

NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Reports for 2007/2008

**Carol Van Arsdale
2007 MEMO Fall Conference
October 4-6, 2007**

Thank you for giving me the privilege of attending the Friday MEMO Fall Conference 2007. Every session provided either important ideas for thought or items that I can use in my library this week.

Jamie McKenzie was the Opening Keynote speaker. He began by describing the different illiteracies students need. It is important to gain literacy in art, music and nature as well as in reading and math. Media literacy is important in an age where the media gives us entertainment more than news.

During lunch, a panel consisting of Beth Swenson literacy collaborative trainer, Sara Kelly John AASL president, and Tim Wilson a technologist, presented short speeches and took questions from the audience. I was interested in the different viewpoints on whether the Internet would be the only source of information in the future.

The first session that I attended was *Thinking Behind the Box: How Search Engines Work*, presented by Jane Prestebak. Two things I learned: Google does a very good job of making the best sites to come to the top and the use of ~ to find any synonyms of your search word.

Creating a Media Literacy Curriculum was the second session I attended. Media specialists from Forest Lake Elementary Schools presented the lessons they use to teach media/literacy. They also gave us a very practical and useful CD of their lessons.

Susan Boulka presented the third session I attend, *Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award Ideas in an Elementary Setting*. While I do many of the things presented, the Jeopardy game is definitely something I will use in my school.

The fourth session I attended was the *Buffalo High School Culture of Literacy*. They have an awesome and inspiring program. Lots of good ideas. I am going to tell my English teachers about their student book review website.

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