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Library Education and Development Newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 3

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L. E. A. D.

Library Education and Development Newsletter

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*Advice from the Frontlines—Susan Steider
Young Adult Librarian—Loren Corzy Eiseley Branch, Lincoln*

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

The thing I love most about my job is that I get to work with people, both staff and customers. The people that I work with are really fun and committed to helping the customer as much as I am. We really work hard to make Eiseley a great place to be.

As for the customers, I love the fact that I get to help people find the information they need – I am notorious for roaming the shelves offering assistance to customers. Often people will say they're fine but then later will seek me out when they do have a question. I feel like I have built a personal relationship with many of the customers at Eiseley.

I also use my position as the young adult librarian to visit the middle and high schools to promote reading and the library. I want the students to know that the library is a friendly place where they can find the information they need. I love it when I am recognized at the grocery store as "that lady who came to my school!"

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

I am outgoing and I like to talk to people. No one escapes from Eiseley without me saying 'Hi, did you find everything you need today?' to them.

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

Diversity of customers – new immigrants, teenagers, senior citizens, hover mothers, latch-key kids, homeless, etc.

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

Sometimes it seems like we collaborate with everyone! We collaborate with Lincoln Public Schools and the Nebraska Humanities Council for programs like Prime Time. With Prime Time, the importance of literacy and reading to your children is demonstrated to Hispanic families. The families are brought to the library where after dinner, a storyteller tells a story and then the families discuss the book with each other.

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

Everything! As the young adult librarian, I try to read across the board so I read fiction, non-fiction, mystery, fantasy, science fiction, graphic novels etc. My personal favorite, though, is fantasy.

Thank you, Susan, for your wonderful contributions to the profession!

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"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need"

~ Cicero



Student Spotlight—Patti Long

Hitecock Elementary School Media Specialist, Millard

What is your education / library / professional background?

This is my second year as a Media Specialist at Hitchcock Elementary. I have accepted the position to open the newest Millard Elementary School, Upchurch Elementary, this coming fall as the Media Specialist. I am thrilled with this opportunity! Before becoming a Media Specialist, I was a classroom teacher for the past 21 years. My experience was in 2nd through 4th grade. I graduated from UNO with a B.S. in education, however, throughout my 21 years in the classroom I continued to take classes, but never within a program. Two years ago, with the patient guidance of Dr. Pasco, I decided to fulfill a dream and I started to work on my Masters Degree in Elementary Education with a specialization in Library Science. It has taken me several years to begin this experience, but it has been the most rewarding experience of my life!

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

As far as reading, currently I am in the process of reading next year's Golden Sower nominees for the intermediate grades. I just finished *Rules* by Cynthia Lord, which is a great book for upper elementary readers dealing with special needs children. I look forward to this summer. My mom keeps a pile of all of the books she read throughout the year and hands them to me around June 1st. This is my summer treat as I snuggle up on my porch, drink iced tea and read! I love authors like John Grisham, Nora Roberts, and Alex Cross. Truly, I'm no choosy in the summer. As I have been creating book orders for my new school, I have a list of "must reads" next to my computer. That list just keeps growing. I can't wait to have a library full of so many books I haven't had the opportunity to read yet.

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

One of my favorite professional journals is the *School Library Journal*. I gain so much knowledge out of this magazine. It keeps me up to date on current trends, as well as assists me in making informed decisions on book choices. I have also been reading a great deal of research lately dealing with fixed vs. flexible scheduling. In opening a new library, I want to be well educated on the scheduling decision I make for my students and teachers.

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

Relax?? I am not sure I remember how to do this! With taking two graduate classes, trying to order 9,000 books, working full time, being the mother of two teenage boys, and a wife to one very understanding husband, relaxing is when I finally get the opportunity to lay my head on the pillow! (A warm bath tends to slow me down so I can look at a book order catalog in the process!) When my life gets back to a somewhat normal pace, I love to walk and do any type of craft. Baking chocolate chip cookies is my passion!

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I don't like secrets, which is why I have a problem with presents! I'll never forget the Christmas I received a new pair of shoes from my parents. I opened them up and immediately said, "They're too small!" Little did they know that I had already opened them up and had them on around the house a couple of times! (Reminder—be careful how much of the same wrapping paper you keep around the house! You never know is smart enough to re-wrap a gift or two!)

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Enjoy every minute of this experience! Network with lots of great people, and keep in touch with them. Absorb every ounce of information you are gaining out of every class you take. Work hard and make a difference!

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

Technology is the trend and the challenge for Library Information Specialists... however, it is exciting! Keeping up with the students in this age of technology could possibly be the greatest challenge. Information Literacy skills will play an enormous role in our curriculum as we teach ethical ways to use the Internet.

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

It is my hope to instill the love of reading in the lives of the students I touch through my excitement of books! I want my students to remember the library as their favorite place in the whole school. I want to be that "unforgettable" Media Specialist!

Thank you for contributing, Patti. Best of luck this semester!



"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library"

~ Jorge Luis Borges

Announcements

Scholarships, Registration, Comprehensive Exams, Graduation

Scholarship Opportunities:

Please take advantage of these opportunities available to students pursuing library studies.

Nebraska Library Commission

The Nebraska Library Commission awards scholarships to Nebraskans for coursework and degree programs in library studies. The NLC offers scholarships valued at \$1000.00 for students pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Library Science or School Library Media. The NLC also offers scholarships valued at \$2500.00 for students pursuing a Master's of Library and/or Information Science degree (MLS), or those seeking a Master of Education degree in School Library Media.

