for the record for our own protection and should not rely on the report of someone in another area. For example, if a campus policeman who takes a report of an injury was not present when the injury occurred he does not know what really happened.

Since the University does have liability insurance for such cases, we need to be able to know what happened several months after an incident.

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SYSTEMS & AUTOMATION



He is finally here!

Peter LePoer joined the dept. on Sept. 4 as another Systems & Automation Librarian. He came from the Health Sciences Library of the Ohio State University. His wife and their 18-month-old daughter are still in Columbus trying to sell the house.

More than just a vacation ...

While Gary was on vacation he visited the School of Medicine Library of Washington University in St. Louis. The library moved to its new facility in July, 1989. He took some snapshots of the library which may be interesting to look at when we plan for our new library building.

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CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

The Circulation Department focused on Staff Development this month.

The training Committee comprising of Barbara, Peggy, Loie, Phil and Lynette planned and developed a training session on the importance of checking in material accurately. This session was presented by Peggy who did a really magnificent job. She introduced the session by use of an amusing anecdote and maintained interest throughout. It was a very productive inhouse session with active participation and meaningful questions from everyone.

On Wednesday August 14, Wayne Reisig attended a workshop entitled 'How to Supervise.' This was sponsored by the National Careers Workshop.

On Thursday August 30th, Robin, Barbara, Angie L and Michelle T attended a workshop on 'How to handle the difficult patron. This workshop was

held at UMBC and sponsored by the Co-operating Libraries of Central Maryland.

August has also been a month when everyone has had some vacation; so refreshed by our vacations and armed with techniques gained from the workshops, we are ready to face the new school year and offer the best possible service.