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NEBRASKA-MIZZOU
LIBRARY SCIENCE
STUDENT NEWS

NEMO NEWS

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Meet Your New Program Liaison,
Laura England-Biggs

NEMO students almost certainly know by now that Dr. Pasco has passed the leadership baton to a new coordinator of the NEMO program, Laura England-Biggs. Laura comes to the position with a long and impressive “library biography,” and she's excited about this new opportunity to give back to the profession and mentor the next wave of library leaders.

Laura has worked at Keene Memorial Library in Fremont, Nebraska since 2005, where she is the youth services librarian and head of tech services. Her experience in libraries, however, goes back to her childhood: she helped her mom, who worked in two Omaha Public Schools media centers, with putting cards and pockets in books. In addition to her mom, two of Laura's earliest library mentors were Diana Boone, head of tech services, and Bev Lusey, assistant director and reference librarian at Bellevue Public Library, where Laura worked as a tech services clerk.

After earning a bachelor's degree



in theatre from Nebraska Wesleyan, Laura worked in and around books for the next decade. Her experience includes time at a medical center bookstore, retail bookstore, and a community college library. She went back to school in 2002, and walked across the Mizzou stage in December 2006.

Laura was eager to apply for the Nebraska LIS Program Liaison position because of Dr. Pasco's message that it is important to give back to the profession. Laura says that while she has a real sense of humor and does not take herself too seriously, she takes her “responsibility to the NEMO students and program VERY seriously. These are people's lives we're dealing with and I don't ever want to forget that.” [continue on page 2]



Ideal Bookshelf by Jane Mount

Important Dates & Reminders

New Student Orientation

Students in their first two semesters should attend one of the following orientation sessions:

Saturday, October 18,
12:00-1:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 19,
12:30-1:30 p.m.

Both sessions will be held in Roskens Hall 305.

Spring 2015 Practicum Meeting

All Mizzou candidates who intend to complete their 7381 Practicum in Spring 2015 are required to attend a meeting on **Sunday, October 19th at 2:00 p.m.** in 308 Roskens Hall.

RSVP to Dr. Pasco,
rpasco@unomaha.edu

Those living more than 50 miles from the Omaha Metro area will make other arrangements with Dr. Pasco to get information and forms.

Spring 2015 Registration

Registration for Spring 2015 classes begins **October 29.** Courses are listed in MyZou now.

Meet Your New Program Liaison (continued from page 1)

Asked about one challenge currently facing libraries, Laura identified libraries' role in creating and curating content and "the crusade for licensing agreements that don't restrict library budgets/collections." Even as libraries face these challenges, however, there's also a great deal of excitement. For Laura, one of the most exciting developments in libraries right now is the growing potential of e-books.

When asked for one piece of advice she would give to students in the program, Laura responded, "The same advice I recently heard from the flight attendants when I went to California (for the Association of Library Services to Children 2014 National Institute): You MUST put on your oxygen mask before you can help anyone else. Translation: take care of you first, and then the rest of the folks around you will reap the benefits." Keep this great advice in mind as we head toward mid-term!

"I knew I had to apply for this position because I love teaching, I love helping people find their way and I love watching the next wave of people get excited about libraries!"

--Laura England-Biggs

LIS Program Liaison in Nebraska

Contact Laura!

For information on how to contact Laura, see page 5.

Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska School Librarians Association Conference

The annual conference of the Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska School Librarians Association is October 8-10 in South Sioux City, Nebraska, at the Marina Conference Center. The theme of this year's conference is "Motivate. Innovate. Integrate," and ALA President Courtney L. Young is the keynote speaker.

Pre-conferences begin on Wednesday afternoon, October 8. Following the pre-conferences, attendees are invited to attend "Wednesday Night Out," a reception at the South Sioux City Public Library. This "evening of revelry," complete with "costumed merrymakers," will transport guests to a sixteenth-century festival day.

