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University of Nebraska at Omaha

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UNO Library Science Education Program receives Regents Award!

Hip Hip Hooray!!! The Nebraska Library Science Education Program received a Regents Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service to its Profession on Friday, September 8th in Varner Hall. Dr. Pasco is very excited about this recognition as it draws important attention to library science education and libraries from key policy makers in both the university and the community. Congratulations to all students, faculty, administrators, and the Nebraska library professionals involved in the program.

Advice from the Frontlines –Cindy Mielke (Ogallala Public Library Director)

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

Patrons telling me Thanks for purchasing the book they requested; providing a service or program a patron requested or participated in what they really liked; and patrons stating they like that the library has increased the number of computers and/or that we upgraded to new computers.

In other words, validation from patrons, ages 2-82, that we're providing quality library services.

(Complaints have only come from those who want the library to be their own personal library, such as the lady who said, "There are too many people in the library.")

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

Passion to overcome challenges, whether it is budgeting challenges with city/county governments or encouraging a patron who has never set foot in the library before to get their first library card. Don't give up!

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

Do more with less funds or become highly skilled in acquiring more funds, ie, grants, community organizations, etc. Another issue: the retirement of a large number of librarians who received their library education 30 years ago. You'll have to step into big shoes, but also, librarianship has changed and you'll be bringing in new ideas – while exciting – choose your changes wisely and make them gradual and seamless.

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

Collaboration is at the heart of everything I do at our library – any program or service – the first thing I ask my staff – how can we partner with another group in the community? Most are successful. It's a win-win – double the exposure and contact with prospective patrons.

Ogallala Youth Committee: a city of Ogallala Committee, each April OYC celebrates the

Month of the Young Child – the Goodall City Library has Story Time with guests, such as McGruff the Dog (Police Dept), Smokey the Bear (Fire Dept), Healthy Bear (SCIP – domestic shelter), and Safe Kids. January – March, OYC and the library co-sponsor the OYC Chess Club in the Youth Services Dept. OYC has numerous sets of Chess.

We do collaborations with the Keith County Senior Center, Keith County Historical Society, Head Start, local businesses, local service organizations, hospital & health clinics and on and on.

5. On a lighter note: When the work day is over, what do you read?

I prefer non-fiction and biographies, but also like to read Janet Evanovich, Alexander McCall Smith, Alex Kava, and Patti Bremmer (a local author).

■

Thank you for your thoughts and contributions, Cindy. We're proud of your great work!

- Remember when the 1st day of school felt like this?



Student Spotlight – Ashley Philips

**What is your education/
library/professional back-
ground?**

I graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in December 2005 with a BS in Political Science. I am currently in my 3rd semester of my MLS and I plan on graduating in May 2007.

I have worked at the Omaha Public Library since August 2000 as a page, public service assistant, and a library specialist. I also worked at the Kearney Public Library for 6 months as a clerk.

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

On my current reading list is I'll Be Seeing You and You Belong To Me by Mary Higgins Clark.

These days the first day back feels a bit more like this:



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

I don't really read any professional journals except for class assignments. I have found that Library Journal offers a lot of articles that match what I am looking for.

What do you do in your “down time”? Your hobbies/recreation, how do you relax?

When I have down time I like to read, watch TV or movies, or hang out with my friends.

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 like to learn and I like to share what I have learned with others.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students

Have fun, and make friends
with your classmates.

What do you see as key future trends and challenges in LIS?

More emphasis on technology – such as computers, internet and other resources, less use of traditional library materials such as books and other resources.

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

I think my legacy will be as a person working during the library's transition into something more technical. ■

Thank you for your thoughts
and contributions Ashley!
Keep up the good work.



Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.
— Groucho MARX

*Alumni Spotlight – Lisa Anderson******

What is your education/library/professional background?

I received a B.S. in Management Information Systems, emphasis in Internet technologies from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in May of 2004. While I was a student, I did some consulting work as a database analyst and technical writer. Then, I began the Missouri program in the fall of 2004, graduating in December of 2005. I was fortunate enough to have some diverse experiences during that time, including a stint as a children's librarian's assistant at Bellevue Public Library, 2 great semesters as a reference assistant at UNO, and a practicum at the McGoogan Library of Medicine focusing on digital services and education. I now work at McGoogan as a reference/digital librarian.

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

Right now I'm in the process of moving and have found bookmarks in entirely too many books that I am 'reading.' I guess I'm focusing my efforts on John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany* and *Endymion Spring* by Matthew Skelton. I love John Irving and the other came highly recommended. On a more professional note, if you ever have to learn Coldfusion – Ben Forta's *Coldfusion MX7: web application construction kit* is one I don't even bother putting back on the book-

shelf right now.

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

I really try to read quite a few journals (College & Research Libraries, Journal of Academic Librarianship, Journal of the Medical Library Association, etc.). I think it's important to keep up, especially in my case, with new library technologies. I also subscribe to a number of blog rss feeds. I'd have to say that lisnews.org is one of my favorites. It does a good job of covering the vast diversity of library news. For web folks out there, A List Apart (<http://www.alistapart.com/>) has some great articles on CSS, usability, etc.

