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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:

Jo O'Garro

*Library Media Specialist
Central Park Elementary School
Omaha 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 get to teach every student in our school. I enjoy reading aloud to the students, from Pre-Kindergarten to 6th grade and watching their interactions with the stories and how they're often able to make connections from what we're reading to something else they've read or something in their own life.

I enjoy helping students and teachers find the information they need for projects and lessons, and get satisfaction from knowing they'll come to the library confident they'll either find what they need or we'll be able to get it for them from another library.

Watching reluctant readers find a book that gets them interested in reading is also rewarding for me.

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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
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For questions or suggestions regarding the



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

(O'Garro cont.)

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

Being flexible and able to multi-task make my job much easier! Recognizing when a lesson isn't going quite right and being able to switch gears, either slowing down to review, or speeding up to keep students interest, makes teaching much more enjoyable. Sometimes I've had to scrap a lesson in order to provide more detailed background information before we can move on. Multi-tasking definitely comes in handy every day, I usually have 4 or 5 different things going at the same time.

What one issue should future librarians be prepared to address?

I think finding the balance between technology and print is key. As an information specialist in an elementary setting, my main goal for younger students is to encourage a love of reading, and to help them find books that reflect their personal interests, both fiction and nonfiction. As they get older we discuss technology more, and all the ways it can be used for research, both for their schoolwork and personal use.

I also think we need to be advocates for our libraries. I've learned that teachers are more likely to use the library for their information needs if I've asked for their suggestions on what types of materials to purchase.

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

This year I collaborated with the other specialists; art, technology, music, P.E., and counselors, on a multicultural unit for sixth grade students. One of their standards is to compare and contrast two different cultures, so we each taught a different aspect of each and students created a Powerpoint presentation to share with their class. In the library we used different sources to research education, food, home life, and customs. As a culminating event the students were able to sample different foods from each culture.

I also work with classroom teachers in informal ways. They keep me up to date on the concepts and projects they're working on in the classroom, and I plan my instruction around those ideas.

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

I'm all over the place! I try to read from our collection during the school year, so right now I'm reading *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, suggested by several students, and I'm starting to read from the Golden Sower nominees list for next year. I'm also reading *Altar of Eden*, by James Rollins, and hope to finish *Water for Elephants*, by Sara Gruen over my spring break.

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Jo O'Garro, Central Park Elementary School

Thank you, Jo, for sharing your professional insights!

***"I have always imagined that
paradise will be a kind of library."***
Jorge Luis Borges, Argentine Author

Student Spotlight: Rebecca Irwin

Library Media Specialist Winnebago Public Schools

What is your education / library/professional background?

I have my Bachelors of Social Work from USD, my Elementary Education degree from Iowa State and I am now in the process of obtaining my Masters from UNO. Professional background: For ten years I worked as a social worker for children. I then obtained my teaching degree and had been a classroom teacher for eight years. I am now still employed at the same public school only as a Library Media Specialist for the past two years.

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

What is on my reading list? *Catching Fire*, by Suzanne Collins, and *Reservation Blues*, by Sherman Alexie. What are my favorites? For my students it would have to be anything by Sherman Alexie. My students can relate to his stories because he came from a reservation and writes about rez life as it really happened, and as it is currently happening today. I would recommend most books by

Sherman Alexie but especially *The True Diary of a Part Time Indian*. The story reflects his life on the reservation. My students that have read it swear he was writing about the Winnebago Reservation. It is true to life for my students.

My want to read list: *The Uglies'* series by

Scott Westerfield. I have heard so many good things about all the books that I need to read them to see if they would be a hit in my school.

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

The professional Journal or articles I recommend is The Journal of American Indian Education. It has a Native perspective and I need to stay current for my students. I am also a member of NIEA (Native American Indian Education) I am a nonvoting member. I do attend a conference every other year paid for by the school, because they promote education for our native youth. They do much more than promote education. They are very active in various political avenues.