The conference's opening general session is Thursday, October 9, at 8:00 a.m. Following the opening session, conference attendees will have an opportunity to visit with exhibitors and vendors before presentations begin at 11:00 a.m. Presentations include "Fun with Friends: Adults with Special needs," "LIS Education: Across the Pond and Back again," "Your Library's Website," "National Library of Medicine Resources," and "Building Community Engagement." In addition to these and other sessions, both NLA and NSLA will hold business meetings during the lunch hour on Thursday.

Friday, October 10, also promises a full-day of illuminating sessions. Presentations include "Teaching Computer Classes for the Public," "Creating Community Connections: Real Results," "Is it copyrighted? Can I use it?" and "Somebody's Watching Me: Choose Privacy Week at Hastings College," among many more. Friday concludes with business meetings for various sections and roundtables.

More information on the conference is available at
<http://nebraskalibraries.org/conference2014/>

STUDENT RESOURCES

[MU Grad Studies](#)

[Academic Calendar](#)

[MU Transcripts](#)

[MU Continuing Ed](#)

[Course Schedule](#)

Student Spotlight: Dustan Archer

What is your education/library/professional background?

I may be one of the few individuals in the ISLT field that doesn't have any library background other than as a regular patron. I originally started my undergraduate career in computer science at UNL. I had decided that since I liked playing video games and was good with computers that computer science was an obvious choice. I kept on telling myself that until my senior year of college when I realized that if I ended up writing code for 30 years that I would lose my mind. I ended up changing my major to Psychology, which I declared as my minor my freshman year. After that, a lot of my stress went away as I recognized that I was doing something fun, interesting, and thought-provoking. It allowed me to work with people rather than for people.

I applied to multiple graduate schools during the last year of my undergraduate degree to go into a doctoral program for Social Psychology. It's a blessing in disguise that I was denied to all of the programs that I applied to. At the time I was crushed and was determined to re-apply the following year after getting some solid volunteer lab assistant experience and professional work under my belt. As I moved into the professional world, however, that changed. I hadn't really explored what the professional world was like. I had been in school my entire life up to this point. I had worked part-time and full-time jobs during high school and college, but it was generally in delivery or food service positions. Once I had my undergraduate degree, multiple avenues opened up and I realized I could explore something new—so I did.

I went on to work in the child welfare system here in Nebraska, which was eye-opening to say the least. I worked for both the state and a privatized company during the upheaval of the child welfare system, and I definitely

saw a lot of bad and very little good. After spending about a year doing that, I saw the writing on the wall and knew my organization would lose its contract. I moved on to work for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, which is its own kind of good and bad. I'll spare you the details; it was mostly blue collar humor and lots of covering one's own rear end with paperwork to back it up. I was on the lookout for a case management job with Centerpointe (a non-profit organization I worked for in college) the entire time I was a correctional officer. After a year and a half, a position opened up that I knew would fit me perfectly. Human Resources at Centerpointe thought so too, and brought me on board. I've been working there since. I love case management and working with those that need the most help, but it's also not a job that I plan on doing my entire life.

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

Right now I'm working my way through *The Zombie Survival Guide*. I know that people typically read that one before *World War Z*, but I did it backwards. I also need to finish reading the *Game of Thrones* series (I'm only on the second one), but I sat it down a few months ago and haven't picked it back up.

I also plan on re-reading the entire *Dresden Files* series soon. It's that good.

What is on your professional reading list?

Like many of my fellow classmates, I'm reading *Shackleton's Way*. I've also got plans regarding *Ender's Game* and *Ender's Shadow*, which is one of my favorite sets of books. These are the first two books in separate parts of the same universe and while I dislike much about Orson Scott Card as a person, his writing never fails to interest me.

[continue on page 4]

UPCOMING WEBINARS

The Nebraska Library Commission maintains a list of [monthly webinars](#).

