



## Barbara Van Brimmer Remembered

By Susan Kroll, Prior Health Sciences Library, The Ohio State University

### Editor's Note:

*This is the eulogy Susan Kroll delivered at Barb's memorial service on Tuesday, October 14, 2003 at First Baptist Church in Delaware, Ohio. Susan has given OHSLA permission to publish it as a tribute.*

*Barb had been a charter member of OHSLA and remained active in the organization, serving as OHSLA President from 2000-2001. She was also instrumental in providing a repository for the OHSLA Archives at the OSU Medical Heritage Center and in establishing the OHSLA Scholarship.*



**Barbara Van Brimmer**  
(Photo courtesy of the  
Prior Health Sciences Library)

Last month I had a birthday and despite her illness Barb sent me a card in which she wrote, "When are you going to catch up to me?" She was referring to the fact that I am three years younger, but I wanted to interpret the card differently. The answer is that I could never catch up to all the accomplishments Barb has had in her

career. I deeply regret that her cancer progressed so quickly that I never got to have a conversation to remind her of all she had accomplished.

So today I thought I would have that conversation with you. Barb came to our library in 1985 and in her 18 years with us she held 7 different positions each with more responsibility drawing on different strengths and interests. Her talent and passion for librarianship led her successfully through each position and on to the next challenge.

Barb's accomplishments are so impressive that she was to be nominated for promotion to full professor in the upcoming year. I am saddened that she will not be able to receive the honor she so deserved. She leaves a professional legacy with ten journal articles, several books and book chapters, twenty-five presentations, and ten awards and grants. Barb leaves a legacy of service as chair of the Medical Library Association's History of Health Sciences Section and president of both the Ohio Health Sciences Library Association and Central Ohio Health Sciences Library Association. She served on 50 university committees and 30 other committees both local and national. Through her leadership in these organizations, Barb has touched many people's lives and developed many friends who I know are

here today.

In 1992, Barb shared her dream to document the heritage of medicine in Columbus and Franklin County. As the librarian in charge of our history collection, Barb was often asked to answer questions related to the development of medicine. As a library with limited resources, adding a new department was a daunting task; but Barb was not dissuaded. With her enthusiasm, passion and determination, she received a grant from the Columbus Medical Association and funding from University Hospitals to develop the Medical Heritage Center. As librarians, we do not often have the opportunity to leave a legacy, but Barb has given all of us in the library a much deeper appreciation for the role of history—as well as a reminder that we need to appreciate the historical developments that have led to the amazing progress we have witnessed in medicine.

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## President's Message

Linda DeMuro

I am very pleased to announce some of the exciting events being planned for our Spring 2004 meeting on April 22 at the Fawcett Center, at which we will celebrate our Tenth Anniversary as an association. Surely that is a milestone worth commemorating in a special way, and we will! Pam Bradigan, Ruey Rodman, and Sarah Murphy have all made special efforts to plan a truly memorable celebration. In honor of this event, all members attending the meeting will be invited to join in the party. An anniversary cake is on order, along with several surprises for attendees. Pam Elwell is writing the history of the organization, and she will also speak about OHSLA's past at the luncheon. You won't want to miss it, so mark your calendars for April 22, and send in the registration form included with this newsletter. The Executive Committee is looking forward to a big turnout for this event.

In addition to the celebration, Sarah Murphy has provided an additional incentive for attendance by planning an excellent program. Ruth Holst will present her "Grant Writing" workshop, which awards 3.5 MLA Continuing Education Credits. The entire day's programming, including the course, the

business meeting and the luncheon celebration, will run from 9:30 am to 3:00pm. Some of the items on the agenda at the business meeting include bylaws changes and the introduction of the newly-elected officers. (Please use the ballot in this newsletter to vote).

In the midst of planning for the April meeting, the work of the organization continues. The Executive Committee met on November 6 and again on January 6 to discuss a variety of topics. Susan Wehmeyer, our webmaster, put up a membership directory on our web site, accessible via a login/password, which was posted on our OHSLA Discussion List. Wendy Hess has assumed the role of OHSLA List Administrator, after Mary Sprague left her position at the OSU Health Sciences Library to pursue other interests. Stacy Gall arranged for a new table skirt incorporating OHSLA's new logo. It will be unveiled at the April meeting. We will continue our 'featured library' series with Columbus Children's Hospital Library, which will be the next library highlighted on our web site. If you would like your library featured, please contact Susan for more information.

