

Summer 2015

The Link, Summer 2015

University of Northern Iowa. Division of School Library Studies.

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Copyright ©2015 Division of School Library Studies, University of Northern Iowa

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/slsnews>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

University of Northern Iowa. Division of School Library Studies., "The Link, Summer 2015" (2015). *The Link: A School Library Studies Alumni Newsletter*. 5.

<https://scholarworks.uni.edu/slsnews/5>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Newsletters and Flyers at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Link: A School Library Studies Alumni Newsletter by an authorized administrator of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

Offensive Materials Statement: Materials located in UNI ScholarWorks come from a broad range of sources and time periods. Some of these materials may contain offensive stereotypes, ideas, visuals, or language.



Summer 2015



What should I read?

As a middle school language arts teacher, **Jessica Elliott** noticed her students were increasingly more likely to look to their devices rather than her for book suggestions. She surveyed students about their book selection preferences as part of her master's research paper and discovered that teacher and peer recommendations still matter. "I found that both male and female students strongly prefer selecting materials based on recommendations, just in more passive ways, such as book displays, posters and bulletin board displays," she said. Elliott received her M.A. in School Library Studies from UNI in May 2015 and will begin her first teacher librarian position this fall in the Waukee Community School District. Ideas for promoting books are available in her master's research paper "[Middle school reading selection: influences during selection and implications for school library programs.](#)"



Sharing the need for teacher librarians

School Library Studies faculty **Dr. Karla Krueger** and **Dr. Joan Bessman Taylor** (pictured at left) presented at UNI's first annual Education Summit on May 1. They discussed the teacher librarian's roles as a leader in technology and literacy, a teacher of digital citizenship and an advocate for lifelong readers. They also shared student work samples that demonstrated the impact teacher librarians have on inquiry learning in rural Iowa schools with high poverty rates. "The research data at the core of the presentation demonstrates the necessity of a full-time teacher librarian, in every school, if we are to remain true to the mission of developing critical readers and thinkers with the skills and capacity to conduct ethical critical inquiry," said Catherine Hunter, an instructor in UNI's College of Education. The student work samples were part of a research study conducted by Krueger and **Dr. Jean Donham** and published in [School Library Research.](#)



Making a difference in Marshalltown

Two School Library Studies alumnae and Marshalltown teacher librarians received Outstanding Library Program awards on April 13 from the Iowa Association of School Librarians. At Rogers Elementary School, fourth grade students

eagerly vie for top honors in the Battle of the Books. Their teacher librarian **Erin Faas** (right) is a TLC Model teacher who helps colleagues with professional development and 1:1 Chromebook integration. Her library program also reaches out beyond the standard school day. She uses Family Learning Center events to teach parents about finding quality websites and reading to their children and teaches technology skills as part of the school's summer learning program.

At Anson Elementary School, where the majority of students are English Language Learners (ELL), teacher librarian **Beth Steffa** (left) provides a diverse, quality collection to inspire lifelong learners and readers. She teaches Big6™ information literacy skills and takes a leadership role in helping teachers use Chromebooks and other new tools. Steffa looks forward to genrefying her collection next year and hopes to install fun new furnishings as well. "Beth runs a student centered library designed to meet the needs of our diverse population," said principal **Ronnie Manis**, who also earned teacher librarian endorsement through UNI. "She works hard to make sure every child has a positive experience in the school library."

Sue Inhelder (middle) also received an Outstanding Library Program award for her work at Marshalltown High School. Inhelder has generously mentored many School Library Studies practicum students, helping to shape library programs across the state. Thanks to these amazing librarians and the administrators who support them!



Tracking the impact of student research

To improve search engine optimization and enable usage tracking, the Rod Library recently moved the School Library Studies collection of selected master's papers to [UNI ScholarWorks](#), a new digital archive. Since mid-February, the 40-paper collection has had 728 downloads from around the world. The most frequently accessed paper has been "[Life of chaos, life of hope: Dystopian](#)

[literature for young adults](#)" by **Lisa Newgard**, followed by **Diane Engbretson's** paper on Harry Potter and the Arthurian legend and **Erin Becker McConnell's** work on gender equity in modern fairy tales. Alumni who have a paper in the collection may request usage reports by emailing Ellen.Neuhaus@uni.edu.



Endless possibilities

As an elementary student, **Joanna Freking** loved going to the school library. "Those were the best days," she said. Pursuing a teacher librarian endorsement was an easy decision. "It combines everything I love," she explained. "Reading, teaching, learning new things and technology." Shortly after completing her B.A. in English education at UNI, Freking enrolled in the School Library Studies M.A. program full time and began working as a graduate assistant. She enjoys interacting with other students, especially through a cohort Facebook group, and learning from those who are already working in school libraries. Freking plans to graduate in 2016 and looks forward to incorporating new technology and helping students find their passion. "The possibilities are endless," she said of her future library program. "In the library, you can learn anything."

Guides for guided inquiry

Inquiry is a key part of the Common Core research standards. School Library Studies students recently used the Inquiry Library Guide/Pathfinder assignment to develop their skills in teaching inquiry. The assignment prepares them to collaborate with classroom teachers in teaching strategies to locate, analyze, evaluate and ethically use information. They created online library guides to direct teachers and students to the best selected research sources, including AEA Online databases, on a topics such as the Holocaust, inventors, diseases, oceans and pollution. “I am impressed by how the students wove the Kuhlthau inquiry stages throughout the activities using helpful graphic organizers to guide their students through the inquiry research process,” said **Dr. Karla Krueger**, assistant professor. [Samples of their work](#) are available for use by classroom teachers and teacher librarians.

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

www.uni.edu/coe/ci/sls
