



SoutteReview

A newsletter of The Lamar Soutter Library • University of Massachusetts Medical School • Issue 4

Meet the Director



Elaine Russo Martin

Elaine Russo Martin has been a very busy person since assuming the position of Director of The Lamar Soutter Library. The *SoutteReview* recently caught up with Elaine to get some of her first impressions regarding her new position and some of her visions for the future of the Medical Library.

SR: Can you give us some background about yourself?

EM: Sure. I grew up in Providence, Rhode Island. I have a BA in English from Boston University and an MA in English from the University of Chicago. My M.S.L.S. (library science degree) is from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. I am presently a doctoral student in library science at Simmons College.

SR: A native New Englander! What did you miss most about this region when you left?

EM: Most of all, I missed my family and my friends. However, I have truly enjoyed the many diverse experiences that I have had in my library positions, especially the people that I've encountered. In my career, I've been on both the coasts and in the middle of the country, and I have enjoyed that immensely.

SR: What are your experiences in the library field?

EM: I have always been a medical librarian. My first job was as a Reference Librarian at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, where I worked for two years. My husband was then transferred to Washington, D.C. and I worked at George Washington University for eight years. I held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility. First, I was a User Education Librarian, which meant that I did quite a bit of teaching. I then became head of the Reference Department, and finally Assistant Director for Information and Instruction Services. From there we moved to Washington State where I became the Associate Director for Clinical Research and Education Services at the University of Washington Medical Library in Seattle. It was there that I received my experience in IAIMS (Integrated Advanced Information Management Systems) and in grant writing. The last job I had prior to coming to UMass was as the Director of the Medical Library of the University of Illinois in Chicago, where I also served as Director of the Regional Medical Library for the Midwest, funded by the National Library of Medicine (NLM).

SR: You have had extensive experience in grant writing. What importance do you place on grants for the library and for the UMass community?

EM: I strongly believe that it is important for the library to obtain grants

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LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 7:00 am - 11:30 pm

Friday 7:00 am - 9:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am - 11:30 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
856-6857

Document Delivery
856-2029

Interlibrary Borrowing
856-3302

Library Administration
856-2205

Government Documents
856-3290 or 856-2473

Journal Information
856-2367

Acquisitions
856-1041

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A Dose of Reading



These ten books focus upon how we cope with death's manifold intrusions into our lives. Thanatology, which examines psychological and sociological impacts of death, is also treated by such seminal works as *On Death and Dying* (1969), by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross; *The Savage God: A Study of Suicide* (1972), by A. Alvarez; *Final Exit: The Practicalities of Self-Deliverance and Assisted Suicide for the Dying* (1991), by Derek Humphry; *The Hour of Our Death* (1981), by Philippe Aries; and the journal *Death Studies*. All items are available through The Lamar Soutter Library.

■ Arax, Mark. *In My Father's Name: A Family, A Town, a Murder* (1997). Reining in his personal feelings of grief and anger, for years journalist Arax probed into his father's gangland-style murder. This is a moving account of his quest. (Two other noteworthy books in this vein are Lois Duncan's *Who Killed My Daughter?*

(1992) and James Ellroy's *My Dark Places: An L.A. Crime Memoir* (1996).)

■ Brookes, Tim. *Signs of Life: A Memoir of Dying and Discovery* (1997). What began as a routine report on American hospice care evolved into much more, when this NPR commentator's mother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

■ Carruth, Hayden. *Reluctantly: Autobiographical Essays* (1998). This Yankee poet, with characteristic iconoclasm and honesty, details his bouts with anxiety and depression, which led him to hospitalization and a self-administered, near-fatal drug overdose.

■ Fisher, M.F.K. *Sister Age* (1984). Written while in her seventies, this is a collection of stories—whose common themes revolve around death and old age—that derived from this famous writer's life experiences.

■ Gilmore, Mikal. *Shot in the Heart* (1994). An exercise in exorcising the demons of his past, the brother of executed murderer Gary Gilmore traces the dysfunctional family roots that led to his sibling's sociopathic behavior.

■ Hammer, Signe. *By Her Own Hand: Memoirs of a Suicide's Daughter* (1991). Having endured years

of feeling sorrow, rage, and guilt, the author tells of her struggle to understand and accept her mother's suicide when she was nine years old.

