

**Suncoast Information Specialists  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 29, 2014**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, February 29th, 2014, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** U.S. Geological Survey, Coastal and Marine Science Center, St. Petersburg, FL

**Host:** SIS Panel Discussion

**Catering:** Public Supermarket

**Attendance:** 33 Attendees

**Minutes by:** Marisa Meale

## ***Socializing and Networking***

- 5:30 - 6:00pm  
Sign-In/Set-up  
Optional tour
- 6:00 - 6:20pm Dinner
- 6:20 - 8:00pm *Community Partnerships with Libraries:* Panel Discussion by Terri Willingham, Program Director, Learning is for Everyone, Inc.; Megan Danak, Senior Librarian, Library Services, Hillsborough County BOCC; Theresa Burress, Librarian, CNTS, contracted to U.S. Geological Survey; Beth Lindsay, Main Library Coordinator and Youth Services Coordinator, St. Petersburg Public Library

## ***Program***

6:20pm - Theresa Burress, a Librarian and Educational Outreach Coordinator at the U.S. Geological Survey Offices welcomed everyone and introduced our speakers tonight. Theresa will speak about the St. Pete Science Festival and why it is a good opportunity for libraries if time permits.

Megan Danak is a Senior Librarian at the Tampa-Hillsborough Public Library System. She entitled her presentation, "Programs, Partnerships, and the CIC." It is the 100th anniversary of the Tampa-Hillsborough Library System! Many of the system's events and programs are a result of community partnerships. For instance, they offer services for small business including Quickbooks tutorials, AARP/VITA tax assistance, services through the Hillsborough Literacy Council, Hillsborough County Extension Services Master Gardeners programming, programs with the Florida Genealogical Society, and visits from therapy dogs for children. They have also had some new partnerships: A writing group at the South Shore Regional Library worked together to publish an e-book entitled, *Tattle Tales: An Anthology*. This became so popular that the library had to close the group to new members. Tampa-Hillsborough's Coder Dojo has also taken off: A local entrepreneur approached the library about offering a coding program for kids. Community mentors are able to use the free program, Scratch. A StoryCorps grant that the library was awarded is being used to capture African American history, as well as open a new facility dedicated to this and to genealogy in general.

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Tampa Hillsborough is also expanding several of its branches: the Bloomingdale Regional Library, the Jimmy B. Keel Library, and the Seminole Heights branch. They are not adding more shelf space but recognize the need for more space to collaborate and have added furniture, more outlets, and TV screens called *mediascapes* that allow patrons to plug in their devices and display on screen.

One of the big projects right now is the Community Innovation Center (CIC) at the downtown John F. Germany Library. A floor of the library is being transformed into a full-out makerspace in which the community may meet, experiment, and create. It includes a robotics test field, a hands-on work center, a 3-D printer, a dedicated Arts Center, an entrepreneurial space, and an AV studio and media lab. Tampa Hillsborough partnered with a company called *Learning is for Everyone* to design the space. However, due to a change in board members

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### ***Introduction***

6:45pm - Bill Harris explained that because of the cancellation of the speaker for tonight (Marc Blumenthal's presentation on E-Learning, Technology and the Job Market for Information Specialists, Educators, and IT Specialists), we were improvising. Each person in attendance introduced him- or herself.

### ***Old Business***

#### **Scholarships**

Bill suggested the announcement of the SIS scholarship winners. Hal Harmon gave a brief explanation as to how these scholarships work: Two library school students and two library staff members are awarded \$150 each to assist with any expenses relating to their FLA Conference attendance. The student winners this year were Jodi Geever-Ostrowsky of USF (also SIS's treasurer) and Karlen Kane of FSU. The library staff winners were Deborah M. Williams of Keiser University and Jaime M. Goldman from Nova Southeastern University. Hal thanked Jessica Riggins and Ann Marie Maloney for their assistance with running the scholarship committee. Jessica Riggins explained that the process of offering these scholarships began seven years ago when only two were available, rather than four. Hal added that all winners will provide a short write-up of their FLA experience to be published in the SIS Newsletter.

