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November 2008

Volume 2, Issue 2

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha

L. E. A. D.

Library Education and Development Newsletter

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In your capacity as a professional librarian, what aspects of your job bring you the most joy?

I love seeing the kids get excited about something the library is involved with. Whether it's choosing a book that they really want to read, using some technology that we are supporting, or attending an activity that we helped organize, seeing the students connect the library with excitement is very rewarding.

Please discuss one personal characteristic that you feel has contributed to your success as an Information Professional.

Sharing information with others. That seems implied when you are a librarian, but I don't usually take it for granted that people will ask when they need resources. I find out what people are working on and show them resources that can help. I hand deliver materials to classrooms; I photocopy articles and put them in people's mailboxes. I email items of interest to the staff. (Sometimes I think they cringe when they see another email from me!) Putting yourself out there in front of them, makes them appreciate the time it saved, as well as the resources. If they appreciate the work you are doing for them, they will use your services even more.

What one issue should future librarians be prepared to address in the workplace?

Students are learning in new ways. Research tracking eye

Advice from the Frontlines— Sara Churchill- Library Media Specialist Arbor Park Intermediate School - Blair

movement shows that kids quite literally don't read web pages in the same way you are taught to read a book. In addition, they are so immersed in the "connected" world, that they don't see the difficulties with putting personal information on the internet, not spelling correctly, etc. All these things combined are going to force teachers to reevaluate what and how they present information. Libraries are crucial in helping address these new ways of learning.

In our coursework we often discuss the importance of collaboration. Can you share an instance of successful collaboration with a group?

I have had the opportunity to work with all three of the grade levels in my building on several projects. I work with the third grade teachers on a state standard project regarding inventors and a presentation. I have conducted web research with them and worked with them on using PowerPoint to present this information. This year, we are graduating to a wiki and are very excited. I work quite often with the fourth grade teachers on many projects: genres, research, technology and more. With the fifth grade, I've used their content in the classroom to help develop databases and create their own nonfiction books.

On a lighter note: When the work day is done, what do you like to read?

Everything. I read a lot of intermediate and young adult fiction. I am an avid digital scrapbooker, so in addition to the professional blogs and websites I follow, I also read numerous blogs on scrapbooking. One thing I look forward to every other month though is Mental_Floss magazine. It's full of trivia and interesting information. Just the type of stuff I lose myself in. I always love it when I find a real use for something I've read in Mental_Floss!

Thank you, Sara, for your wonderful contributions to the profession!

Dr. R.J (Becky) Pasco
Associate Professor,
College of Education
Coordinator, Library
Science Education
University of Nebraska
at Omaha
Kaysen Hall 514G

Phone:
402-554-2119
1-800-858-8648, ext. 2119

Email: rpasco@unomaha.edu

For questions or suggestions regarding the UNO L.E.A.D. Newsletter, please contact:
Bridget Kratt
UNO Library Science
Graduate Assistant at
bkratt@unomaha.edu



**Dr. Paul Clark, UNO
College of Education,
presents a program on
Free Tech Tools at the
NLA/NEMA Conference
held in Lincoln,
October 16th-17th.**

Student Spotlight— Kayla Childress - Undergraduate Student

What is your education / library / professional background?

In high school, I had the pleasure of working in my home town public library for three years. I also spent a summer shelving books in the neighboring town's public library. I am currently working in a Christian bookstore. I love books!

What is on your reading list? What are your favorites? Your recommended? Your want to read lists?

I read a variety of books anywhere from romantic comedies to murder mysteries. I am a big fan of James Patterson, Janet Evanovich, and Nicholas Sparks. My all-time favorite book is *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote. I love books that make me laugh or keep me on my toes of what is going to happen next. There are way too many books on my want to read list at the moment, with school I haven't had the opportunity to get quality reading in.

What professional journal or article have you read and would recommend? Why?

I enjoy *School Library Journal* because it has great book reviews and articles. Sometimes I will be reading book reviews for elementary and young adult books and I will have to go to the library and read them myself. Besides the great book reviews, the articles in this journal are ones that are very useful and can be applied to my future time in a school library.

What do you do in your "down time"? Do you have any hobbies? How do you relax?

