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MELANIE FEYERHERM WINS YALSA GRANT

Mizzou graduate student and teen librarian Melanie Feyerherm decided to give grant-writing a try last fall, and because of her efforts, she and her teens at the Baright Public Library in Ralston were awarded $1000 in YALSA grant money. Feyerherm said that she had often thought about writing grants for her teen patrons, but she thought the chances of winning were slim, or that she wouldn’t have enough time to put her grant application together.

“When I saw this grant and saw that the requirements weren’t too strenuous, I thought I’d give it a go. The grant fit with a lot of things that I’ve been wanting to provide for Ralston teens, but haven’t been able to because of our limited resources,” she said.

Feyerherm strengthened her grant application by including some of the 40 Developmental Assets for Adolescents in her application and involving teens in the decision-making process when it came to grant-funded materials and activities. She said that much of the money will go to new books for the young adult collection.

“My proposal for this grant was that our two teen book clubs and teen advisory board will provide input on how to spend the bulk of the money. Each group will give me up to 15 suggestions of fiction, graphic novel and non-fiction books we should add to our collection through book reviews and an online suggestion form I created through Google Docs. The other part of the grant money will go toward updating our classic YA literature that have outdated covers."

Feyerherm said that if she could give advice to other first-time grant applicants, it would be this:

“1. Meet all the criteria. The web site listed the criteria that judges would be using, so I made sure that the application clearly met everything they were looking for and followed all the instructions provided.”

“2. Be incredibly detailed. I pulled statistics from our circulation reports to emphasize our need for newer materials in our non-fiction collection as well as what our numbers were for circulating our graphic novels and fiction collections. I also provided specific examples of books we’d like to update and the titles of books we’d like to add.”

“3. Edit, edit, edit. I can’t tell you how many times I read over it to make sure there were no spelling or grammatical errors (my undergrad is in journalism so it’s in my nature to make sure things are very well edited). I also had two friends look it over to make sure I wasn’t missing anything.”

Get the GRE taken as soon as possible so that your scores arrive in time (it takes 3-4 weeks for scores to arrive). The admission website advises that you get all your materials for admission sent to the school at least 10 days prior to the April 1 deadline.

To apply for graduate admission, visit https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=umc-grad and follow the instructions carefully.

For additional information about admission, registration, or the new deadline, please contact Dr. Pasco at rpasco@mail.unomaha.edu.

NEW APRIL 1 MU ADMISSIONS DEADLINE

The deadline for the admission applications to the Missouri MLS program has been changed! The new date for those applying to the program for a Fall 2011 semester admission is April 1, 2011.

This is a change from the May 1 date that has been in place for several years. The new date allows faculty to make decisions in time for summer enrollments.

Mark your calendars with this new date! Alert those writing recommendation letters of the new date so your letters arrive in time for consideration.

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TOUGH TIMES AT WORK: ADVICE FOR A BETTER CAREER


Are you having a tough time in your career? Have you been laid off and are still looking for work? Are you overworked, stressed, and tired in your present position, and unable to visualize a solution?

Sometimes we believe it is the economy's sole fault that we are having such a difficult and frustrating time. And, we have a long list of evidence to prove our beliefs. People around us are getting laid off or can't find a job. Every day another upsetting story appears that reinforces our fear. We worry about our future, and wonder what will happen to us. Each day we get more and more discouraged. And, many of you have given up.

Here's something to think about: If you believe that a disappointing career is the best you can expect, it will become your reality (and your future.) Your career gets better when you make it better. It may not be easy, and you will have to overcome your fear of the unknown, but it is possible to get what you want in your career despite what is happening around you. So, how can you get what you want in your career?

1. Stop Talking About What Happened (Or, What Is Happening). Are you unable to forget the day you were laid off? Are you still upset about it? Are you still steaming inside? Yes, we all know what happened to you. (We've heard it a thousand times.) And, we understand and feel your pain. But the more you talk about the situation, the longer you will be stuck there.

2. Stop Believing You Are The Only One With Problems. No matter how dire your career may seem right now, there is someone worse off than you. What are you grateful for? Some people do not even have as much as you. Who can you help? Making a difference in other people’s lives is one of the reasons we are here on this planet. Helping others will keep your mind off your troubles and allow you to feel better about yourself.

3. Stop Over Thinking Everything. Our careers are not as complicated as we make them. Is there a career goal you want to reach? Make a plan and then execute it. What stands in the way of you doing something so straightforward? Fear, worry, and a need to make sure everything will work out first? Life is not about guarantees. You do the work first, and you receive the rewards second. It is not the other way around. It's always a good idea to consider your alternatives before making a decision, but over thinking and over analyzing before you take action, will keep you from reaching your goal.

4. Stop Making Excuses. Are you a busy person? Yes. Do life and responsibilities get in the way? If you let them. It's time to tell the truth. You do not have what you want in your career. You can say an outside force distracted you, or you have been trying hard and getting nowhere, but have these sentences gotten you any closer to your goal? Maybe you haven’t been ready to go after what you really want. Or, you need a new approach. Maybe you were not sure a certain direction was the one you wanted to take. Uncertainty is understandable. But uncertainly holds you back. Do not put faith in your excuses; take responsibility for creating them, so you can move forward instead.

5. Start Moving. At times you will not feel like sending out one more resume or making one more phone call. At times you will not feel like dealing with all the work and stress at your present position. Usually the one thing you do not feel like dealing with is what brings you the solution you are seeking. Nothing worthwhile is easy in the beginning. But over time, you will see results, if you start now.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SUCCESSFUL COLLEAGUES

Stephanie Viola has been promoted to acquisitions coordinator at UNO Criss Library.

Andrew Bouska is now a clerk at Council Bluffs Public Library.

Mindy Rush Chipman has opened her own general practice law office in Union, NE.

