

To: Montana State Library Commission  
From: Sue Jackson  
Re: PEEL grant updates  
Date: July 28, 2006

### **PEEL I**

Scholarship Program -- Below are the July 2006 quarterly reports submitted to the PEEL Advisory Committee by the eight PEEL I scholarship recipients. Darlene asked me to share these reports with the Commission. Two of these individuals, Honore Bray and Kathryn Holt, have completed their graduate programs and have earned the MLIS degree.

Stipend Program -- Helena Public Schools has hired Jeanne Morigeau to be the full-time librarian at Jim Darcy School. Jeanne has a recent MLS degree from Texan Woman's University and has been employed by the Clancy Community Library. Bitterroot Public Library received three applications for the Youth Librarian position; two did not have MLS degrees as required and one was not interested because of the salary. The library will re-advertise the position and try for more applicants. The director is unwilling to raise the salary for the stipend position because she does not think that would be fair to other library staff.

### **PEEL II**

Scholarship Program -- The ten scholarships awarded by the Commission in May have been accepted and signed agreements are in place. The students are getting enrolled for the first quarter that begins this fall. Photos of the recipients are now posted on the [greatcareer@yourlibrary](mailto:greatcareer@yourlibrary) website.

### **PEEL I July 2006 Quarterly Reports from Scholarship Recipients:**

#### **Honore Bray**

I have received the final notification to look at the transcript to see if it is correct and then I will receive a copy when they are final. The diploma came in the mail and it was a glorious day! Now, life goes on as normal, working each day at Missoula Public where I intend to stay as long as they want me. I will be working with Sue Jackson to set up a mentoring program and as part of a project for my last semester I set up a Journal Discussion Group that can take place for CE Units. I am very excited to have had the opportunity to be a part of this program and would love to contribute as much in return as possible.

#### **Kathryn Holt**

I completed two more courses toward my MSLIS degree at Drexel University during the spring quarter, which ended 6/10/06. I completed requirements for INFO 673 -- Resources in Social Sciences and INFO 688 -- Instructional Role of the Information Specialist, and was informed by the instructors that I received an A in both courses. I maintained a 4.00 GPA throughout the MSLIS program, and have now completed all requirements for the MSLIS degree at Drexel University. A copy of my transcript was mailed to Sue Jackson on June 30, 2006.

### INFO 673 – Resources in Social Sciences

This course focused on the study of major information resources in the social sciences, including history, geography, political science, sociology, anthropology, psychology, demography, economics, and education. The course emphasized bibliographic organization, collection building, user needs, and reference service. I found the course to be particularly valuable as a means of enhancing my reference service skills and awareness of print, database, and other online subject resources. Creating a subject guide was a major requirement of the course.

### INFO 688 – Instructional Role of the Information Specialist

This course examined the instructional role of the information professional. The course emphasized the planning, implementation, and evaluation of instruction for the purpose of information education. Understanding effective instructional design for teaching information literacy skills was a major focus of this course. My understanding of the instructional role as a high school librarian and information specialist was significantly impacted by this course, and I feel prepared to articulate that instructional role while collaborating with teachers to enhance content-area instruction and students' information literacy skills.

I am already in a tenured position as the Havre High School Librarian, and plan to continue in this position as a teacher-librarian for the Havre Public School district.

I have enjoyed participating in the online MSLIS course delivery via Drexel University. While the course work has been rigorous, the online format allowed me to actively participate in discussions, group projects, etc. while working as a full-time high school teacher-librarian and also teaching classes at MSU-N. The course professors communicated regularly with students, were accessible, and participated directly in guided class discussions.

Being highly motivated and very organized, following a regular routine regarding coursework and participation in class discussions, and keeping a daily planner for recording and tracking requirements and assignments helped me be successful in an online graduate program learning environment. Grading is criteria-based and requirements are explicitly presented in the Drexel MSLIS courses.