Ximena Chrisagis continues to

seek brief feature articles for the newsletter. If you have an idea for an article that showcases your library initiatives or your staff's activities, please contact Ximena.

Sarah has already started planning for the Fall 2004 meeting, which will take place on September 15 in the beautiful meeting facility of the Shishler Conference Center in Wooster, Ohio. Program topics currently being considered include DocMD, open access publishing, and web site evaluation. As always, we want to hear from you about topics you would find interesting for future meetings.

As you all know, we lost one of our own on October 9 with the passing of Barbara Van Brimmer. As we celebrate our ten years together as an organization and remember our history, let us also remember Barb, the contributions she made to OHSLA, to the preservation of Ohio's medical history, and to the profession of librarianship. Barb brought a shining spirit to everything she did. I know that spirit will be with us on April 22.

## Farewell to Mary Sprague & Jo Yeoh

OHSLA says farewell as two long-time members start new phases in their lives. Mary Sprague left her position at the OSU Prior Health Sciences Library in December to run a vacation cabin in the Hocking Hills — <http://www.marsh-hollow.com>— and to take care of her 34-acre retreat there. Mary has contributed a great deal to our organization over the years. She was Treasurer of the Ohio Health Information Organization (our former name) for two years from January 1992 to December 1993. She was Treasurer of OHSLA from 1993 to 1994. Beginning in July 1997, she served three consecutive years on the Executive Committee as OHSLA President Elect/Program Chair, President, and Past-President. Since 1998, Mary has done an excellent job as our discussion list coordinator.

Jo Yeoh will retire on June 30 after spending more than 30 years as the Library Director at Riverside Hospital. Jo started her career at Johns Hopkins in 1972. In 1973, she moved to Columbus and took the job at Riverside Hospital. Jo has made numerous contributions over the years, including organizing the first library consortium in Columbus for the purpose of searching MEDLINE. In the 1970s, medical

libraries could not search Medline independently; they had to form a group to do so. Jo saw a need and decided to fill it (something she has been doing extremely well for over thirty years). She also had the first consumer health library in Central Ohio. Jo has lent her leadership skills to numerous library organizations as an officer, committee member, and mentor. She was one of three Midwest Chapter members featured at the National Library of Medicine's web site during October 1998 in recognition of National Medical Librarians Month. Recently, Jo served OHSLA as our representative to the Ohio Council of Library and Information Services (OCLIS) and as a member of our communications committee. Jo plans an active retirement as a volunteer at Riverside Methodist Hospital and possibly at the art museum and the zoo. She also hopes to do some traveling.

Congratulations and best wishes to both Jo and Mary. We will miss you very much, and wish you both much success and happiness in your new endeavors. Keep in touch!♦

Linda DeMuro

The librarians at the Prior Health Sciences Library, in their concern for Barb, were able to reflect on happier memories. One librarian recalled the day the search committee interviewed Barb for her position at the library. She said, "There was another librarian we interviewed at the time who had credentials similar to Barb's and who interviewed well and seemed a promising candidate. Our decision came down to Barb or this other person; what I recall is a strong consensus among those of us involved that, despite similar credentials on paper, there was 'just something about Barb.'" Another colleague sees Barb everywhere she looks in the library. She was in charge of the library renovation and the beautiful building we have today is a direct reflection of her talents.

As a library staff, we are an extended family; seeing each other through births and deaths, good times and bad. There have also been some shining moments; one is the development of the Medical Heritage Center.

At the library, we have pledged to honor Barb's work in continuing the development of the Medical Heritage Center and are working with her family to establish a scholarship in Barb's name to enable other librarians to attend training in medical history and preservation.