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

I spend time with my four year old daughter Jenna and my husband Jake. I also am very involved in church and a non-profit organization for animals called Northern Plains Boxer Rescue. My family does foster care for boxers that have been abused. We train them to be able to live the good life they deserve in their new forever home once we can find one. Look it up on the Web at everyboxercounts.com. Nice plug for my non-profit.

(continued on page 4)

(Irwin cont.)

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I must admit that I do enjoy the two and a half hour drive to class each month. That is the only alone time I get each month.

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 believe that my experience in social work and the understanding I have with my students makes me a leader in the 21st century library and information centers especially for the Native population. I have taken the time to learn the Hochunk language. I lived on the reservation for over two years. I know my kids and love them very much. With that love comes the desire to make them the best students I can in order for them to be ready for the bigger world out there. They need to know that life exists outside of the reservation. It is my job to show them that world during cluster via the internet and books. I need to prepare them for the world outside of the reservation by being able to do things on the computers.

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?

My legacy will hopefully be to have a library the students love to enter, one where students know there are great, interesting books to read and one in which the computer classes are very informative and fun. In the past, library/technology time was just simple games that kids would play. Now and in the future as long as I am there, technology time will be a time of fun education where they learn things they need to know for high school and beyond rather than simply something fun.

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



Becky Irwin, Winnebago Public Schools

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>

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 note of the following registration deadlines.

Summer 2010:

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, 7PM**. Approximate due date, **June 14**.

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**. Approximate due date, **June 21st**.

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.

Fall 2010:

Elementary Education Majors: The registration deadline is **September 10th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the **Fall 2010** semester. **Elementary Education graduates** must attend the **Comprehensive Exam meeting** on **September 20th at 7pm**. Approximate due date, **October 25th**.

Reading Majors: The registration deadline is **September 10th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Fall 2010 semester. **Reading graduates** must attend a **Comprehensive Exam meeting** on **September 13th**. Approximate due date, **October 25th**.

Secondary Education Majors: The registration deadline is **September 24th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Summer 2010 semester. The **Secondary Exam** will be given on **October 23rd** 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 Summer 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 **July 2nd** for students planning to graduate during the **Summer 2010** semester. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for **August 13, 2010 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 graduates enjoy School Librarian Training Day, March 20th .



Janelle Gegg listens to Gordon Wyant talk about the history of graphic novels.



Beth Eilers and Mary Kay Kreikemeier learn about Smart Board usage.



Chris Gross-Rhode visits between sessions.

Things To Consider:

Code of Ethics of the American Library Association

As members of the American Library Association, we recognize the importance of codifying and making known to the profession and to the general public the ethical principles that guide the work of librarians, other professionals providing information services, library trustees and library staffs.

Ethical dilemmas occur when values are in conflict. The American Library Association Code of Ethics states the values to which we are committed, and embodies the ethical responsibilities of the profession in this changing information environment.

We significantly influence or control the selection, organization, preservation, and dissemination of information. In a political system grounded in an informed citizenry, we are members of a profession explicitly committed to intellectual freedom and the freedom of access to information. We have a special obligation to ensure the free flow of information and ideas to present and future generations.

The principles of this Code are expressed in broad statements to guide ethical decision making. These statements provide a framework; they cannot and do not dictate conduct to cover particular situations.

- I. We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.**
- II. We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.**
- III. We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired, or transmitted.**
- IV. We respect intellectual property rights and advocate balance between the interests of information users and rights holders.**
- V. We treat co-workers and other colleagues with respect, fairness, and good faith, and advocate conditions of employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all employees of our institutions.**
- VI. We do not advance private interests at the expense of library users, colleagues, or our employing institutions.**
- VII. We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources.**
- VIII. We strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by encouraging the professional development of coworkers, and by fostering the aspirations of potential members of the profession.**

Adopted January 22, 2008, by the ALA Council



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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about how to get graduate credit through
attendance at conference and related activities. ☐