

# LearningExchange

December 2010

“School ends, but education doesn’t.”

Volume 27, Number 2



*Pat Carterette in Portugal*

## In Honor of Pat Carterette

by Melissa Lattanzi and Sandra Smith

This issue of the LearningExchange newsletter is devoted to our friend and colleague Pat Carterette who is battling cancer in the race of her life. Pat has touched many people both professionally and personally. With our words, thoughts and pictures, we honor the woman who has influenced and impacted many lives, services and camaraderie in the national library community.

### **In the Beginning....**

Pat hails from Kansas, receiving a degree in music therapy and music education from the University of Kansas in 1975. However, Pat actually started working in libraries in 1982. Pat worked for the Highwood Public Library and Waukegan Public Library in Illinois, before coming to Ohio to start her library career with Cleveland Heights. Her next accomplishment was receiving her library degree from Kent State University in 1989.

Subsequently, Pat worked for Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library in numerous positions. Pat became the Branch Manager for the Coventry Branch of Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library in 1997 and then she became the Willowick Building Manager at Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library for one year.

### **Libraries and Learning R Pat!**

In 1999, Pat began a much-loved career as the Training and Staff Development Coordinator at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library in Ohio, where she made the position her own. Pat was ahead of her time. She knew that budgets and staff time were getting tighter. She created the Early Bird Learning Program. This program not only made it easy for staff to attend, but more importantly she encouraged fellow colleagues to present ideas that they were passionate about. Not only did she encourage them but she coached and prepared them for their presentations. This is just one of many training initiatives that have impacted Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library and many other libraries.

Those of us who know Pat know how important striving to learn from new opportunities and experiences is to her. So it was no surprise that Pat started looking for greater challenges. In March of 2008 Pat made the big decision to take on “her dream job” as the Director of Continuing Education at the Georgia Public Library Service.

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### **New ideas to share?**

Send your articles to the editors at  
[editor@allearning.org](mailto:editor@allearning.org)

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# Notes for Pat!

The following are notes for Pat that Learning Round Table members, board, friends, and colleagues have contributed to this special issue. Keep your tissues nearby.

Pat has inspired me in so many ways. She is always generous with her innovative ideas and programs such as her work with WebJunction in Georgia. She is also the most fun to travel with. Hanging out with her at the CE Forum and the Learning Round Table meetings and events have been so fun. She electrifies the conversation with ideas, a great laugh, and so much enthusiasm for staff learning in libraries. Working with her as President and Past-President of the Learning Round Table have been great too. She brings so much experience, thoughtfulness, and creativity to leadership.

Sharon Morris  
President, Learning Round Table

I joined the Learning Round Table in 2009, seeking some new energy and ideas around learning. At my first LearnRT meeting at the Midwinter Meeting in Denver, I excitedly zeroed in on the enthusiasm and dedication of this group of people and especially that of this small-ish woman who appeared to be the Energizer Bunny of the group. I quickly came to know all the generosity, fun and creativity of Pat as we met at all the conferences, made things happen, and best of all, became wonderful friends. As the latter, Pat and I traveled to Glenwood Springs, CO in late August 2010 where the Energizer Bunny also turned into the Road Runner as she wanted to take in all the "mountain activities" and I tried to keep up. In a mere 26 hours we hiked the Hanging Lake trail (check it out, it's a class 4 difficulty 5 hour hike), then biked the Canyon several miles, shopped, dined out, swam outdoors

in the famous 405 ft. hot springs pool, and then, as yours truly was utterly collapsed at 11pm, Pat starts looking up the number to make 8am reservations for a river rafting trip in the morning. Thank goodness we couldn't go until 9am, but we did and had a marvelous trip down the river before heading back to Denver immediately after so she could attend a conference that afternoon and I could take to my bed!

