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Library Education and Development Newsletter, Volume 5, Issue 3

UNO Library Science Education
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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L.E.A.D.

Library Education and Development Newsletter

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Advice from the Frontlines:

Melody Kenney
*Media Coach/Integration
Specialist
Lincoln Public Schools*

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

Due to the events in my professional life during the last two years, my role as a school librarian has been dramatically changed, so the answer to this question today will be somewhat different from the answer I would have given in my capacity as a school librarian in a building. During the 2010-2011 school year I worked as a library media coach for Federal Programs. This job was supported through stimulus funding, and the role was an instructional coaching model for improving teaching and learning in Title I schools. My job was to coach school librarians in Title I schools, encouraging them as we all sought to raise student achievement. The position was only a two-year position with Federal Programs

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(Kenney continued)

but at the end of the 2010-2011 school year, a retirement at our district office in Media Services provided the opening needed to reconstruct previous job roles in the department. The Media Services Director, Mary Reiman, believed that the coaching model had made a significant impact on professional growth in school libraries, so the newly created position was structured to include the coaching model for all LPS district school librarians. I applied for the Media Services position and was hired to coach in addition to other district office responsibilities.

In my role as a coach, I can definitely say that the aspect of my job that brings me the most joy is to work collaboratively with school librarians in order to help them succeed or solve a problem that will improve their service to students and staff. Sometimes we work together to learn a new technology and find out how to use this to teach students more effectively for living and working in the 21st century. Sometimes we work on improving lesson planning, delivery of instruction, collection management or how to complete a book order correctly. And sometimes librarians just need a person to celebrate with them about how wonderful their lessons worked or how much they enjoy the job while others need a person to vent to about how difficult the job is to do in the way they would like it to be done. The interesting thing is these two things can happen on the same day with the same person. The real joy for me is the same kind of joy I had with students in a school building because it is about empowering other people to accomplish their goals.

Please discuss one personal characteristic that you feel has contributed to your success as a School Librarian.

The most important personal characteristic is caring for students, staff, and the desire to see continual growth and achievement in their lives as learners. I know it is this trait that helped me to be diligent in my own work and learning in this enormous ever-changing profession, continually reminding myself that the job is about the students, not about me.

The AASL Standards for the 21st Century learner ask today's school librarians to rethink and redesign their work with students to ensure mastery of the skills and dispositions necessary for personal and academic success. Please share a lesson, unit, or experience that represents the best of you as a Teacher and Information Specialist.

One of my favorite coaching experiences this year was to work with a school librarian in our district on reaching her goal to integrate more technology into her library lessons. She wanted to capture photographs of her kindergarten students with their very first library book to be checked out and post it on her webpage. This whole process was very new to the librarian, but she was determined to try and only needed a little coaching to accomplish it. We discussed several possibilities and decided that the students would be more

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engaged if they had control in creating the photographs themselves. So together we decided that the PhotoBooth application would be easy for young children to use instead of having the librarian in charge of the technology by using a camera. Even though we had to figure out how to mirror the image of the PhotoBooth pictures (the book titles were reversed) and the best way to create a class slide show video in order to post them using our centralized file storage system, the results were fantastic. The kids loved seeing themselves on the web and parents loved seeing their children being excited about their library check out through the video. The school librarian said she had many parents come to see her during parent teacher conferences to remark about this exciting project. The additional effects were advocacy for the library program in the community and also within the school. Now the librarian, who began to post video with only the kindergarten classes, posts a variety of library related school videos regularly for every grade level in her school. You may want to take a look at some pretty clever kids in third grade telling about what they learned about dinosaurs using some pretty creative thinking. Check them out at: <http://wp.lps.org/mediamorley/grade-3-your-library/>

Please share a favorite book you have read recently.

Teach Like a Champion by Doug Lemov
School Librarians are information specialists but they were first teachers.

Doug Lemov's book discusses the effective practices of great teachers that can be used in the classroom and in the school library.

Please share a favorite website you have used for instruction or professional development.

My current favorite website is one being developed collaboratively by the LPS Media Services team using LibGuides. While much of the website is still in the construction process, I can see great connections for our school librarians to learn professionally through what has already been posted. We are also using it to connect to other district departments in the district office, thus advocating for Media Services at the district level. The site is at <http://lms.lps.libguides.com/lms>

It's never too late to be who you might have been.

Frequently attributed to
George Eliot, English novelist

***Thank you, Melody,
for sharing your
professional
insights!***

Student Spotlight: Beth Eilers ***University of Nebraska at Omaha, Teacher Academy Project***

What is your education / library/experience background?