What do you do in your "down time"? Your hobbies/recreation, how do you relax?

I'm moving. Does that count as a hobby? No, really, I'm excited about the move because I'll finally have a place for a piano. I've played since I was in the first grade and have dearly missed having a real piano (keyboards just aren't the same). Otherwise, I'm a dog lover and, of course, a reader.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I'm a bit of a nerd. I guess, this probably isn't a secret to those who know me, but I get really excited about where we are and where we are going tech-

nologically as a field. And, I have been known to forget to go home when programming at work.

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 think my background is a little unique. I'm always very excited to hear of other librarians who have an interest in computing systems, but for now, this seems to be something a relatively small group of us get really excited about. When thinking about how libraries store and retrieve information on various levels, it seems to me that we have a whole pile of puzzle pieces. I'm not sure what kind of picture (or even if it is one picture) they make, but I'm excited to try putting them together in different ways.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Read and make connections. Read because I wish I had more time to read the literature now and because without the background I gained from reading in library school, I would be lost. Make connections among the things you read with what you want to do. It's always good to be able to support your decisions and desires with something 'scholarly.' Also, the connections you make with other librarians from all kinds of backgrounds, will serve you well. I am always amazed at how much we are different and yet how much we are the same.

What do you see as key future trends and challenges in LIS?

I think one of our biggest challenges is staying relevant to our users and then convincing them that we can do great and valuable things for them. From my perspective, this goes back to the pile of puzzle pieces. We want our users to experience a picture of vast, usable and relevant information, not the disjointed piles that we on the inside see. The world isn't the same place it was 20, 30, 50 years ago, and neither are libraries. I don't know that public perception of libraries has caught up with that.

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

I guess I like to see myself as a user and public services advocate, with an eye towards the technical. A foot in both camps, if you will. I like to think this has an impact, but really I don't know if legacy is the right word. If a system is easy to use, then users don't notice the great data storage or help function. I guess, if I'm doing my job, I'm kind of like that.

Any Last Words?

I think I've said enough except to say, I'm always up for a good discussion. I welcome e-mails and phone calls from all my colleagues!

Thank you for your contributions, Lisa. We wish you well and we're proud of your work!

Announcements!!!!



HOUSING AVAILABLE FOR OUT OF TOWN STUDENTS!!

Would you would like to avoid shelling out dollars for a hotel room on your class weekends?

Several of your classmates have kindly offered free board in their homes on the weekends of class sessions. If you are in need of a room, please contact Dr. Pasco at rpasco@mail.unomaha.edu or Erica Rose at nemogradassistant@gmail.com.

DO YOU NEED TO TAKE THE GRE? SEE NEBRASKA TEST INFORMATION BELOW.

Test Locations:

Columbus
Grand Island
Kearney
Lincoln
Omaha

Most locations offer the test multiple times per week. For more information on test preparation, registration, and scheduling a test visit the GRE website at www.ets.org/.

Once on the site select GRE and then REGISTER FOR TEST. This will provide you with information on locations and test times. If you have questions or concerns email Erica Rose at nemogradassistant@gmail.com.

SPRING SEMESTER 2006 REGISTRATION:

Early Registration: October 23 through November 14, 2006

Registration: December 11-15, 2006

Our program is growing and so are the waiting lists for some classes. DO NOT wait to register, or you may be wait-listed or have to wait until the next term that the course is offered.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

October 22, 2006

Mark your calendars! This is an opportunity to enjoy a tasty treat (for free!) while socializing with fellow students from the NEMO program. Be on the lookout for more details coming soon!



2006 LIBRARY CONFERENCES

2006 NLA/NEMA CONFERENCE:

October 25- 27 2006

at the Qwest Center, Omaha, Nebraska

www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/

Visit the link posted above for more information.

IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE:

October 11-13 at the Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

www.iowa.libraryassociation.org

Visit the link posted above for more information.

“As a general rule, the most successful man in life is the man who has the best information.” - Benjamin Disrael

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Check out the new Library Science Education website!

Many thanks to Becky Wymer, recent Missouri graduate, for her hard work in overhauling the Library Science Education website. Check it out at <http://avalon.unomaha.edu/libraryed>

Help us make this site work for you by sending any and all comments on the information and design of the website to Becky at rwymmer@mail.unomaha.edu.

The best of my education has come from the public library... my tuition fee is a bus fare and once in a while, five cents a day for an overdue book. You don't need to know very much to start with, if you know the way to the public library. ~Lesley Conger

Welcome to Fall Semester 2006 –Message from Dr. Pasco



We're off! The Mizzou program continues to admit, enroll, and graduate high quality candidates at a steady pace. Thanks to the Mizzou students for their perseverance and good humor. Thanks to the Nebraska faculty for their enthusiasm and vision. Thanks to the Nebraska Library Community for their support! Best of luck to you all and have a great semester!