Sandra Smith, Learning Manager,  
Denver Public Library

Pat is the reason I am on the Learning Round Table. She saw potential in me that I didn't think I had. She is always looking for ways to help others and expand their horizons. She also makes you feel right at home. Pat gets so many people involved and her enthusiasm is contagious. I have so enjoyed going to conferences with Pat and meeting so many new people because of Pat. She has been a great asset to the Learning Round Table and a great friend as I am sure many would attest.

Melissa Lattanzi, Senior CE  
Specialist, Northeast Ohio Regional  
Library System

When Pat joined WebJunction as the team lead for WebJunction Georgia we all gained new energy and inspiration for supporting library staff and continuing education. We already knew Pat and her expertise, thoughtfulness and work ethic and the team was quite excited to get to work with her even more. Naturally, if you know Pat, you can safely guess that we've ended up very grateful for her fine work, inspiration and motivation. She has always brought her famous can-do attitude

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*Pat! continued from page 1*

Pat threw herself into developing programs and learning opportunities for all library staff in Georgia, creating her well-deserved reputation for creativity, problem-solving and new ideas to which she still contributes. Even while at home or in the hospital now, her enthusiastic wheels continue to turn and generate ideas for the Georgia Public Library Service, the Learning Round Table and professional development in general.

Pat started her new adventure in Georgia as she would anything, feet first, meeting people and getting involved every which way. She began to make plans for her husband Bob (Automation Administrator at Cleveland Public Library) to join her upon his retirement. She continued her hobby of running half-marathons, with a not-surprising goal of running one in every state. Pat had a map in her office that had push pins in the states and cities she ran in. She also put a triathlon under her belt among many other achievements. Her most recent triumph was running the Chicago Marathon on October 10, 2010 with her daughter Anna.

### **Personally Pat!**

Besides her professional life Pat has had a rich and rewarding life as well. Pat and Bob married in November of 1977 and are the parents of Ben, Nathan (Nate) and Anna. Ben is a whiz at computers, Nate is a talented professional musician and Anna is serving her country in the Middle East.

### **A CLENE Start!**

Pat joined the ALA CLENE Round Table (CLENE = Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange) in March 2001. Now called the Learning Round Table, the group's mission is to promote quality continuing education for all library personnel. Pat has been instrumental in the progress of the Round Table, starting with her work on the annual Training Showcase and continuing through her 2009-2010 year as President. Pat's greatest gift to the Round Table has been being the always-enthusiastic cheerleader/promoter (and occasional taskmaster!)

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*Melissa Lattanzi (left) and Pat Carterette (right) at ALA 2010 Midwinter Meeting*

in encouraging and initiating new ideas and activities in learning for library staff, AND doing it with a commitment to the inclusion of everyone and with the attitude of camaraderie and making it fun (see below for examples of that ;-)

Her influence ranged from ways to make the Training Showcase a must-do for learning leaders attending the annual ALA conference, to committing Round Table resources and people to the ALA Emerging Leader program, to virtual communication for board business and resources for the larger learning community. Most recently Pat has been the group's intrepid Program Chair – a position that requires the organizational skills and tenacity that only “the great ones” can master and survive!

Pat has also had an impact on many library learners through her numerous presentations at

*Continued as Pat! on next page*



Above: Left, Pat (second from left) and others at an ALA preconference. Center, Pat (right) and her daughter running. Right, Pat (right) and Stacy Schrank at a Learning Round Table Board meeting

Below: ALA Learning Round Table (then CLENE) board from 2007. Pat is standing third in from the left.



*Pat! continued from previous page*

conferences. Pat is always eager to share her expertise with others. Pat is an effective and charming workshop leader, helping attendees see that staff learning can be worthwhile, fun and, most of all, doable for even the most intimidated. She also is a natural perfectionist, tweaking her notes and slides up to the last minute to ensure they are the best possible.

