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Library Education and Development Newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 1

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:

Melissa Lightle

*School Librarian
Fire Ridge Elementary School
Elkhorn Public Schools*

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

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I get to work with my two favorite things every day – computers and books! I love being able to read to the younger students and then turn around and teach the older students how to use a complex piece of software. Reading funny books or a story that makes students think about life in a new way is especially rewarding. Kids love to laugh and hearing them laugh makes me happy! I love reading the classics to kids to expose them to the great messages present in the books that I grew up reading. Yet, I enjoy sharing the new books and learning about new authors and illustrators. In the computer lab, students today are so tech-savvy that it is fun to teach and work with them on a new project. They love to investigate all the different aspects of a piece of software. I love the creativity that

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(Lightle cont.)

technology allows us to explore. Kids can do research and then present their information in a new format that makes learning so enjoyable.

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

I think that flexibility and being able to think outside the box have helped me manage my position as an Information Professional. The most important thing I've learned over the years is that things rarely go as planned! I have to be ready at a moment's notice to change or modify a lesson or even checkout books with a pencil and piece of paper! I also think that having a sense of humor is important. It makes teaching so much better!

What one issue should future librarians be prepared to address?

Information overload! There are so many sources of information available for students today. We have an overwhelming number of webpages added to the Internet each day, online reference materials, and print resources for research. It is hard for teachers and students to sort through all the sources and know what is the VERY best resource. Kids can waste so much time searching for information. I think librarians and teachers will definitely have to educate students more on strategies for searching for information and how to determine if a source is a good one.

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

Collaboration is important and comes about in many different ways. It is difficult to find time to collaborate with every classroom teacher in the school. Sometimes collaboration can be an exchange of emails, a walk together down the hallway, or a quick conversation during lunch. The most successful collaboration I've had with a group was for a 5th grade research report. I felt like the collaboration allowed us to play upon our strengths as teachers and become much more effective. I also try to plan lessons based on units that teachers are covering in the classroom. The teachers share their pacing guides with me and we try to do computer activities or read books that match those lessons. So far, it has worked really well!!

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

I love young adult novels! My favorites are the Harry Potter series and The Hunger Games trilogy. When I was working on my master's degree and endorsement in library media, I fell in love with young adult books. I often think they are more well written than even adult books since sometimes teens are the world's toughest audience. I do spend most of my time during the summer reading new books that I've purchased for my library so that I can talk about them with students. I think it is important to know what kids are reading and be able to discuss those books with

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(Lightle cont.)

them. They feel a stronger connection to me and feel like they can trust me to find them good books. My goal is to read at least one new library book each week to discuss with kids. I like to browse the classrooms and see what books are sitting on the desks. This lets me know what kids are interested in as well. Most of all, I love engaging students in conversations about books! Sometimes I'll see a student in the hallway and he or she will instantly start talking about books! It is a good feeling!

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”

Martin Luther King, Jr. (American Baptist Minister and Civil Rights Leader, 1929-1968)



Melissa Lightle, Fire Ridge Elementary School

Student Spotlight: Jessica Kros ***Library Science Undergraduate Student***

What is your education / library/experience background?

I am currently working on my undergraduate degree for Secondary Education and my endorsements are English, History, and Library Media.

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

Over the summer I read a lot of young adult literature, such as, John Green, Sarah Dessen, and Suzanne Collins. After taking Dr. Pasco's Young Adult Literature class, I find myself wondering up and down the aisles of the Teen section in Barnes & Noble more and more. I think everyone should read *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt and *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. Two fabulous books!

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

I love any article from VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates). Teens are my favorite students to work with and I love that this publication really focuses on their age group.

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

Well, I do not have a lot of down time, but I do enjoy taking my dog for walks in the mornings and going to yoga classes. I also

love traveling during breaks from school, even though I still have a fear of flying.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I still wear my retainer every night.

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

More than anything I want kids to feel special. I want my future library to be a welcoming environment to all students and I want them to explore. I hope to give students the tools to really discover new ideas and concepts.