I enjoyed the online delivery format, appreciated the flexibility that online classes offer, and experienced academic success in meeting the requirements of the Drexel MSLIS graduate program, maintaining a 4.00 grade point average throughout the program. I am very grateful for the opportunity I had to participate in the PEEL Scholarship Program, which made it possible for me to earn the MSLIS degree at Drexel University. Please accept my sincere thanks and gratitude!

### **Judy McKenna**

It looks like I'm on the home stretch with my program at Texas Woman's University (TWU). I'm currently enrolled in a Reference class and I just submitted my final paper last Friday. TWU requires a Portfolio in lieu of a thesis to obtain the Master of Library Science degree. Three faculty members review my portfolio and as long as two of them agree the Portfolio is either a Pass or a Fail. I will know by July 5, 2006 whether my Portfolio passed.

I signed a contract to be one of the Library Media Specialists at Chief Joseph Middle School in Bozeman, so I have a library position. I am excited about the opportunity to work with middle school students. I spent the past two weeks participating in a Teaching American History grant with other teachers in the Bozeman School District to prepare me for working with the teachers and students.

Thank you for granting my request to teach history so that I can bring my Educator's License up to a Class 2 from a Class 5. I am in the process of working out the details for how I will accomplish that part of my education with my principal and the Program Leader for the Northern Plains Transition to Teaching program.

I promised to send the committee a copy of the book\* I participated in creating, so a copy is enclosed with this letter. Thanks you again for your support. My TWU classes end on August 12, 2006 and I will graduate – barring any unforeseen obstacles!

*\*Librarians' Choices 2005: Recommendations of 100 new books for children and young adults selected and reviewed by librarians in training.*

### **Catherine McMullen**

#### Academic Status:

I took a leave of absence from the iSchool during Spring quarter to have my son Patrick (born March 27, 2006). I have enrolled in LIS560 (Instructional & Training Strategies for Information Professionals: 3 units) during the Summer Quarter (June 19 - August 18, 2006). I have also enrolled in LIS540 (5 units) for the Autumn Quarter that begins on September 27, 2006. I am excited to be joined at the iSchool by the ten most recent PEEL scholarship recipients, including my colleague at the Bozeman Public Library, Nancy Hatfield. My cumulative G.P.A. remains a 3.96.

#### Employment Status:

I return to work at the Bozeman Public Library on June 19, 2006. I continue there as a Library Aide II, but am now there full-time, having picked up an additional 10 hours a week. I plan to work throughout my education and may continue my career at the Bozeman Public Library if the opportunity arises. I have recently applied for a part-time Library Assistant II position at the reference desk and also for the Belgrade Library Director opening. The interviewing experience for the Belgrade Library Director opening itself has been proven educational. Bozeman's new library facility is scheduled for completion in September and we will be moving and opening in October 2006. It should be a busy fall.

If you have any further questions regarding my academic or employment status please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **Lauren McMullen**

I completed my second-to-last semester at the University of North Texas in April, earning A's in SLIS 5210 Organization and Control of Information Resources and 5400 Information Resources Development. I took my comps two weeks ago and passed.

In my final semester I am taking SLIS 5420 Literature for Youth and 5615 Electronic Databases and Information Services. It's a pleasure to be taking a course where I can read some literature at last (not just textbooks and electronic resources!) and there sure is a lot of reading. The database class is very relevant to my current job, since it requires me to evaluate and develop training on the use of databases. I thought I had planned a final semester that would be kind of light weight, but this one seems as hard as ever! I am really looking forward to graduation on August 19.

My job as a training specialist at the Montana State Library is very interesting and challenging; I hope to continue there after my six-month probationary period of employment. If that is the case, I will return the \$8901.11 of PEEL Scholarship funds I have received (Sue, you might want to check my math) immediately after my graduation.

Thank you for helping me on my library career path. All of it has been very rewarding and I hope I can make a meaningful contribution to the library community in Montana.

### **Kathy Mora**

I am now almost half way through my masters program! I received an A in both of my Spring classes and am taking two classes this summer.