Some workshops for October include:

10/7/2014

1:00-2:00 p.m. (CT)
Beyond 3D Printers: Strategies for Makerspace Success (Booklist)

10/9/2014

1:00-2:00 p.m. (CT)
Digitization and Libraries (American Libraries Live)

10/9/2014

1:00-2:00 p.m. (CT)
Marketing and Social Media: A Primer for Public Libraries (Booklist)

10/14/2014

Noon-1:00 p.m. (CT)
Digital Citizenship: New Roles and Responsibilities in the Digital Age (WebJunction)

10/21/2014

1:00-2:00 p.m. (CT)
Serving the Underserved: Children with Disabilities at Your Library (WebJunction)

10/22/2014

2:00-3:00 p.m. (CT)
Discover National Library of Medicine Resources and More (National Network of Libraries of Medicine)

10/29/2014

10:00-11:00 a.m. (CT)
2014 One Book One Nebraska: Once Upon a Town (Nebraska Library Commission)

Student Spotlight: Dustan Archer (continued from page 3)

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

I never fail to rock the boat. I don't like to keep things the same just for the sake of "that's how it works around here." If I see that something could be improved or needs work, I make sure to speak up about it. It's possible it's been suggested before I came around, and it's possible that the idea has already been turned down for a good reason, but if I don't speak up and try to better my work environment, no one else will. I thrive on organization, details, and a well-designed process, but keeping things the same because the thought of implementing a change is too scary is no excuse at all.

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

Stay ahead of your assignments! I procrastinated a lot in my undergraduate career and paid for it in overnight coding marathons. There's a lot more riding on my education these days, not to mention that an overnight now means I have to go and do case management for the lives of 28 people without any sleep. I don't find that prospect appealing.

What idea / experience / topic / speaker in your library science education journey has impacted your practice or thinking?

As my library science education program just started a month ago, I can't say that I've had a lot of exposure

yet. I do find the concept of freedom of information fascinating, however. I love the idea that libraries should be a bastion for uninterrupted, unbiased information where you should have no fear of reprisal for what you read, and loathe the fact that some governments have taken to censoring libraries in some countries. I feel that that act defiles the very essence of what a library is.

What deep, dark secret would you like to share?

Superman is, by far, the worst superhero. Even worse than Aquaman.

Any Last Words?

"There is a theory which states that if ever anybody discovers exactly what the Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable. There is another theory which states that this has already happened." - *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*, Douglas Adams



Ideal Bookshelf by Jane Mount

Tips for Contacting Laura England-Biggs, LIS Program Liaison in Nebraska

Throughout the semester, students will likely need to be in touch with Laura with questions about program of study forms, practicum assignments, and comprehensive exam schedules, among other topics. Here are some pointers on the best ways to get in touch with Laura:

If you do not require an immediate response:

Email Laura at engandle@missouri.edu. She checks that email account at least three times a day.

If your message is time sensitive: Call or text message Laura at 402-390-3969. Students should know, though, that Laura turns her phone off at 9:00 p.m. And although she's an early bird, she won't respond to text messages or phone calls before 8:00 a.m.—unless you ask her to do so.

Also, as a reminder, be sure to let Laura know who you are in any message, whether text or voice!

ALA 2015 Scholarship Application Available Online

The American Library Association (ALA) has more than \$300,000 for students who are studying library science or school librarianship at the master's degree level. Scholarships typically range from \$1,500 to \$7,000 per student per year.

The scholarship process is open every year from September through March 1. Application materials, including reference forms, are [available online](#) and must be submitted online during this period.

For more information on the range of scholarships available and how to apply, visit the [scholarships website](#), call the ALA Scholarship Clearinghouse (800-5445-2433, ext. 4279), or email scholarships@ala.org.

NEMO NEWS CONTACTS

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

It's important for all of our students to keep up with the current library job postings. You never know when your "perfect" job might come along. We regularly send out an email with the current postings. Please read these! Even if you're not looking for a job, you may see something that you want to pass on to a classmate or colleague. In addition to reading these emails, take the initiative to check the website periodically. We only send out Nebraska postings, but you can view regional postings by accessing the website.

Visit

<http://nowhiringatyourlibrary.nebraska.gov/JobsAndCareers.asp> and check out who is looking to hire in Nebraska and in other states as well. Directions: Once you access this link, select "view by location," pick your state and then hit "GO." This site provides access to postings in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.