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L.E.A.D.

Library Education and Development Newsletter

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Advice from the Frontlines:

*Karen Buckley
Library Media Specialist
Pius X High School, Lincoln,
NE*

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

I love the energy level of high school students. We have a great student body, and my colleagues are fantastic and inspirational. My job is challenging and extremely rewarding. Helping students find books that will engage them, especially the reluctant readers, is probably the best part of my job. One of my most cherished memories is about a senior who spent a semester reading a sports biography, most likely the only time in high school he read a book by choice. I hope he continues to read for enjoyment. Even with all the emphasis on technology, I believe reading is basic to success.

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

Curiosity, coupled with doggedness. A quest for learning is essential for

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(Buckley cont.)

information professionals—seeking to educate oneself in new technologies and innovations, as well as not giving up on a reference question until the answer is found. I love how new technologies have opened so many portals of information. It's so easy to search databases and the Internet that research becomes more of an entertaining challenge than a frustrating exercise in futility or limited information. My hope is that my enthusiasm for research and finding answers transfers to my students.

What one issue should future librarians be prepared to address?

Accessibility to libraries and their resources. As a life-long public library user, I worry each time city governments and/or library officials talk about cutting hours or branches. It seems as though those buildings in areas where populations have limited access to transportation, computers and resources easily found in libraries are most subject to budget cuts.

Can you share with us an instance of successful collaboration?

Media specialists and library volunteers from the Lincoln Catholic schools have begun meeting at least twice a year to share strategies, network and resources. Because there is such diversity among us in terms of experience, education and budgets, I believe our collaborating strengthens us in our roles. Most of us are the only library professional/worker in our building so a network here is even more vital. Some of our schools, for example,

were unaware of the resources available from the Nebraska Library Commission, especially NebraskAccess and from the Lincoln City Libraries, as partners in learning.

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

When I am reading new books for Pius, I begin with the books most likely to be challenged. I try to read a wide selection of our books, so I can help students find books that match their tastes and interests. My favorite Young Adult author is Sarah Dessen, but I often find myself enthralled in books that I feel compelled to read as a media specialist but would not otherwise read.

Mysteries are my favorite genre. I especially enjoy Elizabeth George and S.J. Rozan, but I read a wide range of authors within this genre.

My suggestion for any budding authors is to please write books for teen-aged boys about cars and racing, especially fictional books. The audience is there, where are the books?



Karen Buckley, Pius X High School

Student Spotlight:

Kay Kronberg

Librarian - Nebraska Correctional Center for Women in York, NE

What is your education / library/professional background?

I earned my B.A. in Elementary Education/English at North Park College in Chicago, IL. Continuing education courses were taken over the years through Kearney, Wayne State, Concordia University and, most currently, UNO. In 2003 I added a high school English endorsement. In the last year I have completed two Library Science courses at UNO. Professionally, I substituted in several school districts for many years. From 1995 until 2001 I worked part-time in a variety of capacities at the Stromsburg Public Library. From 2001-2006 I taught reading classes and worked in the library at Cross County High School in Stromsburg, NE. Currently I am the Librarian at the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women.

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

I enjoy historical fiction and mysteries. Husband and wife team, Brock and Bodie Thoene are a couple of my favorites as they collaborate on their historical fiction series *The Zion Chronicles*. Brock researches the historical aspects of the work while Bodie develops the fictional characters and storyline. Recently, I finished *My Last Lecture*

by Randy Pausch. Currently, I am reading *Until We Reach Home* by Lynn Austin. On my end table patiently waiting to be read are Tony Dungy's *Quiet Strength*, *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan, and *Boo* by Rene Gutteridge. Because there is a child in all of us, I particularly enjoy children's books. One I would recommend is *The Miracle at Stinky Bay* by a popular speaker, comedian, storyteller and author Bob Stromberg.

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

A useful tool I have used in the last few weeks is "Library Journal". My recent days have been spent pouring over reviews of books as I prepare a purchase order for our newly renovated library at the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women in York, Nebraska. Exciting!!

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

I enjoy being outside walking, hiking, and gardening. Of course, I love to read. Wherever I go, a book goes with me. One of my favorite things to collect is meaningful quotes and wise sayings. William Blake said, "Imagination is evidence of the Divine."

