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In this issue of WLA CONNECