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### Library Education and Development Newsletter, Volume 6, Issue 2

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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### 2012 MPLA/NLA/NSLA Tri-Conference At a Glance



LPS school librarians, Heidi Clarke and Melody Kenney, at the 2012 Tri-Conference

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### Advice from the Frontlines Crystal Schneekloth School Librarian Patriot Elementary Papillion-La Vista Public Schools



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

As a first year Teacher Librarian, working with students at grade levels K-6 probably brings me the most joy, because library lessons can vary so much. No two days are alike. For example, I have the opportunity to conduct alphabetizing activities with kindergarteners one minute and discuss the hottest in literature with sixth graders the next. I've also relished the research opportunities I've been able to assist students with for their various classroom projects. I encourage higher-level thinking while sharing my love of reading, technology and the library.

### Please discuss one personal characteristic that you feel has contributed to your success as a school librarian?

This first year, it has to be organization. Having a new role – teacher librarian! – in a new district, I'm adjusting to a new building, as well as new staff and students; so being ultra-organized has helped me more effectively aide teachers with their curricular projects while getting to know each of my over 525 students. This meticulous effort at organization has also helped me get the lay of the land with my new curriculum ensuring I'm on target to make the most of my teaching time with students.

The AASL Standards for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

Recently I had my 6th grade classes go to <u>www.allaboutexplorers.com</u><<u>http://www.all</u> <u>aboutexplorers.com/</u>> (a fake website) and evaluate the reliability of the information it contained. As they were in the middle of their non-fiction writing projects, they've

### (continued page 3)

been doing a lot of internet research and I wanted them to see first-hand how they could begin to differentiate between reliable and non-reliable sites. Their focus and engagement during this lesson was exciting. This learning opportunity obviously resonated well. I know that after participating in this activity they have had their eyes opened and in the future will be more critical of what they read on the internet. I feel great having been a part of giving these students the tools needed to be more analytical.

"We never know which lives we influence, or when, or why." – Stephen King

### Please share a favorite book you have read recently.

In addition to starting a new career this year, I'm also about to become a mother for the first time! So when I look back on what I've read recently, it's quite a varied list. As I enter my ninth month of pregnancy and am preparing to take some time off, I'd have to choose, *The Three Questions* by Jon J. Muth because it reminds me how to manage a busy life. This story really resonated with me. Juggling all that makes one's life complete, isn't always easy, but it can be done when following the answers provided in this tale.

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

Most recently, I'd say the NebraskAccess website because it's been helpful with both students and staff. Because my role as teacher librarian is to assist teachers just as much as students with learning, technology, resources and so much more; this site has helped me with both. I've recommended it to staff members as a resource for not only their classrooms, but their professional development as well. Many of my students have utilized the site for research projects. It's been very versatile.

Thank you, Crystal, for sharing your professional insight!

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### Student Spotlight: EmiLee Paul University of Nebraska at Omaha Graduate Student



### *What is your education / library/experience background?*

In May 2007, I graduated from UNO with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education with a concentration in the middle grades. Following graduation, my family moved across the country to southern Georgia. I taught for the 2007/2008 school year in Kingsland, Georgia. After a fun-filled year in the South we decided to come back to the Midwest. Upon returning to Nebraska, I decided to take time off from full-time teaching to stay home with my kids. I have been a substitute teacher for the Papillion-La Vista school district from August 2008 to the present. In 2011, I began working on my school library endorsement. This fall I had the awesome opportunity to become

the graduate assistant for the Library Science program. I couldn't be happier!

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

My reading list is a mile long, if only there were more hours in the day. I have recently been introduced to Goodreads.com. If I had the time, I could spend hours on the site browsing for books. Since joining the site, my reading list has grown dramatically. A couple of my all time favorite reads are Gone with the Wind and Jane Eyre. I also really love the Harry Potter series. I especially love to read about history, fiction or nonfiction. If you like history, I would highly recommend Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand. I also am really drawn to young adult novels. Not sure about a favorite in this genre, I have so many!!

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

I would recommend anything by Jamie McKenzie. I read a few chapters from Mckenzie's book, *Beyond Cut and Paste: Engaging Students in Wrestling with Questions of Import*, and I was hooked.

(Continued page 5)

McKenzie stresses the importance of questioning. I believe his philosophy is spoton. As educators we must be asking our students the right kinds of questions. We need to create an atmosphere that encourages students to wonder. Ultimately the goal is to get our students to come up with their own questions and search for the answers on their own. Authentic learning takes place when students are curious and have a desire to ease their curiosity. Let's do all we can to create a learning environment that encourages this to take place.

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

Down time...what is that? As a mother of three that word does not exist in my vocabulary. If I did have a free day all to myself I would spend it reading and cooking. I would get a big stack of books together and hop back and forth from book to book until I get sucked into one that I just can't put down. Whenever my eyes would need a break I would check on my pot of soup that had been simmering on the stove all day. The end of the day would be spent relishing the last chapters of the book over a hearty bowl of soup.

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

I don't think I have any secrets. I am a very open, honest person...maybe a little too honest sometimes. I have a pet tarantula, but I am deathly afraid of mice! I love math. In fact, I truly miss my high school and college math courses. When I am finished with my master's degree I would like to enroll in a few mathematics courses for fun. Maybe it could become a second endorsement.

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing." -Albert Einstein

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

I love to learn! I have a genuine passion for acquiring new knowledge. I love to analyze and debate issues and hear multiple view points. I hope to pass this passion on to my students and fellow staff members. I hope to create an environment where students feel safe to be who they are and ask those questions that they didn't think they could ask. I hope to see students as teachers and teachers as learners.

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

Make the most of your classes. Ask questions, participate in discussions, and get to know fellow classmates. We all have something to give, as well as gain. Don't stay silent, be involved. This is how we grow as professionals.

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

I think just trying to stay up-to-date with the most current technology is a challenge. We live in such a fast-paced, technology dependent world that is ever changing. We really need to embrace this change, and most importantly be flexible!!!

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

I hope that I am remembered for the genuine love I had for others, and the relationships that were built with students and staff.

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

### Did you know???

Melissa Cast-Brede, College of Education Criss Library Liaison, is available in the Roskens Hall Student Lounge on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, two days a week for personal, oneon-one librarian/student interactions. No question is too big or too small. Just ask!



- Need the perfect book recommendation?
- Having trouble with APA citation?
- Need help finding a statistic?
- Need a book or journal not available at UNO?
- Would you like to check out an iPad or Kindle?
- Not sure which journal to use?
  ASK MELISSA!!!

Melissa is available in Roskens Hall Mondays and Tuesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Announcements:

Scholarships, Registration, Comprehensive Exams, Graduation

### **Scholarships**

#### NSLA:Nebraska Schools Librarians Association

NSLA 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.

#### 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 <u>-</u> website.

#### **Nebraska Library Commission**

The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to announce the third cycle of its 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

#### See

### <u>http://nlc1.nlc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/scholarships.asp</u> 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.** 

### **Program Completion Requirements**

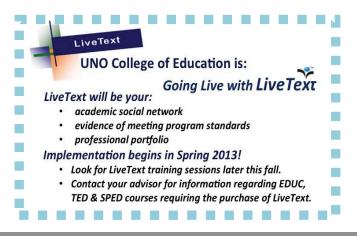
To register for comprehensive exams and capstone classes, contact Joyce Jones in the Department of Teacher Education; Phone: 402-554-2212 or 1-800-858-8648, ext. 2212. Email: jpjones@unomaha.edu Selective Retention forms should be submitted at the completion of 12 credit hours and approved before students can register for comprehensive exams. Please make note of the following registration deadlines.

#### Comprehensive Exam Deadlines

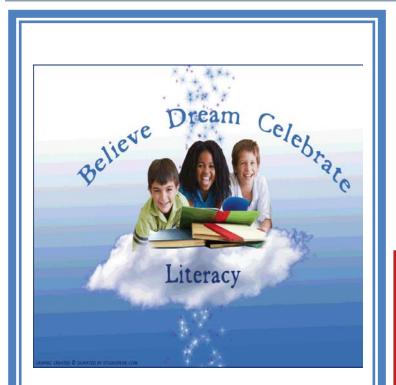
Secondary Education Literacy/Library Candidates: The registration deadline is **February 11<sup>th</sup>** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Spring 2013 semester. The required review session will be held Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Elementary Education Capstone**

Elementary Education School Library Candidates: TED 8700 Elementary Capstone has replaced the comprehensive exam. Spring 2013 class dates: Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup>, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup>, and April 12<sup>th</sup> 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.



### Upcoming Conferences, Professional Development and More!



40<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska State Reading Conference February 21-23, 2013

> <u>Ramada Inn</u> <u>Kearney, Nebraska</u>



#### Metropolitan English Teacher Link K-8 Literacy Conference



Saturday, April 20, 2013 UNO Alumni Center Keynote speaker: Ralph Fletcher

### **Growing Confident Mathematicians**



oxbow writing project

Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

UNO Roskens Hall

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Elliot Ostler, Professor of STEM Education

