Building Blocks for the Future: Reflections from MLA Leaders

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark Funk</th>
<th>HS-L Student Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Perry</td>
<td>HS-LOCAL: Nothing &quot;official&quot; it was the fun stuff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Blumenthal</td>
<td>HS-French Club Treasurer, Delaing Club Secretary, FHA Officer, Coll. Dorn Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dixie Jones</td>
<td>HS-French Club Treasurer, Science Club Secretary</td>
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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 (SDN)

First Leadership Role On the Job

Mark – Library Peer Review Committee
Mary – ASCLS-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 – Volunteer/Appointed

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

Influence of Role Models/mentors

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

Library School
Shaped 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/environmental

Leadership Characteristic
Mark – Creative
Mary – Planner/Organizer
Ruth – Planner/Organizer
Jerry – Inspirational
Jane – Peer Review
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

Learning to Lead: MLA Leadership: 1990s-2010s

MLA Leaders on the Job

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

Major Presidential Accomplishments/Highlights

Mark – Free MLA online course that was a version of "The 20 Things" which introduced hundreds of MLA members to basic networking tools; Fielded internet broadcast of an Annual Meeting plenary session
Mary – Revision of Code of Ethics, generated meetings, more business done electronically
Ruth – Disaster Information Specialization Advocacy for hospital libraries
Jerry – Communications and relationship-building within the Association
Jane – MLA/ALSC 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, appointed for Jane for Garfield Research Fellowship and standing RISE

"Leadership Nuggets"

Mark – "Don’t be boring! Make your presentations and interactions lively, so people pay attention and remember your name. If you don’t stand out, you’ll be forgotten."
Mary – "Work hard on all committee assignments, etc. and network with many people who are opposed to your point of view."
Ruth – "Don’t be afraid to speak up. It’ll make you a minority voice.”
Jerry – "Listen to people. Care about what they have to say. It’ll be too easy to be too busy to pay attention. Our stories illuminate so much."
Jane – "Always be the best you can be. Your words, your actions, will affect those around you and the way you treat others will affect the way you’re treated."
Dixie – "A leader doesn’t seek a seaboard color the total picture. You can pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and start all over again - as many times as needed!"

"Leadership Priorities" and Challenges

Mark – Only Connect: Use of Web 2.0 tools to connect people to each other and the Association; Many members were unfamiliar with Web 2.0 tools
Mary – Fusions: Partnerships for Addressing Information Issues; Ethics, scholarly communications, and the environment
Ruth – REACH Out and Make Us Relevant: Redefining librarians and the value of libraries and librarians
Jerry – Gatekeepers, investigating the feasibility of a teaching/learning academy for the Association to enhance learning for those who teach. 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 timour of task force members

Leadership: MLA’s Building Blocks for the Future: Reflections from MLA Leaders – 2011/12

Leadership: MLA’s Building Blocks for the Future: Reflections from MLA Leaders – 2012/13

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