In this issue of WLACConnect we get an update about the most recent WALE conference, learn a unique perspective about Supercharged Storytimes from a WLA member in Wisconsin, and hear from the University of Arizona School of Information. Readers will also enjoy a member profile of Darlene Pearsall, who shares some wisdom ("It’s up to be, it’s up to me), her love of crocheting, and her experience with technology training.

WALE Conference Report

By Conference Co-Chairs, Warren Chin & Di Zhang

The 2015 Washington Library Employees (WALE) Conference was a great success! From October 26-28, Library staff from across Washington State came to Chelan in the conference’s 24th year to network, attend sessions, and listen to the keynote speakers during meals. On Monday, there were two excellent pre-conferences sessions. In the evening, the Dessert Reception was a splendid time for attendees to enjoy delicious cakes, network and listen to live jazz music performed by local artist Jennan Oaks. There was also a Bingo ice breaker and a photo booth where attendees could meet new people and create memories.

Supercharged Storytimes - Project VIEWS2's Second Pilot Program Currently Underway in Five States

by Karlyn SPevacek, WLA Member, and Youth Services Librarian in Monona, WI
As a Youth Services Librarian working and living in Wisconsin, but a Washington State native and WLA member, I participated in my first WLA Conference in Tulalip, in April 2015. During that conference I attended “The Play, Read, Write: An Early Literacy Workshop”. This workshop was where I first learned about the phenomenal project from the University of Washington’s iSchool called Project VIEWS2, which won the 2015 Washington Library Association President’s Award. read more...

The Knowledge River Cohort 15 for Academic Year 2015-16 is Now Open

It is a pleasure to announce that Knowledge River is now accepting applications for the 15th Cohort. The priority deadline for Cohort 15 is March 1, 2015. Knowledge River is an educational experience within the University of Arizona School of Information that focuses on educating information professionals who have experience with and are committed to Latino and Native American populations. Knowledge River also fosters understanding of library and information issues from the perspectives of Latino and Native Americans and advocates for culturally sensitive library and information services to these communities. read more...

WLA Member Profile: Darlene Pearsall

May 20, 2016
Darlene Pearsall has been involved with WLA since 1999 when Mary Ross recruited her to be webmaster for the WALT (Washington Library Trainers) interest group. Meet Darlene:

Q. How do you like your job as Computer Education Developer/Trainer at King County Library System?
A. I am very lucky to have such a fun job! Being involved with “computer education” I get to learn all the new computer programs early so I can help staff either use it in their jobs or assist patrons with the technology.

Q. How have you been personally involved in WLA?
A. I have been an active member of WALT since I joined. I frequently teach a pre-conference or session at the WLA conference and occasionally teach at the WALE conference.

Q. How have you benefited from being a member of WLA?
A. THE PEOPLE! I have met wonderful trainers or occasional trainers through WALT. We share information freely with each other. I have loved working with various members to develop classes to teach at the conference or as a standalone class. I always learn from them as well as stretch myself to present with new people and in new ways.

In recent years, when we develop a class, we do it all online! That makes it so easy to team teach with people who are in other parts of Washington. read more...