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a monthly newsletter of the Minnesota Educational Media Organization

Reflection of a Co-President: Awards

At this time of the year awards are plentiful. There are awards for years worked, retirement, scholarship, attendance, etc. In our school we give awards for those students who helped in the computer lab or the media center. So it is not surprising that I am thinking of awards for our profession.

Do you know a media assistant who has been a life saver for you? Rosie Brinda was my life saver. She did the most beautiful bulletin boards and made cloth book marks. We were a team and it was hard to tell who started a project and who ended it. <http://www.memoweb.org/organization/Important/awardnomadmin.pdf>. I did all the teaching, but never had to worry about the collection. In my heart she was one in a million. Unfortunately, I never thought of nominating her for an award. After I had left that position and moved to another school, she also left and became a secretary in a middle school. Now I really wish I had nominated her. Although late for me, it is now your opportunity to nominate your media professional. We are taking nominations until June 30, 2007. The web address for the application form is:

<http://www.memoweb.org/organization/Important/awardnompara.pdf>

Please mail all completed forms to me: Gina Light, 112225 Hutchins Court, Chaska, MN 55318 or email gmlight@chaska.net

Nominations are also being taken for Library Media Specialist of the year and School Administrator. Please take a moment to be thankful for those around you and if you have a LMS who is exceptional or an administrator is amazingly supportive then do not hesitate to nominate them. The nomination form for Library Media Specialists is at

<http://www.memoweb.org/organization/Important/awardnomLMSoftheYear.pdf> and the criteria for the school administrator award is at

<http://www.memoweb.org/organization/Important/awardnomadmin.pdf>. Please take a moment and do not forget to send the nomination forms to me.

The above story of my friend Rosie does not have a happy ending. Although we worked in different positions in different districts, we continued to meet occasionally for lunch and talking. One day I had a sad call. Rosie had died of an allergic reaction to some cold medication. She was only 43 years old. The school media center where Rosie and I spent so many happy hours was named in her honor. Every year donations are collected to go to that small media center to give books in her name.

*Dr. Gina Light
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Up North in Minnesota - lovely weekend in October Great speakers, Time with friends, Good food 2007 MEMO Fall Conference

If that sounds like an opportunity not to be missed, put the dates of October 4 – 6 on your calendar and plan to be at the 2007 MEMO Fall Conference. “Creating a New Literacy Landscape” is the theme of the conference this year and keynote speakers are Jamie McKenzie, Peggy Sharp, and a literacy panel comprised of Beth Swenson, Literacy Collaborative District Trainer, Christy Mulligan, Teen Central Librarian, Minneapolis Public Library, and Tim Wilson, The Savvy Technologist. Presenters are being arranged in several tracks in both literature and technology, with focuses for both elementary and secondary.

As information literacy is currently a term that is being used in many places, being at the forefront of this movement is crucial for those of us in our field and this conference will provide valuable resources for anyone involved with the library and information technology field.

Friday’s breakfast keynote with Jamie McKenzie is entitled *Multiple Literacies vs. the Narrow Agenda and Wal-Mart Curriculum*. In a decade characterized by narrow definitions of curriculum and literacy, Jamie builds a case for a dozen different literacies, suggesting that the health of a democracy depends upon the development of a citizenry that can do more than read and calculate. He challenges the audience to consider how schools might attend to cultural, social, artistic, natural, visual and ethical literacies among others. Mr. McKenzie will also present workshop sessions and will be presenting a Saturday afternoon workshop at an additional cost. That workshop will be **NoTime Slam Dunk Digital Lessons** in which participants will learn how to construct highly demanding lessons in no time at all, combining challenging questions with fertile digital resources. These brief 30-40 minute lessons are meant to slide comfortably into existing units of study where they enhance learning. They are designed to match the busy work life of teachers, allowing lesson development on a Tuesday night for Wednesday morning.

Jamie McKenzie is the Editor of **From Now On - The Educational Technology Journal**, a Web-based "ZINE" published online since 1991. In this journal, he

has argued for increased commitment to professional development along with networks to support student exploration and reasoning. He also publishes **The Question Mark**, a journal devoted to questions and questioning as well as **No Child Left**, a journal devoted to the repeal or drastic amendment of NCLB/Helter-Skelter.

Jamie has been a contributing editor to **eSchool News** and a guest columnist for the **Classroom Connect** newsletter. His articles have also appeared in **Kappan**, **Educational Leadership**, **Electronic School** and other educational periodicals.

