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

I enjoy the students, the teachers, the books, and purchasing books. I enjoy being in the place in the school where staff and students can find what they need, whether it is a book, DVD, video, laptop, hammer, tape or a puppet for a special project.

Everything that leaves our library has a barcode on it. Even the scotch tape dispensers! We like to be a full service library, and the teachers know that whatever is in the library is theirs to use..............as long as they check it out!

I also enjoy being the “book fairy”. We have an account with an independent bookstore, so if a student or teacher visits the library and mentions that we “don’t have” something, I can order it immediately, and have a satisfied customer within days, instead of waiting for our larger book shipments. I want to give the students the feeling that if they want it............we’ll get it.

(continued on page 2)
(Kroenke cont.)

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

I love my job and the people I work with. It’s fun have people come to us with their requests. Also, I know that having the guidance counselor at our school in an adjoining office for many years shaped my character. He was the perfect role model to teach me that educators have “service” jobs. If the students and staff aren’t happy with the materials they find and the help they receive, then we aren’t happy either!

What one issue should future librarians be prepared to address?

While I use technology every day, the thing I like to do most is help students find books they like to read, and to encourage, and tempt, and prod, and bribe them to read the books I want them to read. I don’t want technology to crowd out “book time”, but I know that without technology, we would not be able to serve our patrons as efficiently as we do. There are so many exciting library things to do, both with books and technology, there’s just not enough time.

Can you share with us an instance of successful collaboration?

In our building, we do not have formal meetings to set up a collaborative lesson plan. What happens is that a teacher will come in, tell us a project they’re working on, and we’ll match our materials with their plan, or we’ll do a short lesson with their group, reviewing library skills they will need for the specific project, e.g. online databases, the automated catalog, etc. We try to support them in any way that we can.

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

During the school year, I try to read the new books that come in to the library. My favorite is historical fiction, but I try to read all genres so I can recommend books to all kinds of readers. I especially try to read books that I “don’t” think I’ll like, hoping to prove myself wrong. Students will always check out a book if it’s recommended by me, or another staff member, so I try to read as many books from our collection as I can.

Thank you, Shirley, for sharing your professional insights!

Shirley Kroenke, Schuyler Grade School
What is your education / library/professional background?
I was homeschooled through my sophomore year of high school and then attended classes at both Dordt College and Northwest Iowa Community College for my junior and senior year. Now I am pursuing my B.A. in Library Science at UNO.

What is on your reading list? What are your favorites? Your recommended? Your want to read lists?
Manga! Let’s hear it for Japanese comics! Some of my favorite series are Naruto, Rurouni Kenshin, and Fruits Basket. Otherwise, I enjoy pretty much anything in the fantasy and science fiction genres. I loved The Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, Howl’s Moving Castle... my list of favorites goes on and on. Sadly, I’m not reading anything other than textbooks right now, but someday I would like to read Leo Tolstoy’s War and Peace, just to say I have.

What professional journal or article have you read and would recommend? Why?
The only time I ever actually read any of those is when they’re classroom assignments, and then it’s whatever I scrounge up on EBSCO.

What do you do in your “down time”? Do you have any hobbies? How do you relax?
I absolutely love riding and working with my horses Midnight and Aerith Gainsborough. They’re my babies and I love spoiling them! Other than that, I enjoy reading, anime, video games, jogging, canoeing, and practical jokes involving dead raccoons.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?
I don’t have any! Honest! Oh ok, I have a huge crush on Cloud Strife from the video game Final Fantasy VII.

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 maybe my willingness to try new things.

What advice do you have for other students who are currently enrolled in Library Science studies?
Keep reading, what a job we have! We can spend time reading our whole life and get paid for it! Also, be willing to think outside the box.

(continued on page 4)
(Kooima cont.)

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

Hmm, probably technology. This is the age of computers and it seems like there’s new technology every day. We’ll need to keep up to date with everything in order to help our patrons. Oh well, it should be fun!

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

I’ve honestly never thought about it before, so I don’t really know. But I do know I’d like to be a “cool” librarian, not one of those cranky, old “shushers.”

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

Jeanie Kooima with Aerith on her family farm in Sioux County, Iowa.
Announcements:
Scholarships, Registration, Comprehensive Exams, Graduation

Scholarship Opportunities:

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://schoollibrariesrock.org/

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: http://www.al.org/Template.cfm?Section=scholarships

Registration Deadlines

Selective Retention must be submitted and approved before students can register for comprehensive exams. Please make not of the following registration deadlines.

Elementary Education Majors: The registration deadline is January 15th for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Spring 2010 semester. Elementary Education graduates must attend the Comprehensive Exam meeting on January 25.

Reading Majors: The registration deadline is January 15th for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Spring 2010 semester. Reading graduates must attend a mid-January Comprehensive Exam meeting. Call Joyce Jones @ 554-2212 for exact date of meeting.

Secondary Education Majors: The registration deadline is January 22nd for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Spring 2010 semester. The Secondary Exam will be given on March 6th in Kayser Hall.

To register, contact Joyce Jones in the Department of Teacher Education.
Phone: 402-554-2212 or 1-800-858-8648, ext. 2212
Email: jpjones@unomaha.edu

Graduation:

2010 Spring 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 March 5th for students planning to graduate during the Spring 2010 semester. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 7, 2010 at 2:00 at the Civic Auditorium. (Graduation information is subject to change).

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.

An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

Benjamin Franklin
US author, diplomat, inventor, physicist, politician, & printer. (1706-1790)
Upcoming Conferences, Professional Development and more!

NETA 2010 Annual Conference

The Nebraska Technology Association will be holding its annual conference April 29 and 30th, 2010 at La Vista Embassy Suites and Conference Center. This year’s theme is “Creative Journeys to Learning.” For complete conference and registration information go to http://www.netasite.org/conf2010/registration.html.

Heartland School Library Conference

Don’t miss the 2010 Heartland School Library Conference, June 14-15, 2010, held at the W.H. Thompson Alumni Center, UNO. Registration form can be found on the last page of this newsletter. Space is limited so send in your registration right away. Hope to see you there!

Responding to the AASL Conference

AASL held its national conference November 5-8. Library Media students, Shanda Hall, Alyx Knight, and Deanna Reilly had the privilege of attending. Here are a few pictures and comments from these lucky ladies.

Shanda Hall, Library Media graduate student and 5th grade teacher at Schuyler Grade School comments: It was awesome to experience the professionalism that abounded in Charlotte. I walked away with idea after idea of how to market library programs, make the library a place teens want to be, and how to be a better teacher overall. Collaboration and being on the edge of technological advance was discussed over and over. It was just amazing to constantly walk down an aisle of the

(continued on page 6)
conference center and see authors like Laura Halse Anderson, James Patterson, and Richard Peck. The opportunity to meet, talk with, and shake hands with illustrators of various graphic novels was a highlight! Connections made with media specialists from all over the country will certainly be an asset when I am in my own library! The sheer friendliness of the people I traveled with and met made the trip worth it! The advanced readers copies of books were a bonus and freebies, freebies, freebies! My most sincere thanks to Dr. Pasco, and my travel buddies, Deanna Reilly and Alyx Knight, for the experiences in Charlotte! I can't wait for Minneapolis in 2011!

Alyx Knight: Library Media graduate student and teacher librarian at Lincoln Southwest High School comments: My two winners on the Rev Up Learning track: (1) learning more best practices ideas as related to our 21st century standards and (2) addressing student test deficits using data-driven collaboration. In lane one: the MILE (Milestones for Improving Learning in Education) Guide exemplifies how teacher-librarians lead the way for better instruction, better questioning and better research. In lane two, Toni Buzzeo (author and library media specialist) puts us behind the wheel of a turbo engine with the attitude that we must be the first or second recipient of the data in order to create independent thinkers in our schools. She challenges us to examine our role in schools, to analyze the test data relevant to the project or assignments and to ask the questions at the beginning of this process. Her race begins with data-driven collaboration. So I plan to rev up my students’ learning with these two winners. Slow but sure wins the race!
2010 Heartland School Library Conference

HEARTLAND
School Library
conference

2010

June
14-15
W.H. Thompson Alumni Center
University of Nebraska at Omaha

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Cassandra Barnett
President-Elect
American Association of School Librarians (AASL)

Pam Berger
Publisher and Editor of Information Searcher
& Author of Internet for Active Learners (ALA Editions)

Brought to you by the UNO College of Education School Library Media Programs
in partnership with the Nebraska Educational Media Association and the University of Nebraska - Kearney Library Media Program

Questions should be directed to
Dr. Becky Pasco, UNO School Library Media Program Coordinator, 402-554-2119 or 1-800-858-8648 x2119, rpasco@unomaha.edu

2010 Heartland School Library Conference

First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________

School District: ___________________________ Mailing Address: ___________________________

Phone Number: ___________________________ E-Mail Address: ___________________________

Registration Fee: $50
Registration fee is the same for 1 or 2-day attendance.
NO on-site registration. Lunch & dinner on your own.
Checks and Purchase Orders accepted. NO cash or credit cards accepted.

Make checks payable to: University of Nebraska at Omaha

Mail Registration Form & Payment by May 1, 2010, to:

Deanna Reilly, College of Education, 534 Kayser Hall, UNO, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182-0163

Check if you would like more information about how to get graduate credit through attendance at conference and related activities.