

Fall 2014

## The Link, Fall 2014

University of Northern Iowa. Division of School Library Studies.

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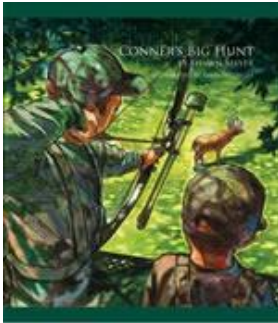
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## Hunting for books

Novels on hunting as a sport are hard to find. When **Leann Seddon's** students in her rural Iowa district asked for more hunting books and she couldn't provide any, she created a bibliography of fiction books for all ages featuring hunting. Her goal is to motivate young people to read. "Seddon's bibliography will be a great resource for librarians and teachers who help students find books they will enjoy," stated Dr. Karla Krueger, assistant professor in the UNI

School Library Studies program. Seddon (MA 2013) has made her complete master's research paper and bibliography, "[101 Books for youth that feature hunters & hunting](#)," available to classroom teachers and youth librarians.

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## Dr. Joan Bessman Taylor joins UNI

In August, **Joan Bessman Taylor** joined the faculty of the UNI School Library Studies program. Previously a faculty member at the University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science, Taylor has researched the social dimensions of reading, with a special emphasis on book groups, and the evolution of intellectual freedom as a guiding principle of librarianship. Other research interests include reading engagement and community formation, reading as a subversive act, catalysts and barriers to recreational reading, and the role of school librarians as literacy leaders.



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## Leveling the playing field without 1:1

Teacher librarian **Deb Temperly** has played a critical role in bringing students' technology skills up to speed—without the benefit of a one-to-one laptop program. Temperly and classroom teacher **Connie Jeschke** presented their Bettendorf Middle School [digital literacy curriculum](#) at the ITEC Conference in Des Moines on October 13. They utilize a flipped classroom approach to teach digital citizenship, Google Apps, electronic

portfolios and other key applications. Screen casts are used to teach specific skills, allowing students to revisit the screen casts as needed and giving teachers more time to engage with students. Temperly earned her teacher librarian

endorsement through UNI and enjoys the opportunity to positively impact an entire school through her work as a librarian.

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### **Serving a wider audience**

**Deanna Weber** (MA 2008) started her career in education as a vocal music teacher before becoming a teacher librarian. She is now in her second year as the media specialist for Grant Wood AEA (Area Education Agency). The Grant Wood AEA serves 32 public school districts, 22 non-public schools, along with several daycare centers and preschools. Weber's responsibilities include leading professional development for teacher librarians and

classroom teachers, serving on the technology team and the pilot Blended Learning support team, and developing the AEA collection of classroom and professional books, online resources, and other media including eBooks.

Weber's advice to teacher librarians is to position yourself as a leader, stay connected by getting involved in professional and online communities, collaborate with classroom teachers, become experts on new technology, and advocate for your program by promoting it through social media. For curriculum ideas and information on new AEA resources, follow Weber's Twitter account [@dlweber](#) or the Grant Wood Media Center Twitter account [@GWAEAMedia](#).

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### **Supporting new teacher librarians**

Fifty-two students currently pursue teacher librarian endorsement through the UNI School Library Studies program, and three recently received scholarships.



The Iowa Library Association Foundation awarded a scholarship to **Kimberly Peterson**. A business teacher and teacher librarian for the K-12 Essex Community School in southwest Iowa, Peterson teaches information literacy skills in her computer classes and in collaboration with classroom teachers. Her advocacy for the school library program is bearing fruit. "Conversations are happening, questions are being asked, and awareness of the roles of the teacher librarian are being brought to light," she explained.

We are proud to announce the recipients of the UNI Foundation scholarships: **Melissa Mulder** received the Mary Lou Kirk Scholarship and **Michelle Kruse** received the Rigmor-Madsen Scholarship. Mulder is a full-time graduate student and is working as a graduate assistant in educational technology. Previously a preschool teacher, she looks forward to being an elementary teacher librarian and making an impact in the lives of children with various backgrounds and abilities.





Kruse has been an academic advisor at the college level and is now excited to be working as an elementary teacher librarian in Cedar Rapids. "I am grateful for the generosity of the Rigmor-Madsen endowed scholarship," she said. "Because of this funding, I was able to put some of my own money, that otherwise would have been used on tuition, back into books and materials in my two school libraries."

The UNI Foundation scholarships are funded by the Rigmor-Madsen endowment, Delta Kappa Gamma Tau chapter and other generous donors. If you would like to contribute to UNI scholarships for teacher librarians, contact the UNI Foundation at (800) 782-9522 or [pledge online](#). Your generosity transforms the lives of teachers and students. Thank you!

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### School Library Studies

The UNI School Library Studies MA program prepares teachers to become K-12 teacher librarians. The program is primarily delivered online. It also features a few on-campus sessions in which students work with their cohort group and develop a network of colleagues throughout Iowa.

School Library Studies, Rod Library 125  
University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0462