Prior to devoting himself to full time speaking, writing and consulting in 1997, Jamie was the Director of Libraries, Media and Technology for the Bellingham (WA) Public Schools - a district of 18 schools and 10,000 students fully networked with 2000 pcs all tied to the Internet by 1994-95. He has now moved on to support technology and information literacy efforts in schools across North America, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

A graduate of Yale with an M.A. from Columbia and Ed.D. from Rutgers, Jamie has been a middle school teacher of English and social studies, an assistant principal, an elementary principal, assistant superintendent in Princeton (N.J.) and superintendent of two districts on the east coast of the U.S.. He also taught four-year-olds in Sunday school.

Jamie has published and spoken extensively on the introduction of new technologies to schools. In recent times he has paid particular attention to information technologies, questioning and powerful teaching, exploring how they might best transform classrooms and schools to support student centered, engaged learning.



The topic for Friday's luncheon will be *Defining and Examining the New Literacy Landscape*. The focus will again be on information literacy, whether print or digital and the presenters reflect those skills.



Responding to the many positive reviews from last year's conference, Peggy Sharp has agreed to return and at breakfast on Saturday, listeners will have the opportunity to again her share

more of her expertise with reading and books.

Dr. Peggy Sharp is well known for her presentations about new children's books, connecting the books to all areas of the curriculum, and motivating children to read. She is an experienced teacher and library media specialist and has received national awards for her creative teaching ideas.

One of the foremost experts in North America on children's literature and literature programs, she is a consultant for the Bureau of Education and Research and hundreds of school districts. She has conducted thousands of fast-paced practical workshops for Phi Delta Kappa, Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, National Staff Development, International Reading Association and other groups and organizations.

Her articles about teaching with children's books, motivating reading, and strengthening the instructional programs in both classrooms and library media centers have appeared in top professional magazines such as *School Library Media Activities Monthly*, *Instructor*, *Teaching K-8*, *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Reading*, *Emergency Librarian*, *The Computing Teacher*, and *The Mailbox Bookbag*.

New Book News is Peggy's quarterly newsletter, provides strategies for using 30 to 40 of the newest books in your classrooms and libraries in each issue.

Dr. Sharp is the author of 21 books for teachers and library media specialist featuring practical, field-tested ideas for using children's books throughout the curriculum and motivating children to read. *Sharing Your Good Ideas* (Heinemann, 1993) and *Exploring the*

United States (Oryx, 1994) provide strategies and ideas to help teachers teach their students and other teachers. Her book, *Only the Best* (Designs for Learning, 1997) provides a ready-to-use strategy to help teachers make appropriate book selections for their classrooms. Peggy's expertise and experience with students and with children's literature provides teachers, library media specialists, and others interested in books and reading with valuable, timely, and important information that is motivating, worthwhile, and ready-to-use.

The author who will be Saturday's luncheon speaker has not been announced but will, as usual, be a final highlight of the conference. More information will be available soon.

The setting for this fall's conference will be Cragun's resort on beautiful Gull Lake in Brainerd, MN. You can visit their website at <http://www.craguns.com/>. Besides providing a wonderful setting, Cragun's is offering opportunities for families to enjoy the weekend by



extending their special room prices throughout the weekend. Their schedule of family activities provides something for every age and there's something to be enjoyed by everyone. Their spa is well known in the area and appointments are available and they recommend that you make appointments as early as possible as their schedule fills quickly. The setting is also very convenient with workshop sessions in rooms off one main hallway. Then vendor area is also on the same hallway so there will be very easy access throughout the day. For those coming from a distance, Brainerd has an airport and Cragun's provides free shuttle service from the airport.

The registration form and schedule for the fall conference can be found at <http://www.memoweb.org/conference/2007fall/2007fallconfreg.pdf>. As in previous years, an early bird registration benefit will be offered to those registrations in by June 30. Just get the forms into Deanna Sylte's hands by that date for the special offer.

Please plan on joining library media personnel from around the area for a wonderful, informative, relaxing time in October. Save the dates – October 4 – 6 – and we look forward to seeing you in Brainerd.

MEMO Calendar

June 18-19

Children's Literature Conference, St. Cloud

June 30

Nominations for awards for LMS, Media Asst, School Administrator –

July 25-26

Summer Leadership Conference, St. Joseph
Board Meeting July 25 8am-noon

October 4-6- Fall Conference, Cragun's, Brainerd

October 25-28, AASL National Conference, Reno, Nevada

We did everything right and failed to save our libraries!