**“You must be the Change you wish to see in the World”**

Pat has epitomized this quote in both her attitude and action resulting in improvement, and innovation in her work in libraries. Pat has been a role-model for many people in libraries and elsewhere, especially those dedicated to library

staff education. Pat loves people, and draws them to her through her enthusiasm in all things, her passion for her work and interests, and her unbounded energy to make things happen. More importantly, these attributes are irrepressibly contagious to those she touches, ensuring that others “pay it forward” with their own goals and desires. Countless new ideas and achievements have been possible because of her influence. Her love for learning, creating innovative goals and helping others advance in their careers and lives makes Pat so special to those who know her. Her commitment to libraries, their missions, and their staff provides constant inspiration to her colleagues as they work to do the same. Pat’s perseverance, drive and optimism leaves many “in the dust,” and it is just that which is helping her now in her biggest challenge.



If you have been to ALA or PLA anytime since 2008, you may have seen people wearing black ribbons that said GOGO or even been handed a black and white business card that said GOGO with an invitation to attend a GOGO Happy Hour. If you have, thank Pat Carterette.

How it started has become GOGO legend.

In 2008, Pat Carterette moved to GA as the new Director of Continuing Education for Georgia Public Library Service and Lace Keaton was the new Director of Okefenokee Regional Library System, in GA.

Pat's library friends asked her if she knew Lace, who had worked in Worthington, Ohio. Lace's friends kept asking if she knew Pat, because Pat had worked in Cleveland.

One phone call from Pat changed all that, and after several conversations of "Hey, do you know...??", Pat had the great idea to create a group of Georgia and Ohio librarians, and two GO's suddenly became GO-GO's. The first official GO-GO event was GO-GO Minneapolis at 2008 PLA, subsequent events have been held in Nashville, Chicago, Portland and DC.

### *So, what exactly is a GO-GO?*

A GO-GO is an informal group of librarians who have worked in Georgia and/or Ohio libraries, and get together to network at ALA and PLA. It is a wonderful group of positive, creative, energetic professionals, just like Pat. We get together to trade business cards, share ideas, form new friendships and renew old ones.

GO-GO's have even gone viral. There is an official logo, colors, songs, ice cream, a mascot, a Facebook page and most recently, t-shirts from Zazzle. We now have more than 70 members and it keeps growing.

Thanks to Pat, if you are or have ever been an Ohio or a Georgia librarian, you can be a GOGO too.

Hope we see you @ GO-GO NOLA in June 2011.

GO-GO's forever, Pat!

Lace Keaton

(aka CO-GO2) co-founder of the GO-GO's

*Notes Continued from Page 2*

and is a shining example of an effective collaborator with a never-ending openness to learning and sharing. Part of our work with Pat relates to learning and competencies. If you've spent time talking with Pat about learning, you'll know that if there is anyone in the library field who "gets" competencies, it is Pat. When she takes on a project, she tends to think first of how competencies inform and support it, something that has been useful to thousands of folks that have shared in the work she has powerfully contributed to. She has even really helped us more accurately define competencies and in our conversation or presentations we quote her both as an expert and as a wordsmith with her famous: "Competencies are a blueprint for success." Having spent significant effort and energy compiling the Competency Index, it has been exceptionally gratifying for me to see Pat apply her leadership to putting the Index to work.

In the many in-person and online events we have hosted about library learning and competencies, Pat is the first person we get on the phone or email to talk about presenting. The web based events in particular have been useful for our competency work, as many of us have gone back and repeatedly listened to her describe her thoughts on and approach to library work and competencies. Having her input collected in the archive or there events has helped inform not just our work at WebJunction, but the work of libraries all around the country. They let us see, in typical Pat fashion, how she leads by example and is always striving to do the best and most she can for libraries through learning programs. We are very grateful that her fine work in these events is available any time for anyone interested to learn from.

Reflections by Kathleen Gesinger, Betha Gutsche  
and Michael Porter

I met Pat when she graciously invited me to come to her Table Talk at the Public Library Association Conference in Boston, Massachusetts in 2006. She gave me time to talk about CLENE to her attendees. The room was packed. Standing room only. I talked to Pat about presenting a program for CLENE and the rest, as they say is history.