I love to spend time outdoors, so when I have free time I like to go on bike rides or take long walks through the park. When I have the time, I love to sit down with a blanket and a good book. As far as relaxing goes, chocolate is my best friend.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

This is a tough one, I don't really keep secrets; I'm pretty much straightforward. So, if I have any secrets, I'm not really sure what they are.

Name one of your personal or professional qualities that make you, or will make you, a leader in 21st century library and information centers.

I love books and I love helping others. With my current job at the bookstore, I constantly find pleasure in helping customers find the books they are looking for. Same as when I was working in the public libraries; when adults or children would need help finding a book, I was delighted in helping them do so. It is an instant gratification to see someone happy that I was able to help them find what they were looking for. I want to be that person that students are not afraid to go to when they need help looking up a book on certain topic or even just trying to find a fun fiction book to read. I think it is important to get to know your students and know their likes and dislikes, become a friend as well as a teacher or librarian.

What do you see as key future trends and challenges for Library Information Specialists?

I think the biggest challenge is going to be keeping up with all the new technology that is becoming available. It seems that every week there is some new technological or electronic device that students are getting their hands into. We need to be aware of how to use and manipulate these technologies so that we can properly show our students how to use them effectively.

What advice do you have for current Library Science Students?

Don't be afraid to speak up and ask questions. Asking questions is one of the best ways to learn, so if you don't ask, how do you learn? Also, put your all into your inter-

views, ask questions that you may one day face or are not quite sure about. The people you meet along your educational journey are amazing and are always willing to help.

What do you think will be your legacy in this profession?

I hope that one day I will be that person that students are looking up to and not afraid to talk to. I hope to pass on my love of books to my students and instill in them the importance of learning from books. I want to be able to reach out to those students who are not into books and drag them into the wonderful world of reading!

***Thank you for contributing, Kayla!
Best of luck this semester!***



Lisa Voss, Lincoln City Libraries, presents a program on Low and No Cost Marketing at the NLA/NEMA Conference held in Lincoln, October 16th-17th.

Conference Highlights — *Association of Library Service to Children*



The Association of Library Service to Children held its 2008 National Institute in Salt Lake City, September 18th - 20th. Three students from UNO were able to attend this conference, and share their experiences.

Many thanks to Dr. Pasco and to U.N.O. for securing the funds to allow me to attend the 2008 ALSC National Institute, "*Trailblaze Your Path to Library Success: Professional Development with a Youth Services Focus*" in Salt Lake City in September.

I walked away from this Institute feeling energized and committed to reaching out to our youth. Each and every workshop was beneficial and practical in that I know I could go out today and apply what I learned. I especially enjoyed finding out about the nuts and bolts of author visits and how to (with little or no budget) put on a great show for the kids. And, Michelle Gorman's (www.comixlibrarian.com) closing session on hooking our reluctant readers and visual learners with graphic novels was discerning and insightful. Who knew that this genre not only helps develop vocabulary, but also teaches foreshadowing, sequencing, context clues, and imagery?

As it is more important than ever for Library Media Specialists and Youth Librarians to be informed about current issues and trends in order to effectively advocate on behalf of our students and youth, I strongly encourage everyone in the field to become a member of this organization. Thanks again Dr. Pasco and UNO!

- Bridget Kratt, Graduate Assistant - UNO Library Science Program

On September 18th-20th I was given a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to attend the 2008 ALSC National Institute held in Salt Lake City, Utah! Dr. Becky Pasco, Dr. Lana Danielson, and Marsha Vance made this fabulous experience possible.

The conference was divided into several tracks in which to pick from, each dealing with different aspects of youth services. I attended such tracks as Jumping into Science, Successful Fairy Tea Parties, to Naked Reading: Getting Tweens Connected to Books and Reading. Each track I attended provided an abundant amount of ideas and materials for me to take back and put into use in my library immediately. In addition, I was able to see such authors as Sharon Creech, Christopher Paul Curtis, and Laura Vaccaro Seeger. The information that impacted me the most at this conference was the justification for the use of graphic novels in the library. The presenter was Michele Gorman, Teen Services Coordinator for the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County in Charlotte, NC. She gave a wonderful presentation on the popularity and advantages of including these books in every library's juvenile collection.

