

## ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Number 1

August 14, 2001

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### **From the desk of Larry Nesbit**

I honestly feel a little self conscious in writing “notes from. . .” because I always associate these with people who have toooo much time on their hands and toooo filled with their self importance. I certainly hope you feel differently on my thoughts!

The way I would like to begin this “columnette” is to thank you for your patience, flexibility, hard work, and understanding as we continue to work with the School Library Program. I so admire what you do and how it contributes to the success of our students that I believe it is a privilege to be involved with you in offering our master’s degree (which will soon achieve certification status). We have had to make so many program adjustments during our first year, it is almost impossible to remember them all and so it is great that you are still with us. I hope we will be better able to predict future events and have solutions in hand rather than say “okay, now what”. It is only because I know that I can count on you to help that it makes it all possible so I end my first “thought”



with a big THANK YOU!

### **A Student's Reflection:**

It's Wednesday, August 08, 2001 and I'm finally starting to feel settled into my new home in Valdez, Alaska. One year ago, I decided to set my sights on earning a M. Ed. in the new School Library and Information Technologies program offered by Mansfield University. I remember thinking how a media specialist endorsement could complement my background in technology quite nicely. At the time, I scarcely knew all the responsibilities and challenges associated with being a librarian in today's technologically rich environment. I grew to respect our school's library media specialist, Ms. Tiki Levinson, as I began the SL&IT course work.

I remember thinking how practical the training that I was receiving really was; the field experiences allowed me the opportunity to interact with not only the media specialist at our school, but also with the instructors that utilized the media center most. I'm not sure exactly when it happened, but I began to realize that what started out to be supplemental training was fast becoming the focus of my thoughts and interest. I was becoming aware of all the exciting and complex challenges that face today's school library media centers. I was also being made aware of the need for, and the scarcity of, trained library media specialists to meet these challenges. comments to this point may seem to be a bit of a hyperbole, and if I were

looking in from afar, I would probably be hungering for more of a substantive contribution. Well, I suppose that the proof is indeed in the pudding. I left a very stable position as the technology coordinator and math teacher for the Bristol Bay Borough School District—a position that I had held for the past eleven years—to assume a new role as library media specialist for the Valdez City Schools. I'm very excited to begin work. I'm very grateful for the instruction and guidance that I received from the "all stars" that collectively make up the Mansfield University SL&IT program.

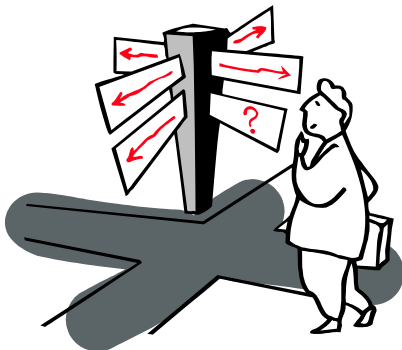
Sincerely,  
Terry J. Gregory  
M. Ed. School Library & Information  
Technologies (Mansfield University)

### A ROSE MAY BE A ROSE

BUT

### WHAT'S MY NAME?

We are having a contest to name our online newsletter, which will hopefully take on a much more elite look in the future. Submit your suggestion for a name to Doris and then Larry will choose the winning name without knowing who submitted it. We can't tell you what the prize will be, but it will be something wonderful!



### **FROM ME TO YOU!**



One of our columns will be "From Me to You!" Each issue we will ask a different online instructor to provide words of wisdom for the rest of us. We hope that our little newsletter will help to keep us together as a group. We really don't get to see one another often enough so perhaps we can create a stronger bond by using the technology that we advocate.

As the only teacher who has taught a course for the second time, I can tell you that it does get better the second time around. (They say this goes for marriages too!) I realized that I could respond to my students faster and I was much better at organizing all the paperwork. It also gave me another look at how my students were responding to the assignments. I quickly discovered that by changing a few instructions, their work improved greatly.

But now that I am approaching the fall semester during which I will be teaching two courses at one time, I am certain that I will be going through another fantastic learning experience. If I keep my sanity, I will get back to you on this.

Doris