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

I would tell current library students to really make the most of class. It is so important to engage in class and the in-class discussions. Also, do one cataloging problem at a time, and DO NOT wait till the night before an assignment is due to start your cataloging homework!

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(Kros cont.)

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

I think one challenge for future Library Information Specialists would be to reach out to the teachers in their school and coordinate more classes to use the library resources. I think so many teachers are so wrapped up and busy they should make time to use the library and its resources more and more.

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

I hope my legacy in this profession will be encouraging students to read for fun. I believe reading is a lifelong skill that everyone should have, and if I can get one reluctant reader to get excited about reading and books, then I feel like I have made a difference.

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

"We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures that we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open."

Jawaharla Nehru, Indian Prime Minister, 1889-1964.



Jessica Kros adventuring in Copenhagen, Denmark.

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/scholarships.html>

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.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=scholarships>

Elementary Education, 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.

Fall 2010:

Elementary Education Majors: The registration deadline is **Sept. 10th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the **Fall 2010** semester. **Elementary Education graduates** must attend the **Comprehensive Exam meeting** on **Sept. 20th**. Approximate due date, **October 25th**.

Comprehensive Exams (cont.):

Reading Majors: The registration deadline is **Sept. 10th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the **Fall 2010** semester. **Reading graduates** are encouraged to attend a **Comprehensive Exam meeting** on **Sept. 13th**. Approximate due date, **October 25th**.

Secondary Education Majors: The registration deadline is **Sept. 24th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the **Fall 2010** semester. The **Secondary Exam** will be given on **October 23rd** in Kayser Hall.

Spring 2011:

Elementary Education Majors: The registration deadline is **January 14th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the **Spring 2011** semester. **Elementary Education graduates** must attend the **Comprehensive Exam meeting** on **January 24th at 7pm**. Approximate due date, **March 7th**.

Reading Majors: The registration deadline is **January 14th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the **Spring 2011** semester. **Reading graduates** must attend a **Comprehensive Exam meeting mid-January**. Approximate due date, **March 7th**.

Secondary Education Majors: The registration deadline is **January 21st** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the **Spring 2011** semester. The **Secondary Exam** will be given on **March 5th** 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: jjones@unomaha.edu

Graduation:

2010 Fall Graduation

You must complete an Application for Degree during the semester in which you plan to graduate. Log into mavlink and fill out the application on or before the deadline for that Graduation Ceremony. The deadline is **October 15th** for students planning to graduate during the **Fall 2010** semester. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for **December 18th, 2010 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.

Upcoming Conferences, Professional Development and More!

Nebraska Libraries
CELEBRATING THE PAST / CREATING THE FUTURE

2010 NLA/NEMA Fall Conference

Don't miss this year's NLA/NEMA conference, being held October 13 – 15 in Grand Island. The activities kick off with three pre-conferences on Wednesday with something for all interests and schedules. Wednesday night is an evening at the Grand Island Public Library with international ecologist, composer and concert pianist **Dr. Karine Gil**. Thursday and Friday are two full days of engaging conference sessions, including poster sessions, round-tables, and seminars. You won't want to miss our Exhibitor areas, which have already sold-out with over 50 exhibitors bringing you the latest information, materials, and services. Bring your game on for Thursday night, when ITART and the Nebraska Library Commission are sponsoring an open Gaming Night! Friday's keynote speakers are two of the original Freedom Writers.

Maria Reyes and Sharaud Moore will be speaking on the Freedom Writers and their experiences. Their keynote will be followed by a breakout session and book signing. Because of our size, the conference will be held at both the **Midtown Holiday Inn** and **Riverside Howard Johnson**.

The conference will be providing transportation between both sites and to the Wednesday night events. Link here for registration information.

<http://nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2010/registration/>

Library Science undergraduates, Callie Kallsen and Liz Ingwersen, reorganize the library at Girls Inc.



Librarians enjoy Heartland 2010 School Library Conference June 14 & 15.