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It was noted that there is now an Employment section on the SIS website. Bill pointed out that it is very common for a part-timer to become full-time and a great way for potential librarians to learn if they are cut out for public service.

## ***Announcements***

**Jessie Riggins noted that there were SIS pamphlets available**

### **Treasurer's report**

Jodi Geever-Ostrowsky provided the Treasurer's Report: As of February 25, SIS had \$2,172.09 in its bank account. The current YTD income over expenses is \$94.32.

## ***New Business***

**Call for Newsletter Announcements:** by Megan O'Brien

### **Upcoming Meetings/Events**

Denise Shereff mentioned that there was a good chance that the next SIS meeting in April would take place at the U.S. Geological Survey Offices in St. Petersburg and would focus on a discussion about the re-invention of libraries.

Jessica Riggins mentioned a couple of upcoming classes offered by TBLC (the Tampa Bay Library Consortium). Nate Hill, a librarian from Chattanooga, TN, will be speaking about his library's Makerspace on Friday, April 25th from 9 AM - 1 PM at Bruton Memorial Library. The week of May 29th (date/time TBA), there will be a Job Skills Conference for any librarian, no matter how long in the profession. The event will include mock interviews, resume reviews, discussions about attendees' LinkedIn profiles, information about what to wear to a job interview and discussions about the importance of networking. The event will be held at Florida Southern College and will feature speakers from public, academic, and special libraries.

Student representatives from SOLIS (Student Organizations of Library and Information Science at USF) were asked if they had any news to share. Roxanne Palmer announced that there was a potential Brown Bag event with Adonis Amparo in the future (Tuesday, March 18 at 5:30 PM), as well as a general meeting next Wednesday, March 5th.

### **Job Openings**

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Bill Harris also announced that the Temple Terrace Library is hiring for a Children's Librarian (Librarian I) and will pay between \$15-23/hr. They require either a Master's degree or an equivalent combination of training and experience. Temple Terrace is actually a city library. There are other part-time positions in the Tampa-Hillsborough County System, but those will require the completion of a Master's degree. Betsy King for attendees to take to their places of employment/respective schools, etc.

Bill Harris announced that nominations for elected positions in the USF LIS Alumni Society are due by February 28th. They can be mailed to Kim Norden at knorden@mail.usf.edu. They are still looking for a chair-elect, secretary, historian, and treasurer. The voting will take place on March 3rd and the winners will be announced March 17th.

Betsy King wanted to make sure all attendees were aware that most libraries provide free tax services, although there are sometimes certain restrictions based on income or other factors. Betsy herself works four days a week doing this IRS-sponsored work, and she encourages everyone to get the word out to those who might benefit.

### ***Program***

The featured panel this evening was made up of Betsy King, Ann Marie Maloney, Megan O'Brien, Bill Harris, Megan Oliver, Denise Shereff, and Libby Cope. These individuals gave brief explanations of what each of their jobs entailed in a segment they called, "A Day in the Life."

Ann Marie Maloney works for Galen College of Nursing, though she never expected to be an academic librarian when she was going to library school. She simply began working there part-time and also wanted to point out that she is a former recipient of one of the SIS scholarships. In a typical day she helps many diverse students. The library is small, consisting of only ten computers, a study room, and some tables and chairs. She says the study room is often in use. She also conducts library orientations for new students, and informs them about different resources and how to utilize them. The majority of her time is spent assisting students with research and helping them with APA formatting. Galen College is expanding to offer a Bachelor's degree in Nursing. Ann Marie wishes that there were a small fiction section in her library, but, with the addition of a Bachelor's program, there will be more variety among the books available. She works closely with faculty, as well, as they sometimes need help with search terms or web resources. There is one other librarian working in this library, and so Ann Marie splits shifts with her. Ann Marie

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particularly makes use of the Nursing Reference Center database, which includes a patient tab that is helpful since she herself is not a nurse. She needed no medical background to assume her job.