For information and deadlines, visit the NLC at:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/Scholarships.asp>

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://nema.k12.ne.us/>

Scholarship Opportunities:

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) accredited unit. The scholarship process is open annually from October-March. Applications and reference forms (which must be submitted on-line) are available during that time period. Instructions and general information remain available year round.

For a complete list of available scholarships, visit the ALA at:

<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=scholarships>

Registration Information:

Fall 2008 Registration

Please refer to the following schedule for Fall 2008 registration on E-BRUNO:

4-07-08	Graduate Students
4-09-08	Seniors
4-11-08	Juniors
4-15-08	Sophomores
4-17-08	Freshmen
4-21-08	Open Enrollment

Classes fill quickly, so be ready to register during your assigned time!

Contact Dr. Pasco with any questions.

Summer 2008 Comprehensive Exams:

Selective Retention must be submitted and approved before students can register for comprehensive exams. The registration deadline is **Friday, May 9th** for those students taking comprehensive exams during the Summer 2008 semester!

To register, contact Joyce Jones in the Department of Teacher Education

Phone: 402-554-2212 or

1-800-858-8648, ext. 2212

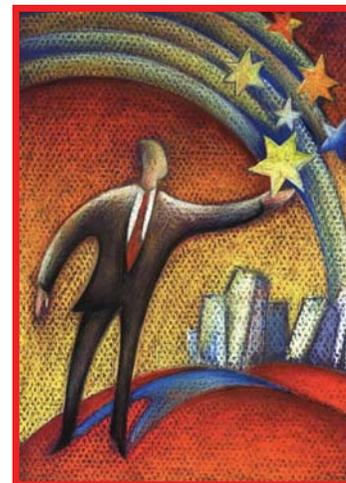
Email: jjones@mail.unomaha.edu

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 3rd** for students planning to graduate during the Summer 2008 semester. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for August 15th at 2:00 p.m. in the Civic Auditorium.

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.



"If you want to reach a goal, you must 'see the reaching' in your own mind before you actually arrive at your goal"

~ Zig Ziglar

Professional Development, A Day In The Life..., and Technology Tips

Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Conferences!



NETA (The Nebraska Educational Technology Association) will hold its 2008 conference "Digital Transformers Goin' Global" **April 24th and 25th** at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Omaha.

NETA is a grassroots organization open to everyone interested in sharing information about using technology in the education process.

Each year over 2000 educators, administrators, and technologists from a four state region gather in Omaha for what has become one of the largest, and most important educational conferences in the area. The NETA Spring Conference brings together speakers of international significance to inspire us and provoke our thinking along with over a hundred breakout sessions featuring topics across the range of interests in educational technology. In addition, the conference has hands-on workshops that run throughout the two day conference.

Beyond the conference itself, NETA is a chance to meet and network with technology-minded educators from nearly every grade level and discipline K-20!

Membership applications for NETA and Registration information for the Spring Conference can be found at the NETA website, <http://www.netasite.org>.



NLA/NEMA (Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska Educational Media Association) have big things planned for the 2008 NLA/NEMA

Conference scheduled for **October 15th-17th** in Lincoln. The theme this year is Nebraska Libraries: Vision for the Information Age. Plan on attending to hear great speakers, and to share programs, strategies and ideas that will help develop our vision for the school library media center in the information age!



ALA will hold its annual conference **June 26th to July 2nd** in Anaheim, CA. In addition to the Opening and Closing General Sessions and the Auditorium Speaker Series, this year's confer-

ence also includes Poster Sessions which give librarians the opportunity to make peer-to-peer presentations, time to Meet the Authors and get autographs, a Silent Auction which supports ALA scholarships, and a Library Product Spotlight which features explanations and demonstrations of new products from ALA exhibitors that are designed to help improve your library. Registration information can be found at <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/annual/2008a/home.cfm>

A Day In The Life...

We would like to introduce a new feature to our L.E.A.D. newsletter... a section called *A Day In The Life...*! Here we will feature YOU and the wonderful teaching activities that YOU engage in every day. We welcome you to send in pictures, along with comments, quotes, or quips via email. Please include your name, building name, and information about the picture.



A Day In The Life...

Read Across America Celebration
With Karene Christenson,
Teacher / Librarian for Tri-Center
Community Schools
(aka the *Resident Cat In The Hat!*)

Ask Mr. Technology by Joe Huber

Q: What is a "wiki"?

A: It comes from the Hawaiian phrase, "wiki wiki", which means rapidly. It is a Web application that allows users to add content, as on an Internet forum, but also allows authorized people (select people or everyone) to edit the content. Wiki also refers to the collaborative software used to create such a Web site.

Q: Sometimes it seems like it takes a lot longer to download from one Web site than another. I am not sure if it is my computer, my connection, or what. Is there anything like a speedometer that will measure Internet speed?

A: Speakeasy (<http://www.speakeasy.net/speedtest>) measures relative Internet speeds. Speakeasy is mainly a broadband service, but its Internet connection speed test does give you an idea of your line speed if you keep track of your Internet connection speed tests to the same city over several days. Unlike many other test sites on the Internet, the results are very easy to read.

Q: Sending large files as e-mail attachments is slow, and now many school e-mail filters limit attachment sizes. Is there a better and inexpensive way to do this?

A: You have several options. Let's start with the easiest and the best: Media Fire (<http://www.mediafire.com/>). You can also try Files-upload.com (<http://files-upload.com/>) or Pando (<http://www.pando.com/>). Pando even has a plug-in for some e-mail programs.

Courtesy of: Huber, J. (2008). Ask Mr. Technology. *Library Media Connection*, 26 (7), p. 61.

The next issue of L.E.A.D. will go out in August 2008!