Cassandra Barnett, President-Elect, AASL, shares her wisdom with school librarians at the Heartland Library Conference.



Nearly 200 school librarians attended HLC.



Pam Berger, signing her book, *Internet for Active Learners* during HLC.



Things To Consider:

Top 10 Sports Books for Youth: 2010.

Chipman, Ian (author).

FEATURE. First published [September 1, 2010 \(Booklist\)](#).

Although it may seem odd to have a novel about contract bridge on our list of the best youth sports books reviewed in the past 12 months in *Booklist*, we consider all recreational pursuits to be eligible, not just those that require, you know, running.

[Black Jack: The Ballad of Jack Johnson.](#) By Charles R. Smith. Illus. by Shane W. Evans. 2010. Roaring Brook/Neal Porter, \$16.99 (9781596434738). Gr. 1–3.

Rat-a-tat verse and swaggering artwork bring the provocative boxer to life in this picture-book biography, telling how the son of former slaves became the first black heavyweight champion of the world.

[Breathless.](#) By Jessica Warman. 2009. Walker, \$16.99 (9780802798497). Gr. 9–12.

Dedicated swimmer Katie only feels truly comfortable in the water, and the intensity of her boarding school's swim team helps her deal with a litany of family problems and develop a sense of self.

[The Cardturner.](#) By Louis Sachar. 2010. Delacorte, \$17.99 (9780385736626). Gr. 9–12.

The great (and perhaps only) contract bridge novel for teens treats the card game like an endlessly fascinating mental puzzle as Alton becomes his blind uncle's helper at the table.

[Clemente!](#) By Willie Perdomo. Illus. by Bryan Collier. 2010. Holt, \$16.99 (9780805082241). Gr. 1–3.

This picture-book biography illuminates Roberto Clemente's remarkable achievements both on and off the field through the prism of a father passing on fandom to his son.

[Goal! The Fire and Fury of Soccer's Greatest Moment.](#) By Mark Stewart and Mike Kennedy. 2010. illus. Millbrook, \$27.93 (9780822587545). Gr. 5–8.

The perfect choice to cash in on the excitement of the 2010 World Cup, this book explores the nuances of scoring in the most popular sport on earth.

[Henry Aaron's Dream.](#) By Matt Tavares. Illus. by the author. 2010. Candlewick, \$16.99 (9780763632243). Gr. 2–4.

Chronicling Aaron's childhood and early career, shadowed by the ever-present specter of racism, this picture book is a tribute to the man's steady perseverance, outstanding play, and lasting legacy.

[Homestretch.](#) By Paul Volponi. 2009. Atheneum, \$16.99 (9781416939870). Gr. 7–10.

After his mother is killed in a car accident, Gaston finds a job at a horse track. Volponi captures the all-consuming thrill of racing as well as the behind-the-scenes details in plotlines about cultural prejudices and tough ethical choices.

[No Easy Way: The Story of Ted Williams and the Last .400 Season.](#) By Fred Bowen. Illus. by Charles S. Pyle. 2010. Dutton, \$16.99 (9780525478775). Gr. 1–3.

Unlike many decades-old baseball stories, Williams' remarkable 1941 season hasn't lost its appeal over the years, and Bowen makes the most of it in this dramatic picture book.

[Shapes in Sports.](#) By Rebecca Rissman. 2009. illus. Heinemann, lib. ed., \$21.50 (9781432921705). PreS–Gr. 1.

This book in the Spot the Shape series introduces young children to the myriad geometric shapes and patterns found in all corners of the sports they love.

[The Story of the Chicago Bears.](#) By Nate LeBoutillier. 2009. illus. Creative Education, lib. ed., \$22.95 (9781583417508). Gr. 5–8.

Providing a clear sense of the team's continuity through the years, not to mention plenty of crisp, electrifying photos, this entry in the NFL Today series stands well above the typical franchise profile.

Chipman, I. (2010, September 1). Top 10 sports books for youth: 2010. Booklist. Retrieved from <http://booklistonline.com/ProductInfo.aspx?pid=4367193>