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# U E L M A

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Vol. 27 No. 4

May 2007

## *President's Message* - - Michael Goodman

When I am asked what I do for a living, I sometimes hesitate to say. Not because I am not proud of what I do, but because I am not sure what name to put on what I do. I suppose I could fall back on Shakespeare's, "What's in a name?" But would a rose smell as sweet if we decided to call it an onion? Most of us have past olfactory experience with roses and onions and may have strong opinions about both of them. Would those experiences change our perception of the rose with such a name change?

Many districts call us "media specialists," and name our base of operations the "media center." To me, these titles have a cold, metallic ring that brings to my mind circuit boards, plugs, cords, cables, blips on a computer screen, TVs, and VCRs. That's just not me or what I do. When I took my position at Mt. Jordan Middle School, I called myself a "Professional Library-Media Teacher!" After all, I am a teacher; I am a professional; and my stock-in-trade is library and media stuff. I now simply call myself a school librarian. To me, the title "librarian" says more of being an information specialist and reader's guide than the title "media specialist."

This is what I do: David, an awkward seventh grader reading on a 12+ level, said he was tired of teenage books and wanted to read a classic. After he rejected several suggestions, I went to the shelf and pulled out *Mutiny on the Bounty*

by Charles Nordhoff and James Hall.

"I read this in high school," I said, "but you are a much better reader than I was at your age, and I am sure you can handle this." I did a little book talk with him, and he agreed to try it. I warned him that the beginning was a little slow and encouraged him to stay with it. Two weeks later, David came into the library and slammed the book down on my desk. "I hate you!" he exclaimed, almost glaring at me. "Why? What did I do?" I asked warily.

"You made me cry!" he said, emphasizing each word.

"Ah," I said smiling. "The last chapter got to you, did it?"

We spent the next half hour discussing the characters and their choices and consequences and made connections to ourselves, to other books, and to the world. Though I had and would help him many times to solve information

problems for reports and projects, to access databases and use text files, and the myriad other things school librarians do for their students, he remembers me because of our connection as readers. I know this because when I met him by chance six years later, he wanted to talk, not about how he was using all the research skills in his life, but about the books we were each currently reading.

I know each of you has many similar stories that you cherish, that make you proud of who you are and what you do, and inspire you to go back to work every day in hopes of having another such experience. We are school librarians! Touching hearts and opening minds through reading is what we do!

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## Fall Workshops Announced for Price and Cedar City

### **CSI:** *Constantly Seeking Information*

Have your efforts at finding the perfect source of information left you frustrated? Are you lacking the evidence you need to be convicted of the best library/media teacher ever? Get a leg up on solving the most difficult LMC situations by coming to a UELMA CSI Workshop.



### **CSI: Cedar City**

**When - September 13, 2007**

**Where - Hunter Building @ SUU**

To investigate more thoroughly contact Bridget Merrell, Librarian Scene Specialist (Dixie High) at [bmerrell@dixiehigh.org](mailto:bmerrell@dixiehigh.org) by August 6, 2007. Serious investigators will receive registration packets through e-mail address by August 24, 2007.




### **CSI: Price**

**When - September 14, 2007**

**Where - Jennifer Leavitt Building @ CEU**

To investigate more thoroughly contact Bill Goodrich, Media Event Investigator (Union High) at [bgoodrich@dcsd.org](mailto:bgoodrich@dcsd.org) by August 6, 2007. Serious investigators will receive registration packets through

e-mail address by August 24, 2007.

 <b>Paraprofessional of the Year</b> <b>Teresa Rawlins</b> Centerville Elementary Davis District	 <b>Library Media Teacher of the Year</b> <b>Berensen</b> Mont Harmon Junior High Carbon District	 <b>Administrator of the Year</b> <b>G. Norma Villar</b> Oquirrh Hills Middle School Jordan District
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## It Is All Because Of You!

— Nan Ault

There are always reasons to say no when asked to partici-

pate. Trust me, I am embarrassed to say that I said no to running for UELMA President a few times. I thought that I would be more suited to a board member position or that I would be fine just helping out at the conference once in a while, but then that voice of integrity started yelling in my ear and I realized that it was necessary for me to serve if I believed in the value of my profession and the UELMA organization. It should not be a surprise that I learned more from my experiences on the board than I ever gave back to you in service. I sincerely hope that this year's conference held some value for you. I was thrilled to have been able to schedule three author's this year thanks funding from the UPLIFT grant and the State Library Division. I hope that we have established a new tradition in terms of the number of members that attend the annual conference, the diversity of presenters, and the increase in great vendors that find our conference valuable. Thanks to all board members for sharing your intelligence and creativity in lifting UELMA to a new level of collaboration and professionalism.



## UELMA 2007: Building a Better Librarian Thursday, March 6, 2008 Ogden Eccles Conference Center

Save the date now and join us for a fantastic conference next spring. On the bill we have four authors for your education and enjoyment.

### Four Authors on Tap For 2008 Conference



**Carolyn Meyer** ([www.readcarolyn.com](http://www.readcarolyn.com)) is the author of more than a dozen historical fiction novels for upper elementary and young adult readers. Her best known titles are the Princess books based on the younger lives of the queens of England. She has also contributed to the Royal Diaries series from Scholastic. Her latest book *Duchinessa*, explores the life of Catherine de'Medici. She is frantically polishing her final manuscript for *Playing with Mozart*, the story of Nannerl, his sister.

Then she is headed off to Europe to continue her research for her book about Charles Darwin. Ms. Meyer currently resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Terry Hokenson's** (<http://www.thewinterroad.com/>) first novel is *The Winter Road*, a gripping tale of a teenaged girl stranded, alone, in the Artic wilderness. Willa uses her knowledge of survival skills to make the tortuous journey through the frozen wilderness, unsure if salvation or death lies over the next hill. While there may be obvious comparisons to Paulsen's *Hatchet*, *The Winter Road* is more than able to stand on its own. Mr. Hokenson is a resident of Minneapolis and has been a car-



penter and an attorney among his many incarnations. He is an avid winter camper and that knowledge shows in the meticulous details in his novel.



**Caralyn and Mark Buehner** are residents of Salt Lake City. Together they have written and illustrated over a dozen fabulous picture books for children. Their latest collaboration, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, is a bright, bouncy update of the classic tale.



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## 2008 UELMA Conference

Will be held  
**March 6, 2008**  
at the  
**Ogden Eccles**  
Conference Center.  
Plan now to attend!

In This Issue...

...2008 Conference Announced... Constantly Seeking Information ....What do you do?.....

- Winners of the 2006-07  
Beehive Book Awards
- **Picture Book:** *Where's the Dragon* by Jason Hook
  - **Novel:** *Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale
  - **Informational:** *Life Size Dinosaurs* by David Bergen
  - **Poetry:** *Hotel Deep: Light Verse from Dark Water* by Kurt Cyrus
  - **Young Adult Novel:** *The Lightening Thief: Percy Jackson and the Olympians* by Rick Riordan

All of UELMA would like to thank you for your wonderful support of the Service Project for the Thompson School and Landmark High School. Each school received 7-8 boxes filled with beautiful books and around \$100.00 each for the purchase of more books. Your generosity will give each school a very nice beginning for their libraries.

Your time and effort in behalf of these schools are so appreciated.

Thanks,  
UELMA