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Mark your calendars!!!
Spring 2013 Enrollment

Spring schedule will be available via MavLink on October 8th!

Spring 2013 Enrollment Dates:
10-29-12 Graduate students currently enrolled
10-31-12 SR
11-02-12 JR
11-06-12 SO
11-08-12 FR
11-12-12 Open

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Follow UNO Library Education Programs on your social networks:
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https://pinterest.com/unolibraryed
In your capacity as a professional librarian, what aspects of your job bring you the most joy?

Helping students and helping teachers brings me the most joy. I love helping students select a book they will enjoy, find the information they need, or learn to use a new piece of technology. In my current position, I have the opportunity to guide teachers as they embed technology in their instruction. I love coming alongside teachers to do anything I can to make their teaching easier and effective.

Please discuss one personal characteristic that you feel has contributed to your success as a School Librarian?

I think flexibility and thinking outside the box go hand in hand, and these two characteristics really help me succeed in my role as a school librarian. Each day brings new challenges and problems to solve. In my current role, I am the librarian as well as the technology teacher leader. When planning with teachers, we have to be flexible with our schedule and think outside the box to plan learning activities, teach content, information literacy skills, and embed technology into instruction. It is easy to become overwhelmed, but if I remain flexible and think outside the box just a little bit, things not only work, but often go quite well.

The AASL Standards for the 21st 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.

Last year, in my role as a middle school librarian, the 7th grade English teachers and I planned a unit where the students researched a Greek god or goddess and then created a comic in Comic Life depicting what it would be like if the god or goddess attended our school. The assignment required the students to move beyond the knowledge level of learning and create something new with their knowledge. The AASL standards emphasize critical thinking and creativity and this activity involved both of these skills. It was a fun way to end the school year.

Please share a favorite book you have read recently.

I just finished reading The Fault in Our Stars by John Green. Some books will really resonate with me and some will cause some major cognitive dissonance. The Fault in

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Our Stars did the latter mainly because the beliefs portrayed are so far from my own, and that depressed me, but it made me think about others and the way they see the world. It was a worthy read.

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

I am rediscovering the wealth of resources on Teachingbooks.net. Whenever I need to find some discussion questions, author information, or a video/audio reading of a book, Teachingbooks.net always directs me to something good.

Thank you, Joy, for sharing your professional insights!

“The greatest gift is a passion for reading.”
-Elizabeth Hardwick

Joy Harvey and her son, Jaxon
Student Spotlight: Erin Solheim
University of Nebraska at Omaha Undergraduate Student

What is your education/library/experience background?

I've been working in libraries since I was 16. I used to volunteer at the local public library because it's where I felt most at home. It wasn't until I reached high school, however, that I realized I never wanted to leave! Since then, I've worked in two different positions at public libraries, three positions at academic libraries, and (pending my degree completion) hope to set foot in a school library. That means I'll have experience in all types of libraries by the time I turn 25 which, you've got to admit, is quite an accomplishment.

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

Currently I've been reading a lot of teaching-related books. Learning how to get my students to love writing and understanding how their adolescent minds work is interesting to me, so even when I have "free time" I'm still drawn to those kinds of books. "Creating Authentic Voice" by Tom Romano is a favorite. Other than that, I watch a lot of TED Talks and get my reading list from the inspiring stories of the authors featured there. "Being Wrong" by Kathryn Schultz is something I picked up recently and really learned a lot from; I definitely recommend her work. As for my to-read list? It's growing by the thousands which makes me very thankful for tools like Goodreads to help me organize everything!

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

I try my best to stay up-to-date with professional work, but I'll admit that it's not exactly the topping of the cake for the young college student. School Library Journal is, of course, a must read. However, I recently stumbled across a NY Times educationally-centered blog, http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/, that

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has helped me tremendously as I begin to create lesson and unit plans for the first time.

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

This semester I’m taking a few less credit hours than I normally would and I’m grateful for the reprieve; it's important that us busy librarians do schedule some time for ourselves however we can. And I fill that time by watercoloring. It's something I picked up at one of my past jobs, interestingly enough. And I may not be the world’s best artist, but it's something I can enjoy time and again. I'm thankful to the people who've encouraged me in this small way.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

This question stumps me, I'll be honest. How about this: I detest corn. I know that growing up in the Cornhusker nation supposedly should make me amiable towards the vegetable, but I just can't stand it! It's gross. ;)

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

I know how to forgive. I know that sounds rather random, somewhat unconnected topic-wise, but I can assure you I mean what I say. I've had a number of people do me wrong, personally and in a professional setting. I think this happens to everyone sometime or another. But I know it's never intentional and I'm ready to admit when I make a mistake, too. I think that when we're more accepting of the actions of others (and of ourselves) we are making connections that can weather the harshest of storms. That is the most important thing to me and I hope those that are leading the 21st century can agree.

