

# **NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Reports for 2007/2008**

**Erin Smith  
Spotlight on Books  
April 11 & 12, 2008**

An April blizzard almost prevented me from attending Spotlight on Books, but I braved the weather and arrived at the Conference on Friday just in time to hear Jim Trelease speak on the successful integration of Silent Sustained Reading and Reading Aloud in classrooms across the country. Hearing Jim Trelease present was both a joy and quite educational. I loved his “rain gutter” story and have begun considering how we may use similar marketing ideas at the Fergus Falls Public Library.

In addition to Jim Trelease, I was also attended presentations by this year’s Minnesota authors Mary Casanova and Debra Frasier. I enjoyed listening to Ms. Casanova speak on how she researches and writes her books. I especially enjoyed her stories pertaining to her Dog Watch series. Although I was aware of this series, I have not read any of the books and we do not own the set at the Library. Now, I plan on purchasing these titles and promoting them to early chapter book readers. Debra Frasier’s presentation was equally amazing. I am always impressed by an illustrator’s dedication and the amount of time they spend on each picture book they create—astonishing! Ms. Frasier also did an excellent job providing the audience for ideas on creating crafts and storytime props for the Summer Reading program this year—invaluable! The Showcase presentations were also educational and fun—“Pin the Tail on the Author” was especially creative.

The presentations and speakers were well worth the drive through snow, sleet and rain and the ability to network with other youth librarians and media specialists was the icing on the cake! Thank you for another great conference and for the scholarship.

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