■ Malcolm, Andrew. *Someday: The Story of a Mother and Her Son* (1991). Noted writer Malcolm recalls his incapacitated mother's vital years, while agonizingly weighing options involving right-to-life, terminal care, and euthanasia.

■ Roth, Philip. *Patrimony: A True Story* (1991). Mixing pathos and wry humor, novelist Roth chronicles the course of his relations with his elderly father, who battles a brain tumor.

■ Saroyan, William. *Obituaries* (1979). Adopting a style at once conversational and familiar, Saroyan shares with us his broad philosophical musings on death, as well as his personal reactions to the demises of some two dozen acquaintances, whose obituaries appeared in the 1976 necrology of *Variety*.

■ Sulzberger, C.L. *How I Committed Suicide: A Reverie* (1982). Facing retirement during a time of deep bereavement from his wife's death, this renowned journalist tells of his bittersweet European travels with his beloved dog. ✨

A Silver Anniversary

Gael Evans, a reference librarian at The Lamar Soutter Library, began work at the University 25 years ago. Her first job entailed working at the Circulation Desk, the Interlibrary Loan Department, and doing special projects for the Cataloging Department. At that time, construction on the present library was not yet complete, so Gael, nine colleagues, and sixteen medical students used the Shaw building for work and study.

Working at the University in the mid-seventies was very

different as compared to today. For example, smoking in the office was commonplace, Christmas parties included spiked eggnog, and the class size was so small that graduation ceremonies were held in the library. Gael's work has changed a lot since then, too. Gone are the days when she would ink a mimeograph machine to produce catalog cards, or manually type out the list of the serials owned by the library.

Thanks to computers these tasks are now automated, and have allowed Gael's position as a librarian to evolve into that of an educational and information specialist. She now develops and teaches training classes to our students and

staff and tackles the important job of collection development. For the future, Gael is assisting the library with two new projects: a liaison program designed to facilitate better communication and services with the academic departments, and the establishment of a consumer health library.

Throughout the years Gael has maintained a wonderful sense of humor and is greatly appreciated for her wealth of knowledge in the library profession. On behalf of all of the library staff, we'd like to say Thank You, and Congratulations, Gael! ✨

Meet the Director

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because it allows us to collaborate with faculty. I think that the library is more than a service unit and that the professional librarians need to do what the faculty does. That means teaching, research, obtaining grants, publishing, and of course service. The kinds of grants which we need to be involved with include not only the traditional library grants funded through NLM but also partnering with faculty from other departments who are writing grants for the FDA, HRSA, NIH and so forth in which there can be information components.

SR: What do you foresee in library technology?

EM: Well, certainly more full text. Also, for this library, the emphasis will be on web-based products so that there will be an easier interface for patrons to utilize our resources. Our major initiative this year is the Integrated Library System which will allow patrons, for the first time in this library's history, to find out from their own desktop whether the library owns a particular book or journal and place a hold on that item if we own it. If we don't own that book or journal, the patron can see if it is on order. A patron will be able to request online that we order books or journals for our collection. A library user does not need to walk into the library to accomplish all of these tasks. We want to emphasize with this new technology a "one-stop shopping" process from the user's desktop. Our goal in the future is information access and retrieval from anyplace, anywhere, anytime in the format needed, print or electronic.

SR: In the short period of time that you have been here what do you see as the strengths of the library? What areas should be strengthened?

EM: As for strengths, I certainly see the service orientation of the library and the quality of the staff. As for areas to work on, I want to

New Resources for Consumers on the Way

The public is becoming increasingly interested in information on health issues—symptoms, treatments, medications, and choices. In support of those interests, The Lamar Soutter Library is developing a consumer health collection to be housed in a special area within the library. Suitable print materials may also be available in the general, reference, and journal collections in the library. A full range of topics will be covered, from acupuncture and aging to weight

management and women's health issues. This collection will continue to evolve and grow as resources become available.