Last year the media specialists in ISD 622, the North St. Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale school district, put together a presentation for our curriculum committees and school board. We had video clips of programs we created, pictures of students at work, grants we won, all the facts and figures from school library research, and a new curriculum for research in the district. As the school board adopted the new research curriculum, we learned that budget cuts would cause the loss of central media services, including our coordinator, Judy Bull. At the time, I thought that the new curriculum and the fact that elementary media specialists covered prep time would save the rest of our program.

In the fall of this year, I made an appointment with our Superintendent of schools. I wanted to talk to her about the research results from school library studies and the implementation of our new research scope and sequence. I sent two highlighted articles for her to read before we met. Superintendent Phillips was easy to talk to. She proclaimed to be a library lover. She seemed to understand how important it is to have licensed media specialists to teach vital 21st century information literacy. I left her office feeling really good about the future for our libraries.

Turns out the demise of central media was just the first salvo. Toward the end of February this year, we learned that the media department was once again on the chopping block. The powers that be had given a list of proposed budget cuts to the school board. Those cuts included this item; "Restructure district media and elementary specialist time -- \$275,500." This cut was listed along side other proposals such as; eliminate 5th grade band (2 FTE); Reduce nurses (2.4 FTE). It was obvious to me that the district was trying to hide the fact that 10 of our 14 media specialist would be cut. Once again all of the media people in district 622 rallied. We put together arguments to combat the media cuts and contacted supporters to write and speak to the school board. Lars Steltzner and Lisa Finsness came to speak at the budget hearings and made good arguments against cutting libraries. Parents, students and teachers also came forward to talk the board out of the destruction of our program. All to no avail. Our argument seems to have fallen on deaf ears. At the final meeting, the board brought back all after school sports for middle schools, half of the 5th grade band, two high school counselors, etc., but nothing for libraries. The final wording from the board was:

"District media services will be restructured, with a skilled paraprofessional or education assistant in charge of the daily operation of each site's media center. Ten media specialist positions will be eliminated. Four licensed librarians or media specialists will manage the district's 14 media centers. Media as a prep-time specialty would be replaced with a subject currently taught by the regular classroom teacher, thereby increasing time available for reading and/or math instruction. This recommendation does NOT mean school libraries will be closed – libraries will remain open and maintained."

Are you feeling angry? I sure am. I am angry that the media specialists in the North St. Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale school district worked hard and followed all of the suggestions from ALA and MEMO, but still failed to save our program. I am angry with the board of education, why are we required to earn a license in media when schools are allowed to keep libraries open with

paraprofessionals and education assistants?
Would the department of education allow
paraprofessionals to keep math, language arts, or
science classrooms open? What is going on? I
have only been a media specialist for 7 years and
have now been cut from two districts.

Okay folks, what do we do now? How do we
make the public as outraged about the loss of
library teachers as they are about the loss of after
school sports? What will it take to make people as
angry about losing 9 elementary libraries as they
would be if they lost the entire elementary math
curriculum? Something has to change or we all
might as well go back to school and learn to do
something that people value. It seems to me that
we don't have a leg to stand on as long as the state
is not behind us. No wonder there is a shortage of
media specialists. We can't survive the way things
are now.

*Tori Jensen
Media Specialist
John Glenn Middle School
Minnesota Young Adult Reading Awards*

Branch Out 2007

Connecting People & Ideas

St. Cloud State University
St. Cloud Minnesota



August 7-9, 2007

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Tuesday August 7, 9AM-4PM Certification training

Wednesday August 8, 7:30 AM-4:45 PM

Thursday August 9, 7:30AM-12:15 PM

Early bird registration- \$110 for 2 days, \$125 for 3
days

Late registration \$135 for 2 days, \$150 for 3 days.

Branch Out is a conference designed by and for library
paraprofessionals, support staff, and media specialists.
Its purpose is to bring library staff from all around
Minnesota and the surrounding region together for
career development and networking opportunities.
Branch Out succeeds because it is a collaborative
effort, a sharing of ideas and resources. The
programming is enhanced from year to year, but the
goal of providing library staff from every corner of
Minnesota with useful professional development in an
innovative format has not changed.