My career as a teacher librarian will be my third; I worked in business communications and management for 10 years and stayed at home with my two boys for 10 years. I completed the last of library endorsement classes last spring before entering the Teacher Academy Project at UNO in June. Since then, I've been lucky to intern and student teach at two OPS magnet schools - -Buffett Middle and Fullerton Elementary. I'll receive my teaching certification this spring in secondary journalism with an endorsement in library media and plan to follow my passion to work in the schools until retirement -- 20 plus years from now!

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

Wow! Where do I begin? I'm hooked on YA lit, which I blame on Bridget Kratt! Because I have a lot of catching up to do in the YA genre, I'm typically reading one book while listening to another; right now, I'm reading *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* and listening to *Hatchet*. Next up... a re-reading of *The Hunger Games Trilogy* and my adult fiction book club selection: *Becoming Madame Mao*.



Beth Eilers

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

If I were to recommend one article, I'd send you to Joyce Valenza's *In My Network Confession* from the December 2011 issue of *Teacher Librarian*. In the article, Joyce describes her own love/hate relationship with "being connected" and she and other well-respected teacher librarians weigh in on how they make the best use of their online networks. Here's the permalink to the article for readers who have access to the UNO Criss Library online databases. <http://search.ebscohost.com.leo.lib.unomaha.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=69978992&site=ehost-liv>

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(Eilers continued)

***What do you do in your “down time”?
Do you have any hobbies? How do you
relax?***

In my life outside of school, I’m a mom, wife and owner of two big, fabulous, black mutts. I dabble in graphic design, food and wine and Shrinky Dinks. And I love basketball... not playing, but cheering for my two sons and the Kansas Jayhawks.

***What deep dark secret would you like to
share?***

Much to Dr. Wilma Kuhlman’s dismay, Charles Ingalls from the Little House books was my first true love.

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

If anything will make me a leader in the 21st century library, it’ll be my enthusiasm! It took me a while to find my life’s passion, but the school library is where it’s at for me. The possibilities are endless @ the library – for both me and my students.

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

Keep up as much as possible with your library journal reading; it’s easy to subscribe to updates through the Criss Library’s online resources. Also, find and follow blogs that interest you and begin early to develop a

personal/professional learning network (PLN) via Twitter.

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

In a time when some school districts nationally are reducing the number of library professionals they employ, I truly believe that those districts are headed the wrong way; ultimately the role of teacher librarian will continue to grow and be widely seen as indispensable. Clearly, the biggest challenge for teacher librarians will be to remain flexible, aware and knowledgeable about changes in technology and education. And as fast as this world of ours changes, that’s no small task for any of us!

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

Certainly, my most important goals are to help students to empower themselves, to uncover their own passions and to discover the value of lifelong learning. And if I can do that – for even a few – I will have left a mark.

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

UNO: Summer and Fall 2012 Registration Dates

**The Summer 2012 Course Schedule will be
available for viewing on MavLink on
Monday, February 20th!**

Summer 2012 Enrollment Dates are as follows:

Monday, March 5	Graduate Enrollment (currently enrolled students)
Tuesday, March 6	Senior Enrollment
Wednesday, March 7	Junior Enrollment
Thursday, March 8	Sophomore Enrollment
Friday, March 9	Freshman Enrollment
Monday, March 12	Open Enrollment (new students or those not currently enrolled)

**The Fall 2012 Course Schedule will be
available for viewing on MavLink on
Monday, March 5th!**

Fall 2012 Enrollment Dates are as follows:

Monday, March 26	Graduate Enrollment (currently enrolled students)
Wednesday, March 28	Senior Enrollment
Friday, March 30	Junior Enrollment
Tuesday, April 3	Sophomore Enrollment
Thursday, April 5	Freshman Enrollment
Monday, April 9	Open Enrollment (new students or those not currently enrolled)

**You can log in to Mavlink the day that course schedules are available online to
make sure you have no flags on your account!**

Announcements:

Scholarships, Registration, Comprehensive Exams, Graduation

Scholarship Opportunities:

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](#).

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 [NLA](#) website.

Nebraska Library Commission

The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to announce the third cycle of its 21st Century Librarian Scholarship program for Nebraska residents. Scholarships may be used for tuition (for coursework contributing toward a certificate or degree), course-required materials, and school-assessed fees.

Online applications are due March 1 (some documentation due Feb 18).

See <http://nlc1.nlc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/scholarships.asp> for details and to learn how to apply.

Questions? Contact Kathryn Brockmeier, Grant Program Manager, by e-mail (kathryn.brockmeier@nebraska.gov), or by phone 402-471-4002 or 800-307-2665.

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](#).

Elementary Capstone, 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.

Spring 2012:

Secondary Education Literacy Candidates: The **REQUIRED** comprehensive exam **REVIEW SESSION** will be held on **Monday February 13th, from 5:30-6:30pm in Roskens Hall 308D.**

Summer 2012:

Reading Program Candidates: The registration deadline is **April 18th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the **Summer 2012** semester. **Reading graduates** must attend the **Comprehensive Exam meeting April 26th**. Reading Masters comprehensive exam is a take home exam. The approximate due date, **June 18th**.