(continued on page 4)

(Kronberg cont.)

My husband and I appreciate taking "the road less traveled" as we journey to visit family in neighboring states.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

Although my parents deny it, I am sure I was born in a library.... I would love to write a book someday.

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

Because I am an encourager and feel that I have knowledge of many authors, books and subjects, I can lead readers and patrons of the library to a book of their interest or to the information that they are seeking. I don't pretend to have all of the answers, but I like to think I know where to go to find them.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Pace yourself, ask questions, and do not hesitate to communicate with the professors, assistants and other students. We can all learn from each other and we possess a wealth of knowledge and experience. Share it!!

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

The future trends and challenges will most certainly include advances in technology. As

Library Information Specialists, keeping up with the learning that will be required in order to do our jobs, as well as teach others, will be a challenge.

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

I would like to think that I have challenged people to become the best that they can be. Whether it be through studying, learning or reading, I hope I have helped those I've touched open their minds and recognize the potential they have and the possibilities available to them.

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



"He who opens a school door, closes a prison."

Victor Hugo (1802-1885) French poet, dramatist, and novelist

Announcements:

Scholarships, Registration, Comprehensive Exams, Graduation

Scholarship Opportunities:

Nebraska Library Commission

The Nebraska Library Commission awards scholarships to Nebraskans for coursework and degree programs in library studies. Scholarships valued at \$1000 are available for students pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Library Science or School Library Media, or those involved in a Library Technical Assistant course of study. Scholarships valued at \$2500 are available for students pursuing a Master's of Library and/or Information Science degree (MLS), or those seeking a Master of Education degree in School Library Media. Due to state and federal funding considerations, scholarships have been temporarily suspended and will not be awarded in the Fall 2008 scholarship round. Future scholarship rounds may be limited until additional funding can be identified in 2009. For information and deadlines, visit the Now Hiring @ your library website at:
<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/Scholarships.asp>

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

Graduation:

2009 Fall 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 **October 16, 2009** for students planning to graduate during the **Fall 2009** semester. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for **Friday, December 18, 2009 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.

Registration:

Spring 2010 Registration

The **Spring 2010** class schedule will be made available on the **Web** on **10-19-09**. Registration dates are as follows:

- 11-02-09** Graduate Students
- 11-04-09** Seniors
- 11-06-09** Juniors
- 11-10-09** Sophomores
- 11-12-09** Freshmen
- 11-16-09** Open Registration

Classes fill up quickly, so be sure to register on the appropriate dates to increase the probability of getting into the classes you need.

Upcoming Conferences, Professional Development and more!

NLA/NEMA 2009 Annual Conference

Nebraska Libraries: Bridges to Information

October 28-30, 2009

Join us **October 28-30** for three days of sessions and networking opportunities designed to strengthen those bridges and build new foundations at the 2009 conference. The conference will be held at the new Embassy Suites Omaha - La Vista Hotel & Conference Center, off I-80 by the newest Cabela's in Nebraska.

For all the details regarding this conference please click on the link below. We hope to see you there!

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2009/program.html>

- Participate as active partners in the teaching and learning process
- Connect learners with ideas and information; and
- Prepare students for life-long learning, informed decision-making, a love of reading, and the use of information technologies.

For more information about AASL or the upcoming conference, visit them at www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl

Hello from Deanna Reilly, Graduate Assistant

I'd like to introduce myself to all of you and I hope to get to know many of you over the next four semesters. My name is Deanna Reilly and I am Dr. Pasco's graduate assistant. I am also the librarian at St. Philip Neri School. It is a small K-8 school located in the Florence area of Omaha.

My husband, Hugh, and I have four children, two of whom currently attend UNO. We have two daughters, ages 22 & 12, and two sons, ages 20 & 16. Needless to say, we are always on the run!

In 2007 I returned to school to complete my Masters Degree and my Library Media Endorsement. I want to thank Dr. Pasco for giving me this opportunity to work as her graduate assistant as I work toward this goal.



AASL will hold its 14th National Conference and Exhibition November 5th-8th, 2009 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The conference theme this year is **—Rev Up Learning @ your library**||. The AASL is dedicated to insuring that all members of the school library media field collaborate to:

- Provide leadership in the total education program