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## The Link, December 2017

University of Northern Iowa. Division of School Library Studies.

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## University of Northern Iowa



December 2017

### Putting books where they belong - in the hands of kids

Will chaos reign if you let kindergarten students check out more books? No, concluded **Kristen Reinhardt Downes** (M.A. 2015) in a study of a K-6 school that started allowing kindergarteners to check out four books instead of the previous limit of one. Downes along with associate professors **Karla Krueger** and **Joan Bessman Taylor** published an [article](#) in *Teacher Librarian* in October describing the study.



After the check out limit for grades K-4 was increased to match that of grades 5-6 (four books per student), circulation increased by eighty percent over a two year period. There was no significant increase in lost books, and kindergartners actually lost fewer books under the new policy. The authors recommend that teacher librarians support early literacy by giving primary students the same check out privileges as the upper elementary students and allowing all students to borrow new books outside of scheduled library class sessions.

## A flurry of new books

When Roosevelt middle school students in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, returned to school this fall, they found their desires for [new library books](#) were heard--and met. Thanks to a \$3,000 American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Inspire Grant, teacher librarian **Michelle Kruse** (M.A. 2015) has been buying graphic novels--which are in high demand throughout the student body, especially with English Language Learners (ELL)-nonfiction titles, and duplicate copies of popular titles.



“I have found this year that when students have immediate access to the books that they want to read now, they are more likely to return to the library,” she explained in a *Knowledge Quest* blog post. Kruse encourages teacher librarians to join ALA/AASL and apply for ALA/AASL grants.

## News you can use - Resources from recent presentations

### Diversity in YA Lit: Expanding Students' View of Themselves and Their World

- Presented by **Abigail Hendrickson** (M.A. 2016) and **Suzette Kragenbrink** at the Iowa Council of Teachers of English (ICTE) conference, October 12.
- Use their [Diversity YA Lit bibliography](#) to find new books and share your own suggested titles. All books link to Amazon.com, so you can create your own wish list.

### AEA Resources – USE THEM or DIE TRYING!

- Presented by **Nicole Guldager** (M.A. 2015) and **Beth Janssen** (M.A. 2010) at the Iowa Technology in Education Connection (ITEC) conference, Oct. 16.
- Check out their [presentation](#) for ideas on connecting [AEA databases](#) to the curriculum.

## Students Creating a Positive Online Presence in More Ways Than One

- Also by Guldager and Janssen at the ITEC conference (pictured at right).
- Learn how to teach students to **create and manage content** for the school or district website.



### News you can use - Upcoming book talks

Katelyn Browne, youth services librarian at the UNI Rod Library, offers a series of book talks, through Zoom video conferencing. You can watch them live or via a recording. If you are interested in learning about her upcoming booktalks, email her at [katelyn.browne@uni.edu](mailto:katelyn.browne@uni.edu).

## Scholarship recipients

Through the ongoing generosity of our donors, three graduate students received scholarships this year. Thank you donors!



**Kristina Moore** received a scholarship from the Iowa Library Association Foundation. Moore is in her second year both as a school library studies student and as an English teacher/teacher librarian at Clarion-Goldfield-Dows High School. During her first year in the library, she focused on expanding resources for English Language Learners (ELL) who comprise twenty percent of the student body and on creating a makerspace.

“I am so grateful to receive the ILA scholarship award,” said Moore. “With this scholarship I plan on attending more [library] conferences in order to learn more about this career and how to better serve my school.”

**Melissa Marwedel** is grateful to receive the Rigmor Madsen scholarship through the UNI Foundation. When Marwedel returned to school to earn an initial teaching license, she wanted to combine her passions for children, books, and technology by becoming a teacher librarian. Her dream has quickly become a reality. After graduating from UNI with an elementary education degree in May, she was hired to be a teacher librarian for three elementary schools in Urbandale.



“I hope to become a leader in my school and influence the children to become great readers who love good books,” said Marwedel.



The UNI Foundation Mary Lou Kirk scholarship recipient is **Kimberly Bormann**, an elementary Title 1 reading and math teacher in North Union. She is also a technology integrationist teacher leader for grades PK-8. In the future, she hopes to share her love of reading and technology in a school library setting. Bormann is enjoying her first year of school library studies courses and said, “The Mary Lou Kirk Scholarship has been a blessing to me as I venture into the UNI School Library Studies program.”

The UNI Foundation scholarships are funded by the Rigmor Madsen Scholarship Endowment Fund and Delta Kappa Gamma Tau. If you would like to contribute to UNI scholarships for teacher librarians, contact the UNI Foundation at [\(800\) 782-9522](tel:8007829522) or [pledge online](#). Your generosity transforms the lives of teachers and students. Thank you!

## School library studies

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



### School Library Studies

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