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

Meet everyone you can; now is the time to network! All my life I've wondered when I'd finally be surrounded with people like myself. That day is here. And, sure, I may be somewhat younger, but I don't think that should hold anyone back. Your age doesn't define who you are! So go succeed, however you can, wherever you can. And how can you succeed best? By networking.

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

I'm hoping our role in media and online literacy will remind mayors and principals and CEOs that we're important and indispensable educators. No matter our setting, we make sure that people are handed top-of-the-line research materials. We show others how to navigate the harsh terrain of finding Truth. Creating and maintaining advocacy, then, will be our top priority, I think, in the future.
What do you think will be your legacy in this profession?

Compassion. The first and best step in good customer service is understanding the patron. The patron is always #1. And if I were to look back in 20 or 30 years and critique myself, I'd hope I leave this as the most enduring impression.

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

“Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.” -- Apple Inc.
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 NSLA.

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 NLA website.

Nebraska Library Commission

The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to announce the third cycle of its 21st Century Librarian Scholarship program for Nebraska residents. Scholarships may be used for coursework (coursework contributing toward a certificate or degree), course-required materials and school-assessed fees.

Online applications are due November 1 (some documentation due October 22nd).

See http://nlc1.nlcc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/scholarships.asp 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: pjones@unomaha.edu

Selective Retention forms must be submitted and approved before students can register for comprehensive exams. Please make note of the following registration deadlines.

Comprehensive Exam Deadlines

Secondary Education Literacy Candidates: The registration deadline was September 10th for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Fall 2012 semester. A review session will be held Monday, October 8th.

Elementary Education Capstone

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

AASL Advocacy Tip of the Day

#354 Opt-in to SmartBrief, an aggregated news source on literacy in education made available to AASL members through a collaboration with NCLE. www.smartbrief.com/ncle

For more AASL Advocacy tips sign up here.
Upcoming Conferences, Professional Development and More!

Metropolitan English Teacher Link
4th Annual Conference

Saturday, November 3, 2012
Keynote speaker: Marcia Tate
Registration form due: Friday, October 12

Metropolitan Reading Council Proudly
Presents....
Falling into the Future of Literacy: Making a Difference for all Children
- Saturday, October 13th at UNO (Roskens Hall)
- Keynote Speaker: Tricia Parker (Director of Reading/Language Arts for NE Dept. of Education)
A special thanks to Allana Novotny, from the Nebraska Library Commission, for her insight and expertise into the extensive resources available through the Nebraska Library Commission website.
Good IDEAS!
Innovation, Design, Experiences, Activities, Synergy

Mind Mapping Sites: The 21st Century Graphic Organizer

Graphic organizers increase student learning and comprehension for students of all ages and across all content areas. If you have used Inspiration software before, you know how powerful it is for students to create their own organizers, story maps, timelines, etc. Unfortunately, Inspiration software is not free. This is why these free mind mapping web tools come in handy. Below I’ve listed some of my favorite mind mapping sites for you to check out. Happy Mapping!

www.mindmeister.com
- Add notes, links, files to “mind maps”
- Share and collaborate with others
- Chat in real time with collaborators while you are creating
- Printer friendly
- Export as Word, PowerPoint, PDF
- iPad, iPhone, Android apps available
- View the history of changes (good for assessing who has contributed in group projects
- Free, paid plan with more options available

www.popplet.com
- Add notes, images, youtube videos, and Google maps
- Share and collaborate with others
- Printer friendly
- Export as Pdf or Jpeg
- iPad and iPhone apps
- Name tags on each “popple” appear to track who is contributing (this can be turned off)
- Free, paid plan with more options available

bubbl.us
- Simply add bubbles and connect
- Share and collaborate with others
- Printer friendly
- Export as Jpeg or Png format
- Can embed into websites
- Completely free

Click here to see a concept map of these sites http://popplet.com/app/#/454703

Wendy Grojean
IDEAS Room Coordinator
UNO College of Education
402-554-3653
wgrojean@unomaha.edu
The DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Omaha
7270 Cedar St, Omaha, NE 68124

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

The UNO rate of $99.00 includes High Speed Internet Access and a Hot Breakfast Buffet.


DoubleTree by Hilton is the hotel that turns travel into a human experience again. It all starts with a warm chocolate chip cookie, a small touch of our warmth and care for each guest; we provide genuine comfort with our Sweet Dreams sleep experience and highly-experienced staff who are dedicated to helping your stay be the very best.

