
U E L M A

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President's Message - - Cindy Mitchell

It All Starts With the Book

Last summer I was helping my mom clean up the corners of her basement and I found a box of old books – books that I had bought in elementary school from the Troll and Scholastic and Tab book orders. Back then, the books usually cost around 50 cents – and my parents would let me buy stacks of them! I loved the day that book orders arrived; I would lug my mountain of titles home and spend hours pouring over my new treasures.

Finding my old books brought to mind memories of books and the places with books that shaped my perceptions of reading. The elementary school library with its red-bound versions of the Happy Hollisters; my fabulous, grand old public library with every Bobbsey Twins and Nancy Drew book available; and really long road trips in the family camper; I would lie in the bed above the driver's seat and watch the world and the pages roll by.

So, why am I telling this to all of you who already work in school libraries? Because, for me, the book is the most important and most rewarding part of my job. People seem so sad when I tell them what I do for a living, but I think I have the best job in the world. Middle school students may be squirrely, but they are so willing to look at new ideas and are at that age where they are really ready to learn about the world.

Every day several students come up to me and ask: "What's a good book?" That has to be the best question in the whole world! I even like the follow up comment I usually get: "I hate reading!" Because then follows the book interview so that I can find the perfect book for that student. Personally, I don't think there's any better kind of literature than YA. I know I read a crazy amount of books during the year – and no, I don't expect every one of you to be able to do the same.

What I do hope, though, is two things. First, I hope that you love the kids that you are working with. Some of you love elementary kids with sticky hands and runny noses. Some of you love hyper middle school kids who dress so crazy and usually can't remember anything they heard 10 minutes ago. And some of you love high school students who are trying so hard to become adults and act so very serious.

Please recognize that either you may help these kids love the library, or, even if it is unintentional, you may influence some of them to avoid the library forever. Even though I have looked at jobs at different levels, for me, right now it is all about that middle school mind. And hopefully, wherever you are, you can look at those students and say, "I love these kids".

Second, I hope you have figured out what it is about this job that you love. Everyone has his or her strengths. I love reading YA fiction and some of you love reading as much as I do. Some of you love picture books or story telling. Others of you are internet experts or uncanny reference librarians. And some of you love collaborating with a teacher and performing in front of classes or thinking up awesome research projects. There must be something about this job that you love doing and I hope you have discovered it, because being a school librarian is not just a job – it is a career

and a joy. Please recognize that either you may help these kids love the library, or, even if it is unintentional, you may influence some of them to avoid the library forever. Whatever it is you do, whatever it is you love, that is where you build your foundation for being a great librarian.

There is only one of us, usually, in each school, and sometimes not even that many, which means that rarely are we around anyone that we can bounce ideas off of or someone to look at things with different eyes or even someone who has a different area of expertise than we do.

With the rise of the internet, our options and our support group have grown considerably. If you belong to the library list_serv through UEN, you can contact hundreds of us in a matter of minutes if you have a question or concern. As a UELMA Board, we are trying to increase the content quantity and quality of material on the UELMA website, so that you can have a shared resource for reviews, lessons, tips and ideas (We still have a long way to go, and we would welcome anyone who would like to help create content). And the conference in March is a great place to see how many other librarians there are out in this big state of Utah and learn from each other.

So, join us in March to relax and recharge and reconnect. Identify your area of weakness and learn something new; find your area of expertise and share it. Remember that you are an authority at something important to your library program. Remember that you like these kids. Books are doors to the entire world and beyond and being a librarian is the best career in the whole world!



Strategy and Success @ my school library

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Davis Conference Center, Layton, Utah

I watch many students at my high school spend every spare moment playing chess. They choose their partners carefully, they know the rules of the game and use them to their advantage, and they learn from their mistakes. I imagine you know where I am going with this. As professional members of the library service community, we too must choose and nurture relationships with many partners. We make it our business to know the rules of our profession: research, citing sources, cataloging, student management, and teaching a love of learning. As far as learning from my mistakes, this seems to be the best description of what I do each day. My trial and error experiences have made me a better professional and somehow have prepared me to look at student services carefully for future success. All that we do to improve ourselves as professionals is part of strategic planning. The



UELMA Board is going through strategic planning right now to move the association forward and you, by attending the UELMA conference March 1, are nurturing relationships with your peers, are learning more effective and fun ways to approach your work and are using information to strategically plan for the future success of your library.



This year's conference will not disappoint. We have three authors coming this year: **T.A. Barron, A.E. Cannon and Rick Walton**. We have worked to bring librarians from outside the school library community to our conference who will share their talents with us. The only problem with the conference is that YOU will have to choose from so many excellent sessions. We will see you in March!Nan Allsen, 2007 Conference Chair

Also check the UELMA website at uelma.org for conference updates, travel instructions and to see the neat conference chess graphic!

The UCET conference this year will be held March 2-3, 2007 at Murray High School, 5440 S. State., Murray, UT 84107. If you're interested, you can get more details on their web site at <http://www.ucet.org>. They are still working on their web site, so all the links and such are not activated yet, but you can get all the conference info there.

