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Library Education and Development Newsletter, Volume 3, Issue 3

UNO Library Science Education
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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LEAD.

Library Education and Development Newsletter

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Advice from the Frontlines:

David Privett

*District Library Media Specialist/
Distance Learning Coordinator
Wahoo Public Schools*

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

I love the fact that I can continue to teach without the grading! The fact that my homework now is taking home a good book, instead of 20-page research papers, makes me (and my wife and three children) very happy! And I still get to enjoy those "ah-ha!" moments with students as they learn something new—the entire reason we enter this profession!

Also, the variety! In my days as an English teacher, at times it became a bit mundane teaching the same lesson to three sections. Now, as a K-12 media specialist with two libraries, distance learning coordinator, audio-visual installer (yes—I even climb around in the ceilings to install projectors!), and web master, every day is different

(continued on page 2)

Dr. R.J. (Becky) Pasco
Professor, College of Education
Coordinator, Library Science Education
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Kayser Hall 514G
Phone: 402-554-2119
1-800-858-8648, ext.2119
Email: rpasco@unomaha.edu

For questions or suggestions regarding the



Deanna Reilly
UNO Library Science
Graduate Assistant
dreilly@unomaha.edu

(Privett cont.)

(actually every day is NEVER what I plan it to be). I don't have the job of a typical school librarian. It's incredibly demanding, but I love it!

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

I have a sense of humor. I don't believe you can be successful in education without it! I've also been told that, as far as teaching goes, I can hold my own. Four years ago I actually had students and parents who were angry with me for leaving my classroom (I became the media specialist in the same district where I taught for six years prior). I think they thought I would be spending my time at the circulation desk, with my glasses on the edge of my nose, making sure kids were quiet in the library and that they turned in their books on time! I've assured them that I definitely don't fit that mold!

My 13 years as an English and journalism teacher have served me well in my new position, as I had already established and taught what I felt were the information literacy needs of my students, and was well-versed in a variety of software applications, effective online research techniques, and the use of databases. And it was simply a natural transition from teaching literature and composition to becoming a school media specialist. I can't imagine being real effective in my current position without my classroom background.

What one issue should future librarians be prepared to address?

Librarians need to make sure they are always on top of the best sources of information. The most important skills we can teach to our students/patrons are how to wade through the vast amount of information to which we now have access, and how to be critical thinkers for ALL formats of information. One thing I preach to students is "don't be a guppy!" and assume that everything published or posted online is accurate (It's a big let-down when they find out there's no such thing as a Northwest Pacific Tree Octopus!). For academic research, it's never okay to settle on page one of a general Boolean search with 8 million results. Unfortunately, many of our students and teachers don't know any better. We have to inform the world that there is life beyond Google!

Can you share with us an instance of successful collaboration?

With my added responsibilities and over 80 teachers to serve, it's difficult to collaborate with everyone, but over the past four years I've collaborated with many of them. I make numerous guest appearances in classrooms of all grades—from reading aloud to kindergarteners from a book that correlates with a topic of study, to teaching reference resources to elementary students, to teaching databases and online research strategies to all middle and high schoolers, to teaching APA to our psychology, sociology and zoology courses. I also spend a lot of time teaching teachers. I hold a two-day technology workshop for all teachers at the beginning of the year, and I

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(Privett cont.)

meet regularly with building staffs before school to show them a new database, some cool web sites, how to use Interlibrary loan (which they now use all the time) and strategies for implementing technology and information resources into their daily instruction.

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

During the school year I try to read what the kids are reading so I "know" my collection when kids come to me for a recommendation. I can read almost any genre from my school libraries, but to this day absolutely cannot make it through a manga title! I keep ordering them, though, because I have a sizeable group of students who love them!

In the summertime I enjoy historical fiction (Dan Brown, and I HUNGER for the next Markus Zusak and Khaled Hosseini novels!) and historical nonfiction (Doris Kearns Goodwin & David McCullough are two of my favorites). I also peruse the New York Times best sellers.

Thank you, David, for sharing your professional insights!

The many faces of a busy Library Media Specialist!



David Privett
Wahoo Public Schools

Student Spotlight: Julia Reddel ***Library Media Specialist*** ***Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School***

What is your education / library/professional background?

Since I was raised in Lincoln, my parents encouraged me to attend college out of town. I graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. in English and Journalism Education. I taught English in Bellevue, NE for nine years while earning my M.Ed. in literacy studies from UNL. When I had four children, I became a stay-at-home mom and started taking classes in school library media to endorse my master's degree.

While taking library media classes, I enjoyed, "getting my feet wet," and embracing small library leadership opportunities whenever I could. These included providing print and on-line resources with the Omaha Parents of Multiples Club, and as a preschool and kindergarten librarian at two different churches. I currently am in my first year as the school library media specialist at Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School.

