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Library Education and Development Newsletter

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“Libraries represent the diversity and immensity of human thought, our collective knowledge laid out in rows of revealing inspiration.”

~Manuel Lima

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Advice from the Frontlines

Tammy Davis
Horizon High School
School Librarian
Millard Public Schools

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

As a librarian at an alternative/academy high school, I work with a very diverse student population with a wide range of personal needs and learning abilities. A joy I love to experience is helping a reluctant reader find a book to read and then come back telling me about the story, what they enjoyed, and wanting to check out another similar book.

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

I feel that I am very approachable, friendly, and always willing to help. My top strength is harmony. I enjoy collaborating with the Horizon teachers to find ways to engage our reluctant learners to be successful students. I have found that many teachers do not have time or even know what our school library can offer for their curriculum. Last school year, I planned a “Love your Library” event in February during a teacher workday to promote the Horizon library and how I could support their curriculum. It was very successful and I gained many new opportunities to collaborate with our staff. This school year I am currently planning a “Don’t be Scared of your Library!” event during our October teacher workday to promote new resources and reach out to our new staff members early in the school year.

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 school year, an action step within our school strategic plan called for incorporating more project based learning into the curriculum. A goal of the Literacy for Life curriculum is reading with fluency. The teacher wanted to help her students gain

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Please share a favorite book you have read recently.

This is a tough question because there are many great young adult books out there. I just finished reading *The Testing* by Joelle Charbonneau and can’t wait to start book two of this trilogy. This dystopian thriller will definitely appeal to Hunger Game fans. Cia Vale must complete and survive the Testing to prove to the United Commonwealth that she is worthy of being a student at the University. Another great dystopian book is *Stung* by Bethany Wiggins. Fiona awakes branded with a tattoo. Those bearing this mark turn into violent beasts. Fiona is somehow immune from the toxin, but is on the wrong side of the wall protecting the unbranded society. She must find a way to survive. Another favorite was *Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell. Rowell writes a great story about first love in a very realistic teenage setting.

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

I like to read The Unquiet Librarian. I started reading this blog when I began my journey to complete my library science endorsement through the UNO program. Buffy Hamilton has great ideas for the high school librarian. I have especially liked her recent post on pre-searching strategies to begin a research experience for secondary students.

practice by reading aloud children’s books because they are short. Most students can remember a favorite from their childhood. Together we came up with the idea of using I-movie as a way for students to be engaged while practicing their reading fluency without having to leave school grounds. She surveyed the students for their favorite childhood books and I checked the books out from elementary libraries in the district. The students practiced reading, then filmed each other, and edited an I-movie of themselves reading a favorite book showing only the pictures from the book as they read. I taught the students how to research their book’s author with the school databases, use proper citations, find copyright free images, and incorporate all this within their I-movie. Finally, they watched and reflected on their reading, filming and research skills. This collaborative activity was successful as it provided the students an engaging, nonthreatening way to practice reading fluency with an added bonus of using research skills.
Student Spotlight: Peg Gay
West Monona Community School District Librarian

What is your education / library/experience background?

I taught Earth, Life and Physical Science, Physics and Chemistry for the first 17 years of my teaching career. I started at Henderson Community School, then Fairbury Public School and now West Monona School District in Onawa, Iowa. It was at West Monona where I began my new profession, teacher-librarian. I took this position in the 2012-2013 school year and have not regretted my change, not once.

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

The next 2 books on my list to read are (recommended by my students) Prisoner B-3087 by Alan Gratz and Every Soul a Star by Wendy Mass. My favorite book of all time is Put Me in the Zoo by Robert Lopshire. I highly recommend Tom’s Tweet by Jill Esbaum, Saving Zasha by Randi Barrow, Wonder by A. J. Palacio, The Fault in Our Stars by John Green and Shackleton’s Way by Margot Morrell and Stephanie Capparell.

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

School Library Journal. I would recommend this to every school librarian because they have more time and collective knowledge for helping us to keep abreast of the best books, new curriculum ideas and changes in our profession.

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

A life in the Loess Hills on a small acreage is my down time, my relaxation. I enjoy spending time with family, gardening and swimming with my grandchildren. It goes without saying I also love to read.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I have 2 deep dark secrets, the first is more of a fear. I fear I do not have enough life left to read all the books I have on my list.

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now.

The second secret, I am on a mission to provide my grandchildren with enough books they will be able to open their own library when they grow up. I give them books for every occasion I can dream up, like the first Tuesday after their birthday. I do get creative.

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

I am not afraid to try new things, I think and live outside the box and I want to redesign my school library to appeal to every single student.

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

Never set out on any assignment to answer the questions or complete the task assigned just for the instructor. First look at the assignment and ask yourself how this would look or fit into your library. How would you use the task to further what you have to offer to your patrons. This education you are obtaining is not for any other purpose than to make you a better teacher, keep that in mind with each and every task you complete. You will be exposed to some of the best classes and greatest teachers, enjoy the trip.

What do you see as key future trends and challenges for school librarians?

The greatest challenge I expect to face is educating students to meet the challenges they will face in the 21st century. I fear I cannot keep up with changes as they occur in technology to assist my students. My passion will always be to encourage pleasure reading, something so few of the high school students I deal with find time or desire for.

