

NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Reports for 2007/2008

**Eileen Smeby
2007 MEMO Fall Conference
October 4-6, 2007**

Wow! What a busy and full conference beginning with the vendor show right through to William Durbin's closing speech, about how he researches all his books and why he writes. The amount of information shared by all the presenters was enlightening, insightful and thought-provoking! As always the peer networking is so helpful.

Jamie McKenzie, author, key-note speaker and educational technology advocate, challenged everyone to fight for the whole child, to teach all literacies, and to teach children how to make meaning from all the different kinds of information available. Our students need to know how to comprehend and understand the information they are reading in order to handle complexities of our world, so they will know how to make balanced decisions affecting life. The quality of our culture depends on schools with balanced curriculum, and a strong educational program in the arts, in order to maintain a democratic society. Information Media literacy need to be infused into all the curricular areas.

Mary Casanova shared her experiences and passions in writing historical fiction and stories that matter. She feels it is very important to have accurate details in her stories, so she spends time researching the subject, then visiting the places and points of interest which are incorporated into her writings. A great presentation!

Doug Johnson presented "Policies 2.0: Rules for the Social Web" and how important it is to educate students and parents on Internet Safety-"Think4ulink". Schools need to protect kids from cyberspace predators, cyber-bullying and from placing inappropriate and personal information in cyberspace. School districts must have technology coordinators, who are licensed educators, leading the Technology Advisory Committee.

Peggy Sharp energetically, with humor, made three presentations on an array of new books, with interesting curriculum literacy links.

Thank you Ruth and NLLN Advisory Board for the scholarship and opportunity to attend this educational conference!

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