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

This is a loaded question!

I am currently reading:

The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything, by Lou Aronica and Ph.D., Ken Robinson,

Speak, by Laurie Halse Anderson, and

I am the Messenger, by Marcus Zusak.

I want to read:

Local Wonders, by Ted Kooser and

The Book Thief, by Marcus Zusak.

My favorite book to teach is, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee.

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

I really enjoy reading School Library Journal and file several articles from each issue with ideas I want to implement in my library. I mainly save articles about integrating technology with curriculum through media specialist and classroom teacher partnerships.

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

My "down time" usually involves activities with my four daughters (ages 12, 10, 10, 10). We like to see movies, travel, read and cook together. I also enjoy animals and serving at church.

(continued on page 4)

(Reddel cont.)

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I love to laugh, but have a hard time quitting once I start. This is not a secret with my friends, but some of my daughters have inherited the same trait which creates some interesting family dinners.

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 enjoy putting together curriculum pieces to create units that reach students through interactive and creative delivery systems.

What advice do you have for other students who are currently enrolled in Library Science studies?

Embracing all opportunities possible to teach kids, collaborate with adults, read and learn is essential for developing as an effective information specialist in a school setting.

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

I wonder about the future of print collections and think e-books and other digital media will have a huge effect the role of libraries.



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

I would like to get proficient and successful at applying for grants that help to build the program at my school and benefit the school library media community at large. I also have a passion for writing curriculum and look forward to creating lessons that incorporate technology to teach 21st century skills.

Thank you, Julia, for taking the time to share your talents and your ideas!



*Julia Reddel
Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School*

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/scholarships.html>

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 :

<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=scholarships>

A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be.

-- Rosalynn Carter

Elementary Education, Secondary Education and Reading Comprehensive Exams:

Comprehensive Exam Deadlines

Selective Retention must be submitted and approved before students can register for comprehensive exams. Please make not of the following registration deadlines.

Elementary Education Majors: The registration deadline is **May 7th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Summer 2010 semester. **Elementary Education graduates** must attend the **Comprehensive Exam meeting** on **May 12**.

Reading Majors: The registration deadline is **April 19th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Summer 2010 semester. **Reading graduates** are encouraged to attend a **Comprehensive Exam meeting** on **April 28th**.

Secondary Education Majors: The registration deadline is **May 7th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Summer 2010 semester. The **Secondary Exam** will be given on **June 26th** in Kayser Hall.

To register, contact Joyce Jones in the Department of Teacher Education.

Phone: 402-554-2212 or 1-800-858-8648, ext. 2212

Email: jjones@unomaha.edu

Graduation:

2010 Spring 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 5th** for students planning to graduate during the **Spring 2010** semester. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for **Friday, May 7, 2010 at 2:00 at the Civic Auditorium**. (Graduation information is subject to change).

There is a **\$25 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.

Upcoming Conferences, Professional Development and more!



NETA 2010 Annual Conference

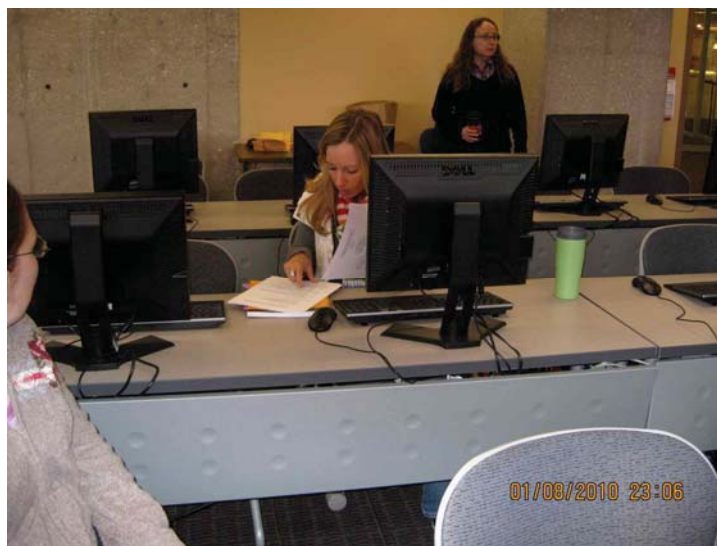
The Nebraska Technology Association will be holding its annual conference **April 29 and 30th, 2010** at La Vista Embassy Suites and Conference Center. This year's theme is "**Creative Journeys to Learning.**" For complete conference and registration information go to <http://www.netasite.org/conf2010/registration.html>