Jasmine Posey, Training Services Librarian,  
Greenwich Library

I've been fortunate to get to know Pat over the last 5 years and consider her a colleague and friend. Of all the things that I admire and respect, I love her kindness and caring ways toward others and that she is real and authentic! Pat is always herself and it's a great teaching

for many of us to be real to who we are. Looking forward to seeing you at GPLS/ALA again soon, Pat!

Andrew Sanderbeck, People~Connect Institute

Pat has inspired me in so many ways. She is always generous with her innovative ideas and programs such as her work with WebJunction in Georgia. She is also the most fun to travel with. Hanging out with her at the CE Forum and the Learning Round Table meetings and events have been so fun. She electrifies the conversation with ideas, a great laugh, and so much enthusiasm for staff learning in libraries. Working with her as President and Past-President of the Learning Round Table has been great too. She brings so much experience, thoughtfulness, and creativity to leadership.

Sharon Morris, Director of Library Development  
Services, Colorado State Library

I was a newcomer to the Learning Round Table a couple of years ago in Chicago, dropping in on a meeting out of the blue at my first ALA Conference. Pat immediately made me feel welcome, befriended, valued, and respected, and that's exactly how she makes me feel every time I am with her.

Richard Mott, Training Manager,  
Jacksonville Public Library

Pat is a lift to the soul whenever you see her, always a smile and positive energy.

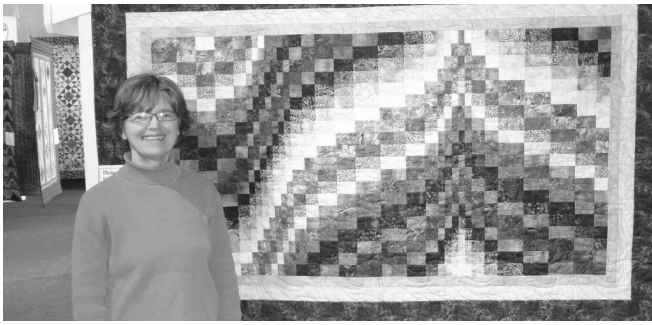
Ned Parks, New Directions

Pat exemplifies generosity of spirit. She has a wonderful creative mind and great enthusiasm but it is her willingness to share ideas that inspires me. Pat's positive attitude draws people like a magnet – spending time with her is always a delight. Pat has a rare gift – she helps people see the best in themselves, and that's one of her attributes I try to model.

Peggy Cadigan, Associate State Librarian  
for Innovation, New Jersey State Library

It's easy to list the many "things" Pat Carterette did for the Cleveland Heights–University Heights Public Library. She created an "Early Bird Learning" program that gave our staff the chance to learn, the chance to teach and the chance to appreciate one another more. She designed and coordinated our New Employee Orientation Program, which helped us welcome new employees with the passion and professionalism that we like to think marks our system as special. She created and refined our still effective Library Experience program, which has helped us attract and benefit from literally dozens of volunteers,

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*Pat and a quilt she made*

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interns and practicum students. But the “things” aren’t the most important contribution she made. What Pat really brought to CHUHPL is something that can’t be measured or pointed to or easily described – she brought passion. Pat’s love for and dedication to public librarianship was a model for all of us to emulate. Her positive attitude was an inspiration to us all and still, she continues to inspire. From when I met Pat waaaaaaay back in library school to this morning, she was and remains for me a real, honest, invaluable professional role model. And I’m proud to be her friend and colleague. Each day, I hope I can be more like her!

Cathy Hakala-Ausperk, Deputy Director,  
Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library

A couple of years ago, for a staff training day, [Pat] came to our Regional Headquarters, The Screven County Library, to introduce us to WebJunction. For us it was a terrific learning experience, not only because of WebJunction, but because of your manner of presenting it. Your enthusiasm was infectious and your love of libraries was apparent to us all. You truly helped rejuvenate the staff with your fresh, positive outlook and made us feel GPLS was just a phone call away.