Secondary Education Literacy Candidates: The registration deadline is **May 25th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the **Summer 2012** semester. **A review session will be held Monday June 4th. The Secondary Exam will be due on July 3rd.**

Fall 2012:

Elementary Education School Library Candidates: TED 8700 Elementary Capstone has replaced the comprehensive exam. A grade of B or better must be received in TED 8700 to show satisfactory completion of the course and for program completion. **Fall 2012 class dates Friday August 24th, September 21st, October 12th, November 2nd and December 7th from 5 to 8pm. This course is by permission only** please contact Dr. Kathy Danielson at kdanielson@unomaha.edu or contact Dr. Rebecca Pasco at rpasco@unomaha.edu.

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:

The deadline is March 2nd for students planning to graduate during the Spring 2012 semester. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for May 5, 2012 at the Fieldhouse. (All Graduation information is subject to change).

Upcoming Conferences, Professional Development and More!

Good IDEAS!

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Wendy Grojean

IDEAS Room Coordinator

College of Education

402-554-3653

wgrojean@unomaha.edu

Join us to create and collaborate

A Fun Way to Create “Spicy” Presentations:

Spicynodes.org

Spicynodes.com is an easy online presentation tool to share with your students and staff. Especially if Prezi.com seems to make their heads spin and PowerPoint makes their eyes glaze over.

So, what is Spicynodes.org?

Spicynodes presents information in a non-linear manner, such as Prezi, but the creation of the presentation is in linear. Users of the site input the information in an outline format (which being a former English teacher, I love) and Spicynodes transfers that outline into a web for presentation purposes. It is quick and easy and there is no scrolling in and out and spinning around (which is why some users of prezi complain of nausea and dizziness!). However, knowing that there are fans of PowerPoint and Prezi.com out there, offering Spicynodes as a final project option is a great way to differentiate presentation assessments.

So, checkout spicynodes.com today and use it in a presentation to your staff or students. You will be pleasantly surprised how easy it is to create a “spicy” presentation!

UNO Library Science Education Programs now on Facebook! “Like us” to keep up on all the latest news, events and professional development information.

“Like Us” at

<https://www.facebook.com/unolibraryed>



Literacy Conference April 2012

Donalyn Miller will offer a keynote session based on her book *The Book Whisperer: Awakening the Inner Reader in Every Child*.

The conference will be held in Roskens Hall (morning sessions) and the Alumni House (lunch and keynote session) at UNO on Saturday, April 14, 2012. The registration deadline is March 16, 2012

Sponsored by Eastern Library System, Nebraska Educational Media Association, University of Nebraska at Omaha

School Librarians' Day
March 10, 2012
University of Nebraska @ Omaha, Roskens Hall, UNO Campus

8:00-8:25 am

Coffee and Refreshments



Session I (8:30-9:20)

_____ Intellectual Freedom: Managing Collections in Diverse P-12 Schools Room 302
Laura Pietsch, OPS and Dr. Becky Pasco, UNO

Session II (9:30-10:20) Book Reviews

_____ Elementary - Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Room 302

OR

_____ Secondary - Paul Christopherson, Omaha Public Library Room 304



10:30-10:45

Break

Session III (10:50-11:40 am)

_____ Ebooks for School Libraries—Mary Reiman, Nancy Larimer & Melody Kenney, Room 302
Lincoln Public Schools

11:45-12:15

Lunch



Session IV (12:20-1:20 pm)

_____ Talk Tables (morning sessions topics) -20-minutes per table Rooms 302 & 304



Session V (1:30-2:20 pm)

_____ Marketing Your Library—Courtney Pentland and Becky Nicholson, OPS Room 304

Session VI (2:30-3:20pm)

_____ Social Media & School Libraries—Wendy Grojean and Bridget Kratt, UNO Room 302

Please mark the sessions you will be attending

Cost—\$20 (includes lunch). Please register by **March 3rd**.

Make checks to ELS and mail to:

Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 18
Omaha, NE 68144

Name _____

School _____

402-330-7884

ktooker@windstream.net

Email Address _____

Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Parking is free on Saturdays. Park on either the north or south side of Roskens Hall and enter through the south doors of the building. We will be there to greet you.

UNO Library Faculty Pets



Paula Johnson's "White Dog" was dressed up to trick or treat at Village Point for the Nebraska Humane Society's fundraiser



Wendy Grojean's son Cooper with Francesco (name inspired by Cars2) the hermit crab and Ernie the goldfish



Harley and Holly are Bridget Kratt's 1-year old brother and sister Golden Retrievers



Carrie Turner's Chihuahua Rex

For questions or suggestions regarding the UNO L.E.A.D. Newsletter, please contact:



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