

NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Reports for 2007/2008

**Nancy Alsop
PLA National Convention
March 26-28, 2008**

I have never attended such a fantastic conference! The sessions, and the variety of them, were all excellent, as were all of the speakers I heard. I did attend two Nancy Pearl events. One was a panel of publishers' reps talking about their new books, which was very interesting; and the other was her luncheon speech where she talked about how libraries and books had influenced her childhood. I particularly enjoyed how she remembered things that had happened to her, like going to the prom, only to find out that she was actually remembering what she had read and reread in favorite books.

I thought the opening general session with John Wood was particularly inspiring. He made me want to run right out and build a school with a library in it for some needy natives somewhere! What a wonderful vision he has for educating girls, a cause that should be dear to the hearts of all women (in particular). And the closing session with Paula Poundstone! I was laughing so hard I was crying! The incredulous look on her face when she heard librarians might want to change the Dewey Decimal System was absolutely priceless.

I know I never got to all the exhibits, but not for lack of trying. There were all those sessions to get to in between, too. I tend to go to reading and literature oriented programs, and not any of them disappointed me! I also was particularly impressed with the number of them that featured Minnesotans.

I also met many librarians from all over the country, and they were all so impressed with Minnesota – that made me feel really good. Now I may need to start saving up for the conference in two years!

Thanks again. I could never have done this without you.

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