I feel with the knowledge I have acquired from this conference, I can come back and share my 'new learning's' with my peers, as well as, grow in my profession as a Media Specialist. Having such opportunities as this greatly benefits the children we serve which is why I am so grateful for the chance to have attended this conference.

- Patti Long, Media Specialist - Upchurch Elementary School, Millard

Thankfully, I received a scholarship to attend the ALSC National Institute of 2008 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Always wanting the most out of everything, I tried not to miss a thing!

There was a warm, welcoming reception when we arrived, and my first day was spent discussing technologies and how they pertain to children's programming. I especially enjoyed the presentation on gaming. The second day I listened to book talks and attended a session on the importance of marketing, along with some how-tos and tips. The quality of presenters amazed me and again, I felt very fortunate to be in their presence.

There were several networking sessions and I continue to hear from the contacts I made with youth services librarians in Texas, Utah, and the east coast. My favorite part – the keynotes and meeting the authors. A hug from Christopher Paul Curtis is hard to beat (great keynote speaker, by the way!), but meeting Carla Morris, the author of *The Boy Who Was Raised by Librarians*, tops the charts! Even better, I met the real "Melvin" – Ian Perkes. I have loved that book since the day I first read it, and to meet the inspiration for the book, and the author, made my year!!!

Thank you Dr. Pasco and UNO. Attending the conference highlighted my year, and I would encourage others to make the trek in 2010, when they reconvene in Atlanta. I know I will!

- Gayle Roberts, Youth Services Librarian - Blair Public Library



Announcements And Students In Action!

Scholarships, Comprehensive Exams, Graduation

Scholarship Opportunities:

Nebraska Library Association

The NLA established the Louise A. Nixon Scholarship Fund to provide \$1000.00 to any Nebraska student in pursuit of a Master's Degree in Library/Information Science, or a Master's Degree in a media program that meets the ALA/AASL curriculum guidelines. The \$250.00 Duane Munson Scholarship is available to help practicing librarians and paraprofessionals to gain additional library-related education and training. For submission and deadline information, visit the NLC at: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/scholarship.htm>

Nebraska Educational Media Association

NEMA awards two \$800.00 continuing education scholarships to school library Media Specialists and paraprofessionals who wish to gain additional professional training in the field on a full or part time basis. For more information, visit NEMA at: <http://schoolibrariesrock.org/>

American Library Association

The American Library Association and its units provide more than \$300,000 annually for a Master's Degree in library and information studies from an ALA accredited program, or for a Master's Degree in school library media that meets the ALA curriculum guidelines for a National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The scholarship process is open annually from October-March. Applications and reference forms are available during that time period. Instructions and general information remain available year round. For a complete list of available scholarships, visit the ALA at: <http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=scholarships>

Comprehensive Exams:

Selective Retention must be submitted and approved before students can register for comprehensive exams. The registration deadline is **January 16th** for those students taking **Elementary Education** comps, and **January 23rd** for those students taking **Reading or Secondary Education** comps during the **Spring 2009** semester!

To register, contact Joyce Jones in the Department of Teacher Education
Phone: 402-554-2212 or 1-800-858-8648, ext. 2212
Email: jpjones@mail.unomaha.edu

Graduation:

Spring 2009 Graduation

You must complete an Application for Degree during the semester in which you plan to graduate. Log into E-BRUNO and fill out the application on or before the deadline for that Graduation Ceremony. The deadline is **March 6th** for students planning to graduate during the **Spring 2009** semester. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for **May 8th at 2:00 p.m.** in the Civic Auditorium.

There is a \$25 Application for Degree Fee payable at the time the application is submitted.



Dr. Pasco and students in the UNO Library Science Program exhibit at the NLA/NEMA Conference held in Lincoln, October 16th-17th.

Students In Action:

Advanced Cataloging



On Saturday, October 4th, students from the Advanced Cataloging

class met at Alegent Immanuel Medical Center to complete their service learning projects. The students were scanning photos and describing the images using Dublin Core, a metadata scheme.