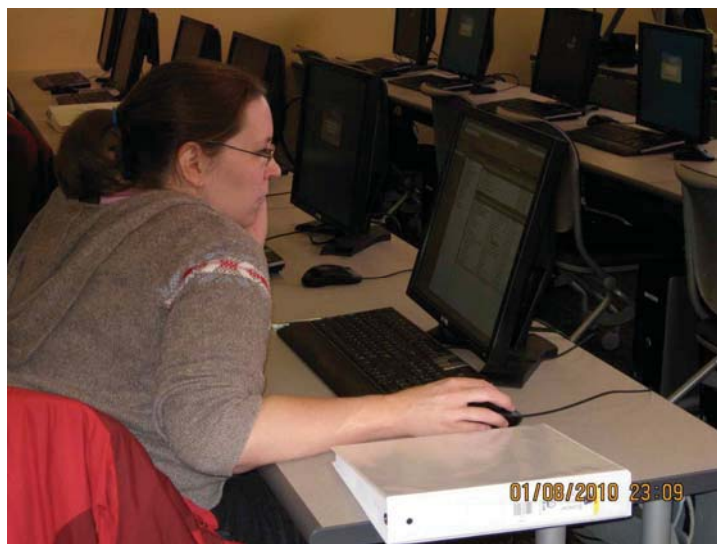
Heartland School Library Conference

Don't miss the **2010 Heartland School Library Conference, June 14-15, 2010**, held at the W.H. Thompson Alumni Center, UNO. **Registration form can be found on the last page of this newsletter.** Space is limited so send in your registration right away. Hope to see you there!

Library Science Students Get Ready for Another Semester!



Tiffany Frost reviews the syllabus as Dr. Becky Pasco checks on student log-in progress, Jan. 9, 2010.



Elizabeth Messina checks her new log in and password in a computer lab at Criss Library, January 9, 2010.

Things To Consider:

Doug Johnson, Director of Media Technology, Mankato, Minnesota Schools, has a lot to say about, what he calls, "Format Bigotry." On Tuesday, February 24, 2009, he made the following comments on his "The Blue Skunk Blog:"

These kind of questions drive me bonkers:

- Should we ban games from our library?
- Should block social networking sites in our building?
- Should kids be allowed to access to YouTube in our district?

These questions make about as much sense as asking:

- Should we be ban books from our libraries?
- Should we allow kids to have pencils and paper in our building?
- Should kids be allowed to watch DVDs in our district?

Why, when thinking about what we give kids access to, do adults so often start with format as opposed to the *content* of that format?

The sense of banning a website based on the information's container (game, social networking site, wiki, blog, etc.) is as logical as saying, "Since *Penthouse* is published in a magazine format, we cannot allow students to bring magazines to school."

For some reason I've been asked a lot lately about gaming in school. I don't know that much about games and haven't been a big

computer game player since Loderunner for the Apple IIe. But of course that doesn't mean I don't have an opinion (as with so many topics):

Let's be clear that there are games and there are games -- just like there are movies and there are movies; there are books and there are books. Games vary widely in type - - from first person shoot em' ups to skill attainment tutors with complex management programs. Games vary in taste, rating, maturity level, and even factual accuracy.

The question shouldn't be "Do we permit students to play games?" but "Which games should we allow our students to play?"

[Game On!](#) October 2007 Tech Proof column on the Education World website

Why are we as adults so willing to ban resources based on their format instead of their content? Quicker, I suppose. Decisive. New formats are always a little suspicious. The inability to distinguish between medium and message?

Forming an opinion of a website based on its format makes about as much sense as forming an opinion about a person based on his ethnicity. We've got to get beyond format bigotry.

Kids have.

Visit Doug Johnson's blog at:

<http://doug-johnson.squarespace.com/blue-skunk-blog/2009/2/24/format-bigotry.html>



2010 Heartland School Library conference

June 14-15

W.H. Thompson Alumni Center
University of Nebraska at Omaha

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Cassandra Barnett

President-Elect

American Association of School Librarians (AASL)

Pam Berger

Publisher and Editor of Information Searcher

& Author of Internet for Active Learners (ALA Editions)



Brought to you by the UNO College of Education School Library Media Programs
in partnership with the Nebraska Educational Media Association and the University of Nebraska - Kearney Library Media Program

Questions should be directed to

Dr. Becky Pasco, UNO School Library Media Program Coordinator, 402-554-2119 or 1-800-858-8648 x2119, rpasco@unomaha.edu



2010 Heartland School Library Conference

Registration Form

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

School District: _____ Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Registration Fee: \$50

Registration fee is the same for 1 or 2-day attendance.

NO on-site registration. Lunch & dinner on your own.

Checks and Purchase Orders accepted. NO cash or credit cards accepted.

Day(s) Attending:

_____ Monday _____ Tuesday _____ Both Days

Make checks payable to: **University of Nebraska at Omaha**

Mail Registration Form & Payment by **May 1, 2010**, to:

Deanna Reilly, College of Education, 534 Kayser Hall, UNO, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182-0163

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