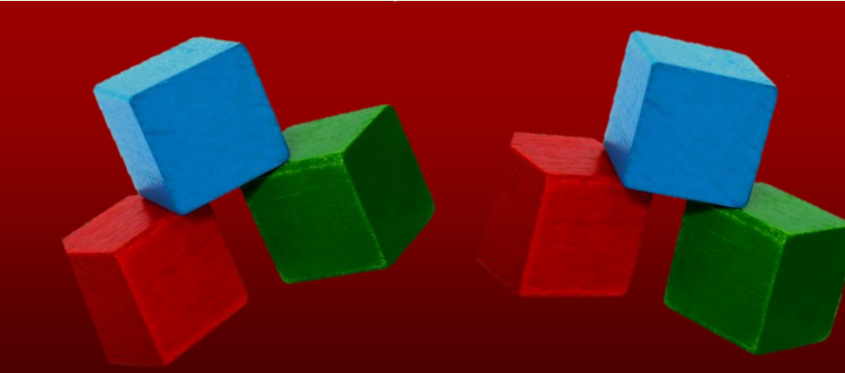


Building Blocks for the Future: Reflections from MLA Leaders

Beverly Murphy, AHIP and Virginia R. M. Carden, AHIP; Duke University Medical Center Library & Archives



Early Beginnings: High School/College Activities - College Graduation Plans

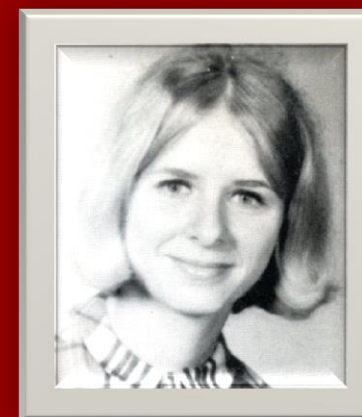


Mark Funk



HS-L: Student Council

Get a Job

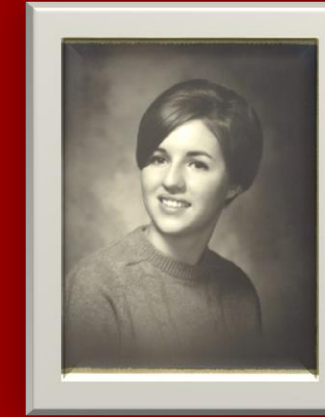


Mary Ryan



HS-L: French Club Treasurer, Debating Club Secretary, FHA Historian; Coll-L: Dorm VP

Sociology Teacher



Ruth Holst



HS-L: AFS Club Treasurer, School Paper Editor; Coll-L: Sorority President, Panhellenic Council Officer, Dormitory Officer

Math Teacher

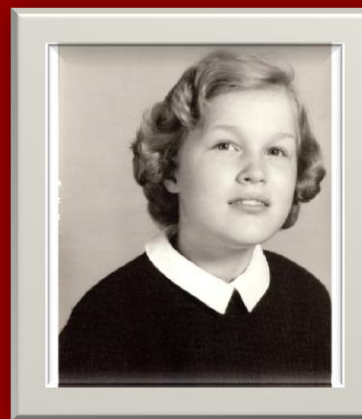


Jerry Perry



HS-L/Coll-L: Nothing "official" "I was too counter-culture!"

Writer



Jane Blumenthal



HS-L: French Club Treasurer, Science Club Secretary

Get a Job



Dixie Jones



HS-L: Drum Major, Class President, Student Council; Coll-L: Alpha Beta Alpha Secretary

Librarian

- Sports (intramural/varsity)
- Music (band/chorus)
- School Government
- Scouts
- (Summer) Job
- Debate Team
- Journalism/School Paper
- Honor Society
- Church Activities
- HS-L: High School Leadership Role
- Drama/Theater
- School Club/Organization
- Sorority/Fraternity
- Youth Group
- Coll-L: College Leadership Role

Introduction to Librarianship: Mark, Mary, Ruth, Jerry, and Jane worked in a library while in college. Dixie's mother was a public librarian and her first job after graduate school was in a library.