So you see, there is no way to "catch up" to Barb. She is irreplaceable and the hole that she leaves in our hearts and lives will always be there. I want to thank Rick and her family for letting me have this conversation with you. ♦

## RAC Report

by Wendy Hess, Your RAC Representative

In January, the RAC Technology Committee reviewed proposals submitted for GMR Technology Improvement Awards. Topics included wireless access, PDAs, and electronic document delivery. Members of the committee received copies of the proposals to evaluate. The committee then held a teleconference to discuss the proposals. I missed the call due to illness, but I was able to fax in my comments and evaluation sheets the next day. Now the proposals will be sent on to the NN/LM National Network Office for approval. No proposals from Ohio were received.

If you are interested in learning more about the Technology Improvement Awards, see:

<http://nlnm.gov/gmr/funding/technology/TechImproveAward.html>

Wonder what projects these awards have been used for in the past? Information about successful past projects is available from this page. Proposals are not currently being accepted, but keep these grants in mind for future technology projects.

I would like to thank the GMR for generously sponsoring six Ohio sites for the MLA Teleconference "Roles and Essential Skills for the Expert Searcher" on March 10. The sponsored sites were: Case Western Reserve University, Children's Hospital in Columbus, Medical College of Ohio, NEOUCOM, Southern State Community College, and Wright State University. We were fortunate to have sites available throughout the state.

## Fall Meeting Summary By Sarah Murphy, President Elect/ Program Chair

Theresa Ross Embrey presented *PDAs and the Role of the Librarian* at the OHSLA Fall Meeting, held October 16, 2003 in the Berry Room of the Nutter Center at Wright State University. Embrey, a library consultant, provided a practical overview of PDA hardware, software, content, and potential library applications. A sharing session followed.

Seventeen of the 24 participants submitted evaluations. Over 70% of participants rated the meeting facilities very good or excellent. Approximately 70% of meeting participants also found the content of the program, the clarity of the presentation, the expertise of the presenter, and the format very good or excellent. Suggestions for improvement mainly included requests for better handouts.

Planning for the next fall meeting is already underway. We have reserved the Shishler Conference Center in Wooster, Ohio for Wednesday September 15, 2004.

(<http://www.shislercenter.ohio-state.edu/>). Eric Schnell, Head of Information Technology for the Prior Health Sciences Library will demonstrate docMD, a project that helps to establish direct-to-patron document delivery services for hospital libraries. We are also working on a presentation/discussion regarding open access journals.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at (614) 247-7236 or e-mail at [murphy.465@osu.edu](mailto:murphy.465@osu.edu). ♦

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Greg Shymko, who had been serving as Technology Coordinator in the GMR office, has returned to the University of Washington. I would like to thank Greg for his help with the Technology Committee and wish him and his family well in Seattle.

The committee is discussing the program for the Technology Forum at the Midwest Chapter MLA meeting this fall in Springfield, IL. The topic will most likely be the use of PDAs in a wireless context. ♦

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## **OHSLA 10th Anniversary Meeting: Thursday, April 22, 2004 3.5 MLA CEUs—"Grant Writing" Presented by Ruth Holst**

Join us for a day of education, celebration, and reminiscence on Thursday, April 22, 2004 from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Fawcett Center on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus.

OHSLA is pleased to have Ruth Holst, Associate Director of the Greater Midwest Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, as our CE instructor for our 10th Anniversary Meeting. The course topic, "Grant Writing", is not only very appropriate in this time of limited budgets, but course participants will also earn 3.5 MLA continuing education credits.

In addition to our regular spring business meeting, this year's luncheon will also include a 10th Anniversary Celebration complete with birthday cake, ice cream, door prizes, and OHSLA souvenirs. In honor of the anniversary, Pamela Elwell has written a history of OHSLA, which she will present during the meeting. All meeting attendees will also receive a copy of the history.

The cost for the entire day's worth of events is only \$45 for current members and \$60 (including membership) for new and renewing members. A member registration form is included in this newsletter and additional details (directions and lodging information) are available on the OHSLA web site. Don't delay—the registration deadline is April 14, 2004!!

Please VOTE to show your support for your OHSLA organization and its candidates for office. A ballot is included in this newsletter. Write-in candidates are permitted.