If you have been promoted or changed jobs recently, please let us know! E-mail Karen Pietsch at nemogradassistant@gmail.com.
What is your education/library/professional background?
BA in American Studies from Knox College; MA in Historical Administration from Eastern Illinois University (EIU); MLS from Emporia State University.

During my college years at Knox, I worked in the Knox College Archives, which turned me on to archives as a career. While in graduate school I worked for the Illinois Regional Archives Depository at EIU and had my graduate internship at the Museum of Radio and Television in New York. Although I was offered a job with that museum, the salary was not enough to live on, so the Midwest beckoned. Since 1979 I’ve worked at the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS), where I started as Manuscripts Curator. In 1990 I was named State Archivist and head of the Library/Archives Division.

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

Just finishing up The Beatles Chronicles. I’ve been reading a couple of biographies of Robert Taylor, the actor, for the annual film series that I oversee at NSHS. Next up is a film history volume focusing on the silent era.

What is on your professional reading list?
Journal of Illinois History – I still keep up with the history of my adopted state – and Nebraska History, the NSHS quarterly magazine. Archival Issues, the journal of the Midwest Archives Conference. Overall my professional reading list tends to lean toward historical works.

Name one of your personal or professional qualities that make you, or will make you, a leader in 21st century library and information centers.
Well, as a good friend of mine might say, I’m kind of “in the fourth quarter,” so I don’t know that I’ll be a leader in much of the current century. However, I guess that I’d say that the quality that has been a strength that I hold is the ability to understand the needs of our users and translate that into services that we can use new technologies to adopt. Currently we are working with Family Search to provide expanded databases of marriage records indexes in our collections.

What do you see as a key future trend or challenge in 21st Century libraries?
Money will always be an issue. As cultural institutions fight for survival in an environment where government funds are likely to decrease, this will be a continuing challenge.

What advice do you have for your fellow graduate students?
Get as much experience through internships and volunteer work as possible. Such experiences will likely set you apart from your competition.

Workshops are also good opportunities to advance your knowledge in related areas of study.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?
Well they wouldn’t be secrets then, would they?

Any Last Words?
You are likely to enter the work force as a bunch of us baby boomers retire, so keep up the good work!
W
What is your education/library/professional background?
My undergraduate degree is in Cinema from University of Iowa and am currently working at the Council Bluffs Public Library in circulation.

What is on your reading list? What are your favorites/your recommended/your want to read lists?
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot and Jane Eyre

What professional journal or article have you read and would recommend? Why?
Aside from articles I’m already reading for classes, I tend to look at blogs mostly, like the Librarian in Black. But I wouldn’t say there are any publications that I read with any constancy.

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 a natural curiosity helps when looking to implement new ideas.

What idea / experience / topic / speaker in your library science education journey has impacted your practice or thinking?
I’ve had several assignments (I think all for classes taught by Dr. Pasco) that involved interviewing librarians outside of class and those conversations have always stuck with me.

What advice do you have for your fellow graduate students?
If you’re not currently working in a library, volunteer!

What deep dark secret would you like to share?
That’s silly. Why would I share a secret?

Any Last Words?
That sounds foreboding.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ANDREW BOUSKA

Do you have a friend or colleague thinking about getting their MLS? Or would you like to ask a few questions about the curriculum and the Master’s program yourself? Join us on Saturday, March 5th at 12:00 PM on the second floor in UNO’s Criss Library for an information meeting and discussion about UNO/University of Missouri’s Masters in Library Science program.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Pasco at rpasco@mail.unomaha.edu.

NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE DAY

Please register to join your colleagues on the Nebraska Library Association’s Legislative Day.

The day will begin with refreshments and a visit with our senators, staff members and other librarians at 8:00 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts in Room 1126, State Capitol.

Don’t come alone: invite your senator, trustees and city officials too!

You will receive information on current legislation and library issues from Ken Winston, NLA’s lobbyist and receive an update from State Librarian Rod Wagner from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Lincoln Woman’s Club - 407 S. 14th.

Invite your senator to lunch at the Cornhusker Hotel from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The cost is $20 per person. Please make sure to escort your senator to the luncheon. If your senator is unable to attend, invite his/her legislative aide - they are important contacts in the lobbying process and you should get to know them.

There will be an afternoon tour session from 1:15-3:00 p.m. the State Library - the oldest library in Nebraska, followed by a tour of the capitol. Register online at https://web.memberclicks.com/me/quickForm/viewForm.do?orgId=nlia&formId=94488

Registrations must be received by: February 20, 2011.

Registrants will receive 4 hours of Continuing Education for attending NLA Legislative Day.
DON’T FORGET MIZZOU!

As Missouri students you are eligible to fill out the Missouri Application for Graduate Scholarships. By submitting a completed Application for Graduate Scholarships, you will be considered for over 100 scholarships available through the University of Missouri College of Education.

The 2011-2012 application will be available to download on November 1, 2010, and completed applications are due March 1, 2011. This is a great opportunity to fund your education, so don’t miss out!

For more information and to download the application form, visit: http://education.missouri.edu/academics/financial_aid/scholarships-graduate.php.

There is funding available for students pursuing library studies. Please take advantage of these opportunities. These scholarships are waiting to be snapped up by deserving students like you. Please make the decision to apply. Your educational journey is worthwhile, but it’s not free. Let NLC, NLA, and NEMA help!

For Nebraska Library Association Scholarships, visit: http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/scholarship.htm

For Nebraska Educational Media Association Scholarships, visit: http://www.schoollibrariesrock.org/scholarships.html for more information.

For Nebraska Library Commission Scholarships, visit: http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/Scholarships.asp

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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For Nebraska Library Commission Scholarships, visit: http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/Scholarships.asp

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://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/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.