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Library Education and Development Newsletter, Volume 3, Issue 1 (February 2009)

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February 2009

Volume 3, Issue 1

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha

L. E. A. D.

Library Education and Development Newsletter

In This Issue:

Advice from the Frontlines
- Carrie Turner Page 1

Student Spotlight
- Jill Annis Page 2

Announcements Page 3

Upcoming Conferences &
Pro. Development Page 4

NE Library Legislative Day
Highlights Page 5

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Advice from the Frontlines—

Carrie Turner, Media Specialist - Westside High School

In your capacity as a professional librarian, what brings you the most joy?

As a Media Specialist, I get to help students in so many ways. I work with them using technology, iMovie or presentation tools, help them find books or online sources, help them cite sources, and many other things I'm sure I could think of given enough time! But my greatest joy? That comes from students when they get excited about a book I recommend, or finding an elusive article they thought was unobtainable.

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

My love of reading is important, but I think the most important characteristic would be the pleasure I get from finding the "impossible"! It becomes a treasure hunt, with the treasure being the information. Sometimes, kids laugh at me because I get so excited when we find something that meets their needs. I guess I just want to interest them in the "thrill of the hunt"! Maybe my excitement will rub off on them so they don't stop at the first source in their pursuit of information.

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

Social networking! Our clientele is growing up in an online world. If we don't meet them halfway, and put ourselves out there, embracing this avenue of communication, we will lose them. Creating online

blogs, wikis, Twitter, and yes, Facebook or MySpace accounts for our libraries, will show kids that we acknowledge and honor where they are coming from and where they are headed. By entering a world they are comfortable in, I hope we will gain lifelong library patrons.

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

My colleague and I spent the fall semester collaborating with the Senior Project class. This year-long endeavor for students has always required a great deal of research. When we first approached the Senior Project coordinator, she was excited about our offer of help. She'd had concerns about students' research skills, but was unsure how to approach it by herself as the class is already time intensive for her. We started this past semester, working with six of the twenty-four class sections. After our initial teaching, our time in the classroom was spent on intense one-on-one research help devoted to the individual student's needs.

You may be wondering why we only worked with one-fourth of the senior class, so let me explain. We knew we needed strong evidence showing what we can truly accomplish when given the time and a willing teacher collaborator. We used half of the senior class as a study group. One-fourth was the control group (we didn't

work with them), and one-fourth the study group. We used the online TRAILS test (information literacy skills) as a pre and posttest. Both groups took the same test both times. The first test helped us determine current skill levels in order to better focus our efforts. The final test gave us the needed statistics to share with our administrators. And yes, the scores did improve! Actually, they improved in both sections, even though we didn't work with the control group. We haven't finished evaluating our results, but at first glance, it appears student information literacy skills improved at a higher rate when they had the opportunity to work with a trained library media specialist one-on-one.

Interestingly, once students realized we were a resource, we were busy helping any and all of the seniors that came in asking for our assistance. This study has opened an avenue of communication for us. Our principal is asking that we present our research to the entire faculty next fall prior to the start of school. Our goal is to have standardized research expectations across the curriculum. And, it appears this simple research study may be the first step in our own "marathon"!

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

Student Spotlight—

Jill Annis, Media Specialist - Peter Sarpy Elementary School, Bellevue

What is your education / professional background?

I have been around education all my life as both of my parents are teachers. I received my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education with a minor in American Minority Studies from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1997. I was able to student teach in Australia in the summer of 1996. I am currently in my 11th year of teaching and my 3rd year as a Media Specialist at Peter Sarpy Elementary in Bellevue. I followed in the footsteps of my mom as she is a media specialist at Fairview Elementary in Bellevue. I taught 4th through 6th grades prior to becoming a Library Media Specialist.

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

I usually spend my time reading children's books in order to stay up-to-date on the literature my students are reading. The upcoming Golden Sower books are always on my "to read" list. I also enjoy reading fantasy books such as *Gregor the Overlander*, *Lightning Thief*, and Dan Gutman's *Baseball Card Adventure* series. My next series books will be *39 Clues* and *The City of Ember*. Many of my 5th and 6th graders were talking about the *Twilight* series, so I decided that I needed to read them. The books were so addicting that I completed all four of them in record time! I would definitely recommend them to middle and high school students. My favorite authors for students are Andrew Clements, Peg Keret, and Rick Riordan.

What professional journal or article do you recommend? Why?

I enjoy reading articles from School Library Media Connection. The most interesting topic to me is how to motivate reluctant readers. One article had many practical ideas to entice boys to read by adding competition into the library. The article featured a middle school librarian from Seattle who

developed a reading incentive program that encouraged boys and girls to compete against each other for monthly prizes. These incentives included passes to movies or events, late assignment coupons, lunches with teachers, food, books, etc. She posted a weekly reading graph and updated students' progress in the school newsletter. For each book read, students could put an entry into her coffee can, and monthly prizes were handed out. The end result was that boys checked out more books and became more involved in library activities! The information for the article is: Gustafson, Chris. (2008, February). Reading motivation through competition: Boys as readers. *Library Media Connection*, pp. 16-17.