Learning to Fish: Library School/Early Career

Library School Concentration

Mark, Mary, Ruth, Jerry – Medical
Jane, Dixie – Academic

Classes - Most helpful, interesting, or enjoyable

Mark – Indexing and Abstracting
Mary – Intro to Medical Libraries
Ruth – Reference, Intro to Computer Technologies
Jerry – Cataloging, Computer Programming, Management
Jane – Online Searching and Computer Related, History of the Book
Dixie – Cataloging (loved the theoretical aspects), Academic Libraries

Classes - Least helpful, interesting, or enjoyable

Mark – Cataloging
Mary – Cataloging
Ruth – Cataloging, Collection Development
Jerry – Reference
Jane – Cataloging, Reference
Dixie – Cataloging (hated the ALA filing rules), Administration

Missing from Library School Experience

Mark – Administration issues: personnel, finances, budgeting, physical facilities
Mary – Technology/bioinformatics
Ruth – Research methods
Jerry – Learning theory, teaching, and working with people
Jane – Teaching or instruction, practicalities of librarianship
Dixie – Online resources or online searching, interaction with "real librarians"

Influence of Role Models/Mentors

High School/College

Provided encouragement, inspiration, support, importance of a good education and work ethics, and confidence to recognize and appreciate other ways of doing things

Library School

Shared their knowledge/skills, modeled putting the client first and going the extra mile, made research fun, helped to develop critical thinking skills, and encouraged understanding of the internal/external environments

Leaders in the Making

First Job after Library School Graduation

Mark – Circulation/Reference Librarian
Mary – Serials
Ruth – Hospital Librarian
Jerry – Information Services
Jane – Cataloger
Dixie – Asst. Librarian in two-person branch (SON)

First Leadership Role On the Job

Mark – Library Peer Review Committee
Mary – SCC/MLA Committee
Ruth – Hospital Management Council
Jerry – Head of Reference
Jane – Technical Services Librarian
Dixie – Chief of Library Service

Initial Organizational Involvement (MLA, Chapters, SLA, etc.)

Mark, Mary, Jerry – Volunteered
Ruth, Jane, Dixie – Volunteered/Appointed

First Organizational Leadership Role

Mark, Mary, Dixie – Committee/Task Force
Ruth, Jerry – Officer (Local/State/Regional/Chapter/Section/National)
Jane – Associate Editor of the *BMLA* (now *JMLA*)

Best Leadership Characteristic

Mark – Creative
Mary – Planner/Organizer
Ruth – Planner/Organizer
Jerry – Inspirational
Jane – (Pragmatic) Visionary
Dixie – Communicator

Development of Leadership Style

Mark, Ruth, Dixie – Part of Innate skill set developed over the years
Mary, Jerry – Learned from mentors
Jane – On the job experiences



It's Presidential



Mark 2007/08, Mary 2008/09, Ruth 2010/11, Jerry 2011/12, Jane 2012/13, Dixie 2013/14

"Presidential Priorities" and Challenges

Mark – Only Connect!; Use of Web 2.0 tools to connect people to each other and to the Association; Many members were unfamiliar with Web 2.0 tools
Mary – iFusions: Partnerships for Addressing Information Issues; Ethics, scholarly communications, and the environment
Ruth – RETHINK Our Value and Our Roles; Rethinking librarian roles and the value of libraries and librarians
Jerry – Gamechangers; Investigating the feasibility of a teaching/learning academy for the Association to enhance skills of members who teach; Time management was a challenge
Jane – Positive Energy; Getting the Association to prepare for the future and necessary changes. Large number of people are opposed to any change
Dixie – Building Our Information Future, Building MLA's Future; Getting ethical awareness initiative off the ground posed some challenges due to turnover of task force members

Major Presidential Accomplishments/Highlights

Mark – Free MLA online course that was a version of "The 23 Things" which introduced hundreds of MLA members to basic social networking tools; First live Internet broadcast of an Annual Meeting plenary session
Mary – Revision of Code of Ethics, greener meetings, more business done electronically
Ruth – Disaster Information Specialization Advocacy for hospital librarians
Jerry – Communications and relationship-building within the Association
Jane – MLA-ICML joint meeting in Boston; Initiated Futures Task Force & Research Task Force
Dixie – Bringing ethics to the forefront; Ethical Awareness Task Force survey highlights Code of Ethics; Annual Meeting programs digitized; Appointed first juries for Garfield Research Fellowship and standing Rising Stars

"Leadership Nuggets"

Mark – "Don't be boring! Make your presentations and interactions lively, so people pay attention and remember your main points. Dull is death!"
Mary – "Work hard on all committee assignments, etc. and network with many people who can mentor you. You never know how one committee assignment or relationship with someone will result in bigger leadership roles for you in the future."
Ruth – "Take on challenges that force you to go outside your comfort zone."
Jerry – "Listen to people! Care about what they have to say. It's far too easy to be too busy to pay attention. Our stories illuminate so much!"
Jane – "Follow your heart, guided by your head. Work for the things you believe in, even if yours is a minority voice."
Dixie – "A leader doesn't let a setback color the total picture. You can pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and start all over again - as many times as needed!"