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

My legacy will be providing the students of my school with a library they feel welcome in, find challenges and pleasure in and

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remember fondly as they live their lives. I also want to share my love of reading with my students so they will one day share that same love with their children and grandchildren.

"A school without a library is like a body without a heart. A school library without a librarian is just a room with books in it. Our children need school libraries staffed by professional librarians." Laurie Halse Anderson

Did you know???

Dr. Melissa Cast-Brede, College of Education Criss Library Liaison, is available in the Roskens Hall Student Lounge on 2nd floor, two days a week for personal, one-on-one librarian/student interactions. No question is too big or too small.

- Need the perfect book recommendation?
- Having trouble with APA citation?
- Need help finding a statistic?
- Need a book or journal not available at UNO?
- Would you like to check out an iPad or Kindle?
- Not sure which journal to use?

ASK MELISSA!!!

Melissa is available in Roskens Hall Mondays and Tuesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The NLA/NSLA Conference 2014 was a great place to catch up with friends! L-R Shanda Hall (Schuyler Middle School), Dr. Pasco, Mandy Peterson (Schuyler High School) and Kim Wollenberg (Lakeview Junior-Senior High School)
Announcements:
Scholarships, Registration, Comprehensive Exams, Graduation

Scholarships

NSLA: Nebraska School 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 the NSLA website: http://www.neschoollibrarians.org/awards-and-scholarships.html

NLA: 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: http://nebraskalibraries.org/blog/nebraska-library-association-scholarship-opportunities-reminder/

Nebraska Library Commission
The Nebraska Library Commission is continuing to offer its 21st Century Librarian Scholarship program for undergraduate candidates. Scholarships may be used for tuition (for coursework contributing toward a certificate or degree), course-required materials, and school-assessed fees.

See http://nowhirinatyourlibrary.ne.gov/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 website: http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/scholarships

Comprehensive Exam Deadlines

Secondary Education Literacy/Library Candidates: The registration deadline is February 9th for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Spring 2015 semester. The required review session will be held Monday, March 9th.

Reading Candidates: The registration deadline is January 12th for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Spring 2015 semester. The required review session will be held Thursday, January 22nd.

Elementary Education Capstone
Elementary Education School Library Candidates: TED 8700 Elementary Capstone has replaced the comprehensive exam. Spring 2014 class dates: Fridays: January 16th, March 6th, April 10th, and May 1st 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.

UNO College of Education is: Live with LiveText

Livetext is your:
• academic social network
• evidence of meeting program standards
• professional portfolio

Implementation began in Spring 2013!
Upcoming Conferences, Professional Development and More!

NETA
Nebraska Educational Technology Association
Spring Conference
April 23-24, 2014
LaVista Embassy Suites and Conference Center

AASL Fall Forum
Now that we are fully immersed in the school year, most librarians are working with a variety of different schools, teachers, grade levels, content areas, etc. on research projects. There are a variety of useful resources to tap into in order to support learners during research season, but InstaGrok rises to the top of my list. This is because it not only appeals to a variety of learning styles and abilities; but it also focuses on information literacy and visual literacy skills.

InstaGrok is a free web and mobile app (iPad/Google Play) that allows students to search a topic of interest. After a topic is entered a concept map is generated. Each concept map includes key facts, websites, videos, images, and concepts for each subtopic that they can “pin” to their grok to build a concept map of information that is focused on their topic. There is a place for students to take notes (this comes in handy if students make an account, but an account isn’t necessary). The aspect of this site that may be worth its weight in gold is that it can help students narrow down their research topic and visualize the relationships amongst other topics. Last, but not least an information literacy skill that is embedded in this site is that when a student is directed to a website to use, they are given the option to prove if the website is credible and explain why or why not. Teachers can make an educator’s account to manage/monitor student accounts. This is free for the first 30 days or free if you refer three other teachers. Otherwise it is free just for exploration and individual accounts that require an email to sign up. Regardless of how you chose to access InstaGrok, there is so much flexibility on how you can apply it in any classroom with any age group in order to teach research and information literacy skills in an engaging way. So, check it out and get “Groking” today!
Things to Consider

November is Picture Book Month!!

Picture Book Month is an international literacy initiative that celebrates the print picture book during the month of November. Founder, Dianne de Las Casas (author & storyteller) [www.diannedelascasas.com](http://www.diannedelascasas.com), and Co-Founders, Katie Davis (author/illustrator) [katiedavis.com](http://katiedavis.com), Elizabeth O. Dulemba (author/illustrator) [www.dulemba.com](http://www.dulemba.com), Tara Lazar (author) [taralazar.wordpress.com](http://taralazar.wordpress.com), and Wendy Martin (author/illustrator) [wendymartinillustration.com](http://wendymartinillustration.com), put together their worldwide connections to make this happen. Every day in November, there is a new post from a picture book champion explaining why he/she thinks picture books are important. In this digital age where people are predicting the coming death of print books, picture books (the print kind) need love. And the world needs picture books. There’s nothing like the physical page turn of a beautifully crafted picture book. Special thanks to Joyce Wan ([wanart.com](http://wanart.com)) for the beautiful logo!

Join the celebration and party with a picture book! November is Picture Book Month. Read * Share * Celebrate!

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

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