Joy Winkler, Librarian at the medical center, has a large archive of historical photos and



original papers dating back to the conception of Immanuel, and wants to preserve these documents in digitized form. The collection of photos and accompanying information that the cataloging students worked on will eventually be uploaded to the Nebraska Memories website where it can be viewed by all.



Although the students could never add all of the historical photos and

documents that are archived at Immanuel, they were setting the standards for moving the project forward from its earliest phase. Joy hopes to continue this project to include more historical documents in the future.



Upcoming Conferences & Professional Development Opportunities

Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Conferences!



The ALA 2009 Midwinter Meeting will be held in Denver, CO **January 23rd-28th, 2009**. Registration for the event opened October 1, 2008.

The registration bundle includes:

- Over 200 discussion groups covering a variety of hot topics
- Over 2000 committee meetings and events
- Entrance to the exhibits, including the Opening Reception and the Technology Showcase
- The ALA President's Program
- The Author Forum
- The Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture
- The Sunrise Speaker Series

Complete registration information can be found at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2009/registration.cfm>



The Nebraska Educational Technology Association will be holding its annual conference **April 23rd-24th, 2009** at the new LaVista Conference Center.

The theme for NETA 2009 is **Exploring New Territories**, and members or friends who would like to share their classroom, school, or district technology experiences are encouraged to submit a session proposal by **December 1, 2008**.

Keynote speakers for this year include: **Hall Davidson, Director, Discovery Educator Network** (Thursday Keynote) While producing television series on education and technology, Hall led a media consortium serving 17 districts and 200,000 students. He frequently contributes articles to national educational publications. With a team he founded Kitzu.org, a resource of free online kits to encourage project-based learning with media. He joined Discovery Education in 2005 where he blogs, creates webinars, and works in educational partnerships as a director of

the Discovery Educator Network, connecting thousands of teachers nationwide. He has spoken about technology and education to audiences around the world. Check out his Media Matters blog at http://blog.discoveryeducation.com/media_matters/

Stephanie A. Hamilton, Apple (Friday Keynote) From classroom teacher to CIO of a large school district in Texas, few people have the breadth or depth of experience in K-12 education that Stephanie has. Her command of the issues and knowledge of the environment bring complete credibility in all aspects of the education enterprise. She can completely sympathize with educators' issues while still challenging them to do more with technology to the benefit of students.

Since joining Apple in 2000, Stephanie has brought this experience to help define a blueprint for building a 21st Century Learning Environment, helping school leaders identify the critical factors for successful implementation of technology. She has traveled worldwide and met with education leaders throughout the world while searching for successful, replicable instances of technology implementation used to drive student achievement and prepare students with 21st century skills.

Visit www.netasite.org for complete membership information and conference forms.

Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Conferences!



The ALA Annual Conference is scheduled for **July 9th-15th, 2009** in Chicago, IL. For registration information, visit the ALA Events & Conferences webpage at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/events/alaregistration/registration.cfm>

Registration opens January 2, 2009 and the bundle includes:

- Over 300 educational programs covering a variety of hot topics
- Over 2000 committee meetings and events
- Entrance to the Exhibits, including the Closing Reception

- The ALA President's Program
- The Opening General Session and Closing Session
- The Auditorium Speaker Series

Complete registration information can be found at <http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/2009/registration.cfm>



AASL will hold its 14th National Conference and Exhibition **November 5th-8th, 2009** in Charlotte, North Carolina. The conference theme this year is "Rev Up Learning @ your library". The AASL is dedicated to insuring that all members of the school library media field collaborate to:

- Provide leadership in the total education program
- Participate as active partners in the teaching and learning process
- Connect learners with ideas and information; and
- Prepare students for life-long learning, informed decision-making, a love of reading, and the use of information technologies.

For more information about AASL or the upcoming conference, visit them at www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl

NLC Professional Development Opportunities!

The Nebraska Library Commission offers numerous professional development opportunities every year. The NLC's Library Development team provides coordination and support services to all Nebraska libraries and media centers. Library Development staff work regularly with local libraries, resource libraries, institutions, boards and citizen groups to develop improved library services and facilities. Please visit the NLC website calendar at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/libcal/calbr.pl> for important registration dates and upcoming events for library training.