New: Podcast and Blog for School Library Media Specialists



St. Cloud State University has started to host a podcast for school
library media specialists. To subscribe, please visit
<http://web.stcloudstate.edu/schoolmediapodcast/podcast.xml>. Once
a month, a new guest such as a practicing media specialist,
professor, educator, or Minnesota Educational Media Organization
(MEMO) member shall be featured. Each participant will discuss
trends in the field or best practices, and listeners may post their
comments on the site the form of a blog or podcast. Visit the Web
site to listen and/or subscribe to the podcasts at
<http://web.stcloudstate.edu/schoolmediapodcast>. If you have a
suggested topic you would like to see addressed, would like to
comment, or would like to be a guest, send an e-mail to
schoolmediapodcast@stcloudstate.edu or leave a voice mail
message at (320) 308-3072.

We would love to hear from you.

Job Openings for Media Specialists

Richfield

1.0 FTE media specialist opening at Richfield Middle School. See the district hr page
<http://hr.powerobjects.com/hr/richfield.jsp>

Monticello High School for Media Specialist for school year 2007-2008.

Approximately 1100 students 9 through 12.

Information on district website

<http://www.monticello.k12.mn.us>

Go to Human Resources and click on Instructional Positions to access application.

Victoria

Holy Family Catholic High School,
Apply to: Kathleen Brown, Principal
8101 Kochia Lane
Victoria, MN 55386
952-443-4659

<http://www.hfchs.org>

Full-time licensed starting 2007-2008 school year.

St. Louis Park

85 Media Specialist at Susan Lindgren Intermediate Center (Grades 4-6).

Chaska

Things are happening in the Chaska School District, specifically GROWTH! We are expecting several opportunities for media and technology folks next year and in the next several years. Currently, our wonderful high school media specialist is retiring, so our human resources department is taking applications for a full-time high school position (grades 10-12) starting fall of 2007. Click on the 'Careers' link at

<http://www.district112.org/> to explore job postings, and fill out an online application if you are interested in working in a fun department with great students and a supportive community! Check this link often for upcoming openings at all age levels. We will open a second high school and a third middle school in the fall of 2009, and plans are in the works for building an additional elementary school, as well. We'd love to hear from you!

Mankato:

The following position is open in District 77. Please visit

<http://www.isd77.k12.mn.us/jobs/index.php> to apply online.

NEW MINITEX Webinars & Tutorials

Web Page Creators: Free of Cost & Code

Need to create an electronic pathfinder for patrons, a course web page for students and faculty, a resources web guide for teachers or professors, or want to advertise a program or event? Have little or no time to learn HTML or other coding to create web pages? Know some coding and have access to software but would like to create a web page on the fly using a lighter-weight program? Attend this webinar and join MINITEX Reference Services staff on a closer look at creating web pages using tools that are free of cost and knowledge of code. With tight budgets and schedules, these free, "no fuss" programs allow one to create web pages quickly and efficiently.

Searching ELM via the MnLINK Gateway

Would you like to understand better the relationship between the ELM databases and the MnLINK Gateway? Were you ever curious about the ability to search ELM databases via the MnLINK Gateway? Join MINITEX Reference Services staff for an in-depth look with a public service perspective at some of the advanced searching features as well as an exploration of the pros and cons to searching through the ELM databases provided by the MnLINK Gateway.

Register today at: <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/webinars/upcoming.asp>

Google Personalized Homepage

Tired of scrolling through bookmarks or typing in dictionary.com to look up a word? A customized Google homepage might be right for you! This tool can assist you in accomplishing repetitive personal tasks or assist you at the Reference Desk with common questions. Watch this 11 minute tutorial now to learn how to setup a customized Google homepage!

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/webinars/archived/googlepersonalizedhomepage/googlepersonalizedhomepage.html>

Google Customized Search Engine

Ever wish you could search a specific group of sites and not the whole Internet? The Google customized search engine allows you to designate specific sites on a topic or interest to search. This is a great tool to help K12 students learn about authoritative and reliable websites, and possibly create a customized search engine on their topic. Do you work in an academic environment? As a department liaison, or instruction librarian, you could create a customized search engine for a course or subject area. You can use the Librarian's E-Library customized search engine to search all the library-related websites for a topic of interest at once. Watch this 11 minute tutorial now to learn how to setup a customized Google search engine!

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/webinars/archived/googlecustomsearchengine/googlecustomsearchengine.html>

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Submissions in MS word processing are particularly welcome.

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MEMO

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