Megan O'Brien has a unique job working for the MacDill Air Force Base. She does not rely on books but instead does research for analysts. She gets to do a lot of networking with the FBI, CIA, various Naval Academies, etc. She does briefings, presentations, and even teaches classes. "My job is everything," she says. Government libraries, despite common assumptions, are not well-funded and mostly use open-source databases and resources. Megan was able to get hired for this job through the USF Career Center, which helps students find employment up to six months post-graduation.

Denise Shereff works for the USF School of Information and got her MLIS from the University of South Carolina. She has worked in a variety of job types, including as an adjunct for USF SI and in a pediatric-epidemiology center where she worked with patients and patient advocacy groups. In her current job, she spends much of her time maintaining the school's accreditation with ALA. She is also a liaison to graduate assistants and adjuncts. She works two days a week at home and three on campus. While she does miss the typical duties of librarianship, she loves working with students. USF's accreditation status is determined every seven years. Bill Harris pointed out that as USF alumni, it is important that SIS members support accreditation.

Libby Cope is a Media Specialist for Hillsborough County Schools. She was a teacher for six years previously. There are no parent volunteers or library aides. She does the morning show everyday with the help of 4th and 5th graders. She says that Hillsborough County is lucky to have a Media Specialist in every school since so many counties are doing away with them. She does all the circulation and book ordering, but would love to get self check-out machines. The school is considered a low-achieving school; behavioral problems happen frequently, though, because of the low SES (socio-economic status). Many of the children are homeless. Libby teaches information literacy to all grades. The kids are not allowed to bring any personal electronic devices to school because of the liability that they could be stolen. There is a small computer lab and a high stakes testing lab. The push toward Common Core subjects by educators means that Libby gets to assist students with research even more often.

Megan Oliver works in the Ringling Museum of Art and Design's Library. She primarily serves curators in the museum, but also fulfills Inter-Library Loan requests from patrons. The Museum Library offers three public programs: a book club, a lecture series, and a children's program.

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Before her retirement, Betsy King worked at CAE. She got to e-mail back and forth with many people she'd never met. Since her retirement, there are two people working there. The library is expanding the databases that were "homegrown." As the workload has increased, however, there is less time to get things done.

Bill Harris is a Senior Librarian for the Tampa-Hillsborough Public Library System. He recently attended a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce; the Library is trying to incubate businesses by networking with the Chamber. The library provides some funds to schools but has to work on getting the word out to let schools know that these are available. Bill has also worked to establish a relationship with a local cultural center so that the library might benefit from their marketing and vice versa. Bill supervises a staff of five and conducts many diverse programs, including book discussions and genealogy programs. The library works very closely with Media Specialists in their area. Bill is hopeful that budget concerns will only improve from this point forward and is excited about the potential Makerspace at the John F. Germany Library.

The program adjourned at 8 PM when the North Tampa Branch Library closed.

**Summary:**

The four winners of the SIS Scholarships for attending FLA were announced. SIS pamphlets are available for anyone who wants to share them with their library or institution. As of February 25th, SIS had \$2,172.09 in its bank account. The current YTD income over expenses was \$94.32. The next SIS meeting will likely take place at the U.S. Geological Survey Offices in St. Pete. Jessica Riggins shared a couple of upcoming TBLC events: one with Nate Hill and a Job Seekers Conference to be held the week of May 29th at Florida Southern College. SOLIS members announced an upcoming Brown Bag event and an upcoming board meeting. Bill Harris announced positions that were opening in the Tampa-Hillsborough Public Library System. Nominations for USF Alumni Society elected positions were due by February 28th. Betsy King reminded everyone that most libraries offer free tax services. The featured panel was made up of Betsy King, Ann Marie Maloney, Megan O'Brien, Bill Harris, Megan Oliver, Denise Shereff, and Libby Cope. These individuals gave brief explanations of what each of their jobs entailed in a segment they called, "A Day in the Life."