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

In my down time I enjoy reading and have recently begun reading books on my iPod touch with the eReader application. Scrapbooking and card making are also some of my hobbies. I have a crop at my house once a month as a way to socialize with my friends while stamping and scrapbooking. I relax at night by cuddling with my daughter, Hanna, and my son, Caden. I love spending time with my family and seeing my kids grow up and experience new things.

What secret would you like to share?

I have heard from many seasoned Media Specialists that your first 5 years as a Media Specialist are quite a learning experience. As a new Media Specialist, you will not be able to implement everything you want to right away unless you don't want to sleep! Set long range plans and implement 1-2 new ideas each year.

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

Setting high goals and striving to achieve them is a quality that makes me a leader. One of my biggest goals is increasing the average copyright date of my library books. This has involved lots of weeding! Students and teachers deserve high-quality library books on the shelf. It is much easier to find

the "just right" book when you don't have to search through outdated material. It makes my day when students' eyes light up when they find the book they have searched for. I am also actively involved in school activities and welcome before and after school programs in the media center.

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

The libraries of Bellevue Public Schools are in the process of reorganizing the fiction section by genres. The thought is to change the library area into a bookstore atmosphere. This trend has spread across the west coast and Texas so I can see other Midwest libraries following suit. New technology will continue to be the future trends for Library Information Specialists. We will be challenged to stay informed on the new gadgets and programs available to students, and we must be able to implement them in the library environment. We will need to sell our media centers to a generation completely involved in extra curricular activities and be able to convince them to spend time reading and researching with books and databases.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Once you decide to begin the process of completing a Master's degree, stick with it and try not to take semesters off. It is difficult to get back into the swing of things after taking time off. If possible, try to finish your degree before you have children! Balancing kid time with graduate work can be stressful. Network with other library media specialists because they have wonderful ideas to share with you!

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

I hope students will remember how I introduced them to the world of reading by expanding their horizons and having them try new and interesting topics, genres, and authors.

Thank you for contributing, Jill! Best of luck this semester!

Announcements

Scholarships, Registration, 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://schoollibrariesrock.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>

Registration Information:

Summer 2009 Registration

The Summer 2009 class schedule will be available on the Web on 3-6-09. Registration dates are as follows:

- 3-30-09 grad students
- 3-31-09 seniors
- 4-1-09 juniors
- 4-2-09 sophomores
- 4-3-09 freshmen
- 4-6-09 open registration

Fall 2009 Registration

The Fall 2009 class schedule will be available on the Web on 3-20-09. Registration dates are as follows:

- 4-6-09 grad students
- 4-8-09 seniors
- 4-10-09 juniors
- 4-13-09 sophomores
- 4-15-09 freshmen
- 4-20-09 open registration

Comprehensive Exams:

Selective Retention must be submitted and approved before students can register for comprehensive exams.

The registration deadline is **May 1st** for those students taking comprehensive exams during the **Summer 2009** semester!

The registration deadline is **September 18th** for students taking their **Elementary Education** comprehensive exams during the **Fall 2009** semester, and **September 25th** for students taking their **Reading** or **Secondary Education** comprehensive exams during the **Fall 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: jjones@mail.unomaha.edu

Graduation Information:

Summer & Fall 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.

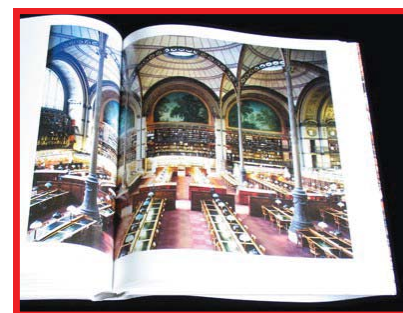
The application deadline is **July 3rd** for students planning to graduate during the **Summer 2009** semester. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for **August 14th**.

The application deadline is **October 16th** for students planning to graduate during the **Fall 2009** semester. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for **December 18th**.

There is a \$35 Application for Degree Fee payable at the time the application is submitted.

After applying for your degree, visit the UNO Bookstore to order your cap, gown, and graduation announcements.

Commencement ceremonies take place in the Civic Auditorium.



**"Give thy mind to
books and libraries,
and the literature and
lore of the ages will
give thee the wisdom
of sage and seer."**

~ Newell D. Hillis

Upcoming Conferences and Professional Development Opportunities



The Nebraska Educational Technology Association Annual Conference,

Exploring New Territories, is April 23rd-24th at the new La Vista Conference Center.

NETA is a grassroots organization open to everyone interested in sharing information about using technology in the educational process. The 2-day spring conference brings together speakers of international significance to inspire us and provoke our thinking, along with more than a hundred breakout sessions featuring topics across the range of interests in educational technology.

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 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.

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



The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) will be holding its **National**

Education Computing Conference June 28th - July 1st 2009 in Washington D.C.