### NETA 2013 Conference: IGNITE LEARNING

April 25-26, 2013

Embassy Suites & Conference Center, La Vista, NE



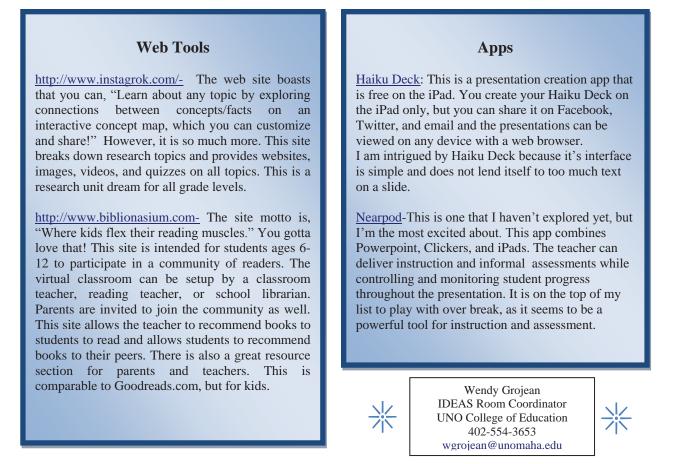


### WHAT'S ON YOUR TO-DO LIST FOR HOLIDAY BREAK?

I'm sure many of you have a list of things you want to do over your holiday "break." On your list you may have items like: read books or magazines on your "to read" pile, scrapbook the last 3 years of your child's life, organize a closet, lunch with friends, and the list goes on. I challenge you to put one more thing on that list: explore a new web tool or app. Why? Well, these tools are similar to that stack of books that tend to pile up and go unexplored.

We read about these fabulous tools in magazines, learn about them at conferences, or through conversations and we make a mental note to look into it. But there is never enough time. Now, I know there isn't much time during break either. But if you're like me and you write it on the to-do list, there is a chance that it may get done.

To make this task seem less like ONE more thing to do, I have compiled a list of sites and apps that are on my list to explore over break. Click on the links to go to the site or learn more about the app.





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To make a reservation simply click on the link below and it will take you directly to the University of Nebraska web page.

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https://secure3.hilton.com/en\_U5/dt/reservation/book.htm?ctvhocn=OMASC&corporateCode=0002773628

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Things to Consider

### A Match Well Made: The standards' emphasis on information aligns with librarians' skills | On Common Core

By Paige Jaeger

I grew up on the '60's outside New York, where there were racial riots and free love. The Beatles boomed from boxes and people sang about clouds, vanity, and love. Today we are largely beyond racial riots, love is cheap, and music still booms in ear pieces playing tunes of confusion, vanity, and love. Transformation has occurred, but there are timeless elements. Information is one—valuable and priceless, but packaged differently today than it was 25, 50, or 100 years ago.

Librarians recognized the value of information more than 20 years ago when our profession launched the first edition of Information Power as a national library best-seller. It did not make the New York Times's list, but almost every library in America owned a copy. We recognized the need to move away from media and skills (the wave of the '60's and '70's) to empowering lifelong learning through information. If the world had only listened then, we could have all been spared No Child Left Behind and the messy race we are now in to the top of nowhere. Despite society's evolution and pop culture's transformation, information is still powerful.

It is information that empowers learners to make good decisions. Information empowers us to argue, debate, create, communicate, critique, analyze, support a position, comprehend a topic, formulate a point of view, converse, and more. All these verbs were pulled from the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The crafters of the Common Core knew the timeless value of information. That is why you will find the word "information" 243 times in the CCSS for ELA alone.

If you search the ELA Common Core Standards for "technology," you will find it mentioned only 24 times. Yep: "information" is mentioned ten times more than "technology." Technology often gets the spotlight, but it is information that is important. Teachers may not get it, but CCSS architect, David Coleman, got it. He recognized that we live in an Information Age in which technology holds no power without the correct information. Data and information empower technology. Information is at the core of technology, learning, debating, analyzing, developing a point of view, and other Common Core tasks. We knew this 20 years ago. Information Power had the student at the center of learning. It was all about empowering the student to be a lifelong learner. Now, we need to just graduate "college and career ready" (CCR) seniors.

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Don't get me wrong. I love the Common Core. I just believe that librarians were light-years ahead. Dig out your old copy of Information Power, blow off the dust, and read the preface. You might be shocked to discover lines that read as though they were from the Common Core. "Broaden access to and use of information by students, teachers, and parents" using information for lifelong learning. The 1998 edition opens by talking about the "explosion of information" and "promoting authentic learning." The first chapter of Information Power reminds me of the Common Core Anchor Standards. They were so much alike that I went into Appendix A and searched for a citation—nada.

The library world didn't stop with Information Power. Our professionals went on to concentrate on the "learning" via information when we focused on inquiry and authentic learning. The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) spearheaded new standards for the 21st-century learner. The power word that appears there is "conclude" or conclusion. We need to triage instruction to foster higher-level thought; encourage critical thinking skills; empower students to use information correctly, live uprightly, make good decisions, and ethically contribute to society. Information empowers technology, and technology delivers information. This is a match made for us. This is the new recipe for successful instruction. Do we dare say we are 20 years ahead—again?

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



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