UCET & ULA Conferences in March & May

Utah Library Association, our sister organization for public libraries, is enthusiastically preparing for its annual conference even as we prepare for ours. The 2007 **ULA Conference, Living Libraries: Remembering our Past, Planning our Future**, will be held May 16-18 in Provo.. UELMA members are welcome to register and attend. For more information on the ULA conference go to <http://www.ula.org>.

Service Project 2007

UELMA is pleased to announce that **Thompson School in Duchesne County School District** and **Landmark High School in Spanish Fork** will be the focus of our annual service project taking place during UELMA Conference.

The Thompson School serves 35 behaviorally disabled students in grades K-12. The teachers are in the process of establishing a library for these students and have only a small selection of books. They are in need of high interest reading material to help students with low-level reading abilities; these students are in the upper grades with a third grade reading level. Their goal is to have books for these children to read for pleasure and to establish a working library. Funds are very limited so your help will be appreciated.

Landmark High School is an alternative high school for Nebo School District. This school is growing rapidly and has limited resources, with most of the collection being very out-dated and highly inadequate to serve this specialized student body. The students need extra motivation to read and high-interest books would be very helpful. The faculty would love to provide the students with resources to help them have a successful school experience.

We will be collecting your gently used, new books and/or money this year during the Spring Conference for these deserving schools. If everyone brings one book, we can make a difference. Of course, we will accept more than just one book and money is always appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Bridget Merrell at bmerrell@dixiehigh.org or Jan Duane at jan-duane@jdchs.org. Thanks so much for all you do.

Presenting our slate of UELMA Officers

Debbie Naylor—President Elect

Debbie Naylor has been a teacher librarian for only 5 years. She has taught 8 different subjects and coached four different sports in her 29 years at Lehi High School. She thinks the library is the best place in the high school and has strived to make the library the best place for students also. She received her B.S. from the University of Utah in 1974 in Physical Education and her M.Ed. in Educational Technology from Utah State University in 2004. Along with her Library endorsement, she also has Health Science, Medical Anatomy and Work-Based Learning endorsements. She is married to a wonderful husband who is also her computer tech at her high school. She has two children, and one adorable grandson. She is passionate about golfing and, of course, reading. She likes to fish with her husband and in the last two years has become a quilter of sorts. She is on the board of the Lehi Literacy Center where she cataloged 3000 books for students to check out from the Center and helps run the Annual Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast fundraiser.



Karen K. McBride—Board Member

Karen McBride was born in Logan, UT and graduated from Logan High School and Utah State University. She married in 1967 to Craig McBride and together they had three children, 2 girls and 1 boy. We have 7 grandchildren 2 of whom are waiting in Haiti to be brought to the United States. She has worked for the Cache County School District for 18 years, originally teaching 1st and 2nd grades at Wellsville Elementary. After ten years, she left teaching for three years and wandered around the country with her husband's work. Upon his death, she returned to Wellsville as teacher-librarian-media specialist and found out that it is the best job in the whole world, "Because," she says, "I get to work with children, teachers and parents. Who could ask for more?" Currently, Karen is serving as a board member of the Cache Education Foundation. She loves books and reading (who would have guessed?). She also enjoys working outside in her garden, watching old movies, and doing lots of "old" crafts like knitting



Barbara Den Boer—Board Member

Barbara Den Boer is the Library Media Teacher at North Summit High School, where she enjoys trying to match the perfect book to her perfect students. A graduate of Utah State University, the joy of words has always played a meaningful part in her life. An avid reader herself, she moved through her teaching career in the classrooms of the Logan, Ogden and North Summit school districts before realizing her little girl's dream to "live in the library". In addition to teaching English Barbara took over the library at North Summit High School, six years ago, which meant that she no longer needed to hide under the blankets with a flashlight late into the night to read her beloved books.





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2007 UELMA Conference

Will be held
March 1st, 2007
at the
Davis Conference
Center.
Plan now to attend!

In This Issue...

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You may have wondered how products get added to K-12 Pioneer, Utah's Online Library. One purpose for explaining this process is so you can help the K-12 representatives on the Pioneer Library Subcommittee find and determine the quality products we should add to the K-12 Pioneer Library. Here is an overview of how the process works.

First, we look for potential products. Finding potential products is a two-way street – we look for products and products come looking for us. A potential product is identified when it meets the following criteria:

Getting Products Added to Pioneer Library

- Provides content related to Utah's K-12 core curriculum.
- Adds to or complements the existing Pioneer products.
- Is professional and visually appealing for a K-12 audience.

Second, we conduct a trial with educators statewide to take the potential product for a test-drive over a period of 30 days. Educators are also asked to complete an online survey to let us know what they think of the product.

Finally, we review the results of the surveys of all of the products to determine whether a product would significantly add value to the K-12 Pioneer Library. We also look at the pricing for the product(s) and determine how we would pay for it. For ongoing funding it would be necessary to include it in a budget request to Utah's legislature for the following year.

As you know, Pioneer Library has been a tremendous service over the past 10 years and we intend to maintain what we have as well as to add to it as we can. What you can do is to take a look at the products as they are trialed throughout the year, but especially, complete the online survey. If you know of a product that you have seen and have been impressed with, then you can submit your suggestion. Go to <http://pioneer.uen.org> and click on the trial button at the lower right-hand side of the screen.