For almost 30 years, NECC has been the premier forum in which to learn, exchange, and survey the field of educational technology. This annual conference - presented by ISTE and keyed to the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) features hands-on workshops, lecture format, and interactive concurrent sessions, discussions with key industry leaders, and the largest educational technology exhibit in the nation. To meet, network, and learn at more than 900 events while enjoying hands-on, interactive and collaborative workshops, register at <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009/registration/>. Register by March 31st for Super Early Bird rates and by May 1st for Early Bird Rates.

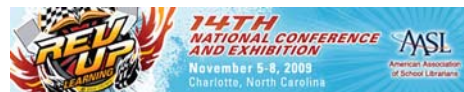


The **ALA Annual Conference** is scheduled for **July 9th-15th** in Chicago, IL. For registration information, visit the ALA Events & Conferences webpage at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/events/alaregistration/registration.cfm>

Registration opened January 5, 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 and the Auditorium Speaker Series.

Tracks for this year's conference highlight issues, trends, and best practices in the 21st Century library and include:

- Administration and Leadership
 - Literature and Cultural Programming
 - Children and Young Adults
 - Collection Management
 - Digital Information and Technologies
 - Staff Development
 - Issues and Updates
 - User Services
- And many, many more!



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

Nebraska Library Commission

"Bringing together people and information"

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.

Upcoming training sessions include:

- I Blog, You Blog, Weblog
- Summer Reading Program 2009
- Style Your Website with CSS
- RSS: The Basics

Please visit the NLC website calendar at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/libcal/calbr.pl> for all registration dates and upcoming events for library training.

Nebraska Library Legislative Day Highlights

Nebraska Library Association Legislative Day was held February 10th in Lincoln. Each year, public, academic, special, and school librarians, as well as trustees and city officials, gather in Lincoln to meet with their Senators and discuss important issues and legislation that effect our libraries.

This year the day started with a "meet and greet" at the State Capitol to lobby for the Nebraska Library Commission's 2009-2011 Biennium Budget Request.

An informative session at the Lincoln Women's Center followed, as Ken Winston, NLA lobbyist, Nancy Busch, UNL Love Library, and Rod Wagner, Director of the Nebraska Library Commission presented on the current legislation and important library issues.

The afternoon lunch at the Cornhusker Marriott featured some of Nebraska's exemplary library volunteers, who were honored by the Senators from their district.

The volunteers from across the state have generously donated their time, energy, and efforts to assist patrons/users, maintain the buildings and their surroundings, straighten and organize shelves, weed collections, and lead innovative programs.

Fortunately, their efforts did not go unrecognized!



- Donna Wineman (center) was honored for her volunteerism at Adams Elementary School in Lincoln. Donna has been at the school Media Center all day, every day, to help in whatever capacity is needed. Donna's love of the students was evident from the 20+ letters written to nominate her for the award. Seated with Donna are Pam Cassel, Library Media Specialist at Adams, and Neil Wineman, Donna's son. -

The following are major expenditure items included in the Library Commission's budget request:

- Talking Book and Braille Services / Digital Talking Books: Used for flash memory cartridges to convert locally recorded books and magazines, as well as supplement equipment supplied by the Library of Congress
- State Aid to Libraries: Sought to offset further erosion in state supplemental support for interlibrary cooperative activities that benefit the state of Nebraska and its residents
- NebraskaAccess: Additional funds to maintain existing subscriptions and add new high interest, high value, and broad based services targeted toward early literacy, elementary and middle school students. This would make resources equitable by allowing all schools and libraries access to online resources that currently are only available to larger and better funded schools and libraries, if at all
- Open Source Software Integrated Library System: The OSS ILS project offers significant capabilities and resource for Nebraska libraries. The requested funds would enable a pilot group of libraries to acquire and install ILS for operational activities.



- Senator Brenda Council, District 11, honors Bob Hastings, a volunteer at the W. Dale Clark Branch of the Omaha Public Library. Bob graciously picks up leaves, gum, and other debris from the outside of the building, most recently working from a wheelchair following a stroke. Due to health reasons, Bob was unable to attend the lunch. -

How to contact your Senator:

Most Nebraska Senators have e-mail available through the Legislature's website at: <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/web/public/contact>

To write to your Senator, address your envelope to:

Senator's name
District number
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68059



- Joy Harvey, newly hired Library Media Specialist for Schoo Middle School in Lincoln (Fall 2009) and Susan Hubbard, Library Media Specialist for Cathedral of the Risen Christ School in Lincoln, enjoy lunch during NLA Library Legislative Day. -

Did you know that Nebraska's 531 communities have:

- 273** Public Libraries
- 158** Academic, Community, College, and Special Libraries
- 812** School Library Media Centers

These statistics were gathered from the Nebraska Library Commission "Ask a Librarian" link at www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/contactus.asp



- Paula Johnson, retired Library Media Specialist from Burke High School in Omaha, reads one of the "centerpieces" provided by the Nebraska Library Association. -