*Research Methods and Analysis* focuses on learning how formal research is conducted and developing skills for analyzing reports and research with a critical eye. There is also work with using specific statistical mathematical functions when conducting research. The class involves much group discussion and has been very interesting, especially when a group of six people are trying to understand and come to agreement on concepts that most of us have never worked with before.

The final project for this course is a group research report that will involve gathering use statistics in a public library through observation and then comparing those with the demographic makeup of the community where the library resides. The knowledge gained from this class will be valuable in the future when the need to survey and analyze library users, services and the community arise in order to facilitate short and long term planning.

We have started to use voice chat in this class for the first time and it is a great tool for class interaction. We have the option of typing responses, but everyone has a microphone and the environment is much closer to that of a traditional classroom.

My second class is *Internet Applications, Services, & Management for Information Professionals*. This class is a study of the history of the Internet and its applications and how they have evolved into the World Wide Web that is so prevalent today. Although I have had experience with most of the concepts presented in the class, it has still been an interesting experience. We have worked with FTP, Telnet and other applications that are unfamiliar to most people in the class. It has been a reminder that our library users also may not have the knowledge that we do and that we should always keep their needs in view when planning services and library instruction.

There has been a lot of discussion of the impact of the Internet on libraries and issues on policy that have come with it and that are still evolving. As always, it's interesting to talk with other people in the program and learn what their libraries are doing (although we do have a few people in the class that have never worked in a library). One of the projects for this class will be a research paper, which I plan to write on the issue of filtering in public libraries.

I'm enjoying both classes this summer, although it's been difficult to stay motivated (it is summer after all!). But, I am doing well overall and look forward to classes in the fall.

### **Fred Noel**

I finished my final semester of classes on June 10<sup>th</sup> and passed Management of Technical Services with an "A". All my course work is finished and my cumulative GPA for the program is 3.95. Fantastic.

That is the good news. The bad news is I took my required "capstone exam" and failed. The week long exam required three major essay questions. I did well on two and failed one. Without a pass on all three essays you don't get the degree. I can take the exam one more time. If I fail again then the worst news of all is, I don't ever get chance to retake the exam and I wouldn't be able to get the masters degree. I'm not in the least bit disappointed in myself, since I put forth as much effort as I possible could to pass the test. Hopefully, so my sake, I'll have better news to report this fall.

I'll be retaking the test again this fall.

### **Sami Pierson**

I am in the middle of a very busy but exciting summer semester. I took three classes this summer to make sure I meet the two year deadline. I am taking History of Libraries, Libraries in American Society and Children's Literature and Other Media. I am amazed at how much I learn in every class session for all these classes.

History of Libraries - Having been a history major, this class is especially interesting to me. We started with the beginning of writing and are now in the Renaissance period. The development of libraries has shown me that in many ways we have come very far and in others we are still the same – not that that is necessarily bad.

Libraries in American Society – This course was not what I expected, but has turned out to be quite interesting. In the beginning there was a great deal of philosophy about information and organization. We then moved on to how computers developed. I was a bit lost in the beginning but now the connections are being made and I can see how it all works together. We are now working on professional standards and accreditation for library schools. And since library education seems to be a hot topic and quite frequently in the various journals, it is all timely.

Children's Literature – When I signed up for this class I thought it would be nice to have more of a "light" class compared to the other two. Wrong again. I have been reading children's books forever and had no idea what it takes to create a quality book. We have discussed illustrations, wording, plots, themes and the list goes on. This class has

really opened up my eyes. We are evaluating around a dozen books a week ranging from picture books to young adult literature. I'm using this new found knowledge to evaluate our collections in the library and to help my personal collection at home for my children. There are two continuing classes from this one - juvenile literature and young adult literature which I am hoping to fit into my schedule. This class mixes theory with real, practical knowledge that can help the library.

Okay off to finish my two papers due Friday. Thanks.