

NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Reports for 2007/2008

**Laura Martin
2007 MEMO Fall Conference
October 4-6, 2007**

Many thanks for the opportunity to attend the MEMO Fall Conference, Creating ... a New Literacy Landscape, at Cragun's in Brainerd. Thursday night I enjoyed a couple desserts while visiting with the wide assortment of vendors. I later attended the Region 1 MEMO Midwinter planning meeting.

Jamie McKenzie was the Friday morning keynote speaker – A New Literacy Landscape – Multiple Literacies vs. the Narrow Agenda & Wal-Mart Curriculum. He said that curriculum should be more than math and testing and predicts that the “whole child” concept will return. He spoke of the many types of information literacies. (If I remember correctly, many years ago I heard him speak at a TIES conference advocating technology budgets and equipment. Now he speaks of “powerpointlessness” and the need to use technology wisely). Session 1 I attended Research Standards in Action. A team from Bloomington demonstrated how district media specialists and teachers, alone or as a team, have integrated the MEMO Research and Responsible Use Standards into their K-8 curriculum. Session 2 I attended Teaching Media Literacy in an Age of Wikilobbying, Spin, Tabloid Journalism and the Photoshopping of Reality. McKenzie gave examples of how these can be misleading/manipulated. He stressed the need to teach media literacies in all subject areas.

Defining and Examining the New Literacy Landscape was the topic for the Luncheon Panel. Session 3 I attended McKenzie's Learning to Question to Wonder to Learn where I gleaned many ideas I will be sharing with teachers. After attending Session 4, Graphic Novels, I decided to purchase some of these and give them a try. It was nice to be able to examine them first.

Between sessions I again visited vendor booths and networked. After attending the MEMO membership meeting, I enjoyed my free time until the evening banquet. I drooled over Elvis on TV in the 50s so I won't say anymore about the entertainment.

After Saturday morning breakfast Peggy Sharp presented New Books for a New Literacy Landscape. She makes suggestions as to how each book can be used as she presents it. Sessions 5 & 6, So Many Great Books 2007, Parts 1 & 2, were filled excellent reviews and will make ordering a pleasure this year. Bill Durbin was the luncheon speaker. So enjoyable! What a way to end the day.

Laura Martin
Clearbrook-Gonvick Schools

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