I have always looked forward to having dinner with [Pat] at Como or Director’s meetings etc. for we’d always laugh and enjoy ourselves. You have that magical ability to make others feel good about themselves and their libraries (even in our current financial crush). I especially loved hearing about your marathon adventures. Wow! How impressive is that?

My staff joins me in wishing [Pat] a speedy recovery. We look forward to your visiting Georgia every now and then as David Singleton does.

Wendy Weinberger, Director,  
Screven-Jenkins Regional Library System

Pat is an extraordinarily bright and passionate librarian who has a bias for action! She never let the pen dry before she had an answer to me on any training or idea that we floated with each other. She was a bright light in learning

in Georgia and her glow will always be a glimmer of hope in my eyes down here in South Georgia. She and I shared many a memory of the CLENE Board early days when I was a member and I was thrilled at the major learning initiatives she led when she came to Georgia as a consultant for the State Library. She was truly a major leader at the State Library with her transparency, brilliance and follow-through to shed brilliant points of light all over the libraries in the state. We miss her much and hope that she shines wherever she is.

Susan Whittle

I always said I wished I had Pat’s personality. She can go into a room without knowing anyone and have several instant friends. She was a very positive influence and a great addition to GPLS!

Leslie Partidge

I met Pat several years ago when I was nominated to be on the WebJunction GA Committee. Her enthusiasm was contagious which made it easy for me to promote the new WebJunction GA web site at our Staff Development Day later that year. Back in March of this year, Pat contacted me to ask if I would be interested in making an online presentation for the Wednesday Webinar Series: Trends, Innovations and Best Practices in Georgia Libraries. Even though she knew it would be my first time making an online presentation, Pat assured me that it would be a worthwhile event and guaranteed good attendance. She was right on both accounts. I really enjoyed working with her over those months of preparation. After my presentation on August 18, Pat sent me a nice email with the following sentence as her conclusion, “Thanks again, Karen - you are a good role model for others to jump on the webinar bandwagon and give it a try!” Pat’s positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning has been such an inspiration for us all!

Karen Douglas, Athens-Clarke County Library,  
Technical Assistant and Trainer

Three years ago, I decided to visit LearnRT’s Training Showcase event at ALA annual in DC. Little did I know that that visit would not only gift me with a free three-day class at AMA headquarters in NYC, but also inspire a lasting relationship with folks at the Learning Round Table. I had the pleasure of serving on the LearnRT Board during Pat’s tenure as President. As President, Pat led LearnRT in a new direction - organizing folks to rebrand and make the LearnRT even more vital to library staff across the country. Her cheerful manner and emphasis on excellent communication was the backbone to the achievements that the board and members accomplished. I’ve always admired Pat’s kind and humble way; I’ve learned a lot from her.

Shelley Walchak, Senior Consultant, Library  
Community Programs, Colorado State Library

# Learning Round Table Activities at ALA Midwinter

Fri., Jan 7 Training for Peanuts: Learning Round Table Meet & Greet  
4:00 pm - 5:15 pm SDCC-Room 27 B

Sat., Jan 8 Learning Round Table Board Meeting I  
8:00 am -12:00 pm SDCC-Room 31 A

Sun., Jan 9 Training Showcase Planning Meeting  
10:30 am -12:00 pm MAR-Pacific Room

Mon., Jan 10 Learning Round Table Board Meeting II  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm SDCC-Room 11 B

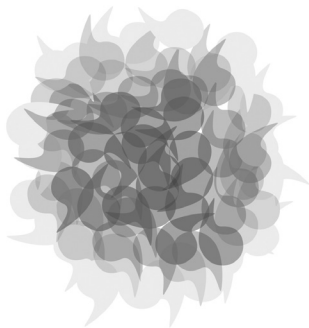
Mon., Jan 10 Staff Development Discussion  
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm SDCC-Room 30 B

SDCC- San Diego Convention Center

MAR- San Diego Marriott and Marina – ALA Headquarters

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