Complimentary shuttle service is provided within a 5 mile radius including UNO.
Talking Comics
Starting your Graphic Novel Book Club
By Jack Baur and Jessica Lee

Comix Club: The Origin Story
Combine a new public librarian with a love for comics and a more experienced school librarian with a passion for programming. Add a few kids, some free comic books, and in an instant the popular Comix Club was born! Three years ago, Jack Baur was a brand new teen librarian at Berkeley Public Library, on his first trip into the perilous world of middle school outreach. On this voyage he met Jessica Lee, the teacher librarian at Willard Middle School, who was looking for a new program to bring to her students. Although Jessica was disappointed to learn that Jack couldn't knit, crochet, or craft, what he did have was a boundless passion for comic books. The two banded together, forming a new dynamic duo dedicated to bringing the love of reading to students throughout Berkeley and beyond! Together, we have been coordinating the Comix Club for the last three years. This graphic novel discussion group meets weekly during lunch at the Willard Middle School library, and has attracted a large, diverse, and dedicated group of attendees. Every week, members of the club get to take home a new graphic novel, which is then discussed at the following meeting. Discussion questions are handed out with the books, giving the kids something to think about as they are reading and helping to provide some structure to the often freewheeling conversations. Giving the questions to students in advance of the discussion can also offer a bit of context for some of the trickier parts of the stories.

Why Graphic Novels?
Since our Comix Club meets during lunch as a supplemental program, there are no requirements about the material matching curricular standards. We are free to select any books that kids will enjoy. Because graphic novels are generally quick reads, students have no trouble finishing a book in time for the next discussion, unlike our experience with traditional book clubs. We are able to meet weekly to discuss a different book, keeping the club both consistent and fresh. Our drop-out rate is incredibly low! Thanks to the support of the images in graphic novels, a wide range of readers is able to follow the stories and therefore engage in our discussions. Participants in the group have included students with dyslexia, reluctant readers, new English speakers, and children on the autism spectrum, as well as highly gifted students. This is not to imply that comics are easy reading. Rather, graphic novels use language differently, providing dense dialogue with few filler words. The fact that graphic novels pair text and image can both help students by providing an extra visual framework for the text, and challenge students with complicated page layouts and by exploiting the tension between what is being said and what is being shown. Most importantly, graphic novels engage the students' minds. Readers get caught up in the story, develop sympathy for the characters, marvel at the settings, wrestle with the themes, and generally relate to them as they would any novel in a literature class—but without a lot of the prodding! Many of our discussion questions are modeled on the basic literary response model of making connections between the text and personal experience or previous reading.

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Getting Started
Our club was started with a grant from the California Center for the Book, which offers a free loan of their “Book Club in a Box” materials to California librarians (info can be found at http://calbook.org/bcb.html). Their “Comix.@$#!” set provided us with ten copies of ten titles, giving us ten weeks of programming. We hadn’t intended to carry on beyond that, but the immediate popularity sent us scrambling to figure out how to expand to a year-long program. Initially, we turned to our respective library systems. By mining the collections at both the Berkeley Public Library and the Berkeley Unified School District, we were able to cobble together enough copies of more popular books to keep our club happy for a little while. Librarians who are just starting a comic book club or who want to inject some graphic novels into their existing book club but are put off by the steep expense of developing a collection may want to try this tactic. For our readers, however, it was clear this was not going to be enough.

Building our Collection
To build our own graphic novel book club collection, we turned to DonorsChoose.org, a crowd-funding organization for schools. In our experience, proposals that are put in at the end of the calendar year (when big corporate donors are thinking a lot about their charitable giving) will have a good chance at getting funded if you can grow enough local support in your school or library community. Through DonorsChoose.org, we have received ten copies each of fifteen graphic novel titles—a huge help for our burgeoning club! This points out one of the advantages of collaboration between a school and public library system. By working together, one of us can apply for grants for which the other may not qualify. We have also been able to use the resources of our own systems to purchase books—funds set aside for outreach or programming in the public libraries and PTA grants through the schools. Over the years, what began as a ten-week program has grown to cover an entire school year. The collection that we have developed is very much viewed as a shared resource. In addition to helping run the club at Willard, Jack has been able to use books from the collection in book clubs at other schools—both within and outside the district—and at the public library. Reaching dozens of teens. Currently, the graphic novel discussion group travels back and forth between two school libraries so that every seventh and eighth grader in both schools gets a chance to interact with librarians over some incredible books.

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

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