In addition to print materials, useful information may be found in the audiovisual (AV) collection, housed on the second floor mezzanine. The Time-Life Medical series of thirty videos is available—covering in a thirty-minute visual format many of the topics listed above. The print and AV materials may be used in the

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see a stronger print collection while at the same time expanding our ability to provide full-text options. Also, outreach to the UMass and outside communities is a major priority of mine. Inside UMass this will include a liaison program to link librarians with specific departments for customized services. Outside UMass, I would like to strengthen our relationships with affiliated hospitals, community-based health professionals and other special and public libraries. The AIDS grant we just received from the NLM is a first step in this direction.

SR: You have participated in some international projects. Could you elaborate on these?

EM: My experiences with international librarianship were at the University of Illinois. We, for several years, hosted the Cunningham Fellow, a program sponsored by the Medical Library Association. Librarians from other countries would come to the United States for two to three months to study and observe the practice of medical librarianship in this country. We discovered that librarians everywhere faced similar issues. In addition, there were librarians on my staff from other countries who trained physicians from their respective countries in their native languages in topics such as MEDLINE searching and Internet basics. These physicians

were part of a collaborative effort by the University to establish sister cities in other countries. The library was viewed as a partner in establishing this link through access to information that was often lacking in other parts of the world.

SR: What are your priorities for this library for 1999?

EM: There are five. First, expand the collection, both print and electronic. Next, improve our physical facility. Third, increase outreach and educational programs. Fourth, establish a staff development program. Finally, I would like to improve library systems and technology. We have formed internal teams to analyze these five priorities and are well under way to addressing these issues.

SR: Do you have a message for the UMass Worcester students?

EM: Yes. I want to be proactive with our students and encourage them to take advantage of the library's resources and services. I believe that developing library skills is essential for clinical decision making in the practice of medicine, contact with patients, and the research enterprise of biomedical science. To me, information seeking and retrieval skills are key components to life-long learning. All of us in the library are here to assist you. ✿

SoutteReview

SoutteReview is an occasional publication of The Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

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Staff News

New Staff

Recent additions to the Circulation staff include **John Marengo** and **Harvey Fenigsohn**. John is currently a student at Quinsigamond Community College and plans to transfer to Worcester State College in the spring. Harvey was an English teacher for 23 years at Bancroft School in Worcester, during which time he participated in the Fulbright teacher exchange program in England.

Achievements

Deputy Director **Debbie Sibley** was co-chair of the 1998 conference of the North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries (NAHSL) held September 27-29 in Boston. At that conference, Director **Elaine Martin** participated in a panel, "New Paradigms, New Relationships; Medical School and Affiliated Hospitals."

Reference Librarian **Gael Evans** will celebrate 25 years as an employee at UMass Worcester this year (see related article in this issue).

Promotions

Pauline McCormick is now the Catalog Librarian, a new fulltime professional position. She was previously working in a halftime

capacity as Coordinator of Contract Catalog and Database Management. Pauline has been employed at the library since 1996.

Kelly Cronin is now the Corporate Information Resources Librarian, another new position. Kelly received the Master of Science in Library and Information Science degree from Simmons College in August. Kelly has worked at the library since 1993 in the Circulation, Interlibrary Borrowing, and Reference departments. ✂

New Photocopiers are Here!

Users of the library's copy room have been treated to seven new Xerox Bookmark 35 Copy Stations. Customers activate this new generation of copiers only with debit cards. These cards, which may be used and reused indefinitely, are purchasable from either of two dispensers in the copy room. UMass Worcester departments may prefer to buy pre-programmed debit cards from the library's Financial Officer, Deb Dulmaine-Coonan (856-5830). Other questions pertaining to our new photocopiers should be directed to Jeff Long (856-2080). ✂

New Resources

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library without special request, a borrower's card, or fee. To check out books and AV materials from the library, borrowers need a library borrowing card. (Please contact the Circulation Desk at 508-856-6099 for more information.) Photocopying facilities are available in the library. Items may also be borrowed via Interlibrary Loan from other libraries.

Other consumer health-related materials can be retrieved from the library's home page at <http://library.ummed.edu> under the heading "Biomedical Resources." In particular, the links for "Consumer/Public Health" and "InfoTrac Searchbank" provide access to information that can be readily beneficial to the layperson. Also, the National Library of Medicine has recently introduced MEDLINEplus, a resource on various diseases and health topics. This site is linked from the "Government Sites" page on the library's web site. These materials are provided for educational purposes only; any medical decisions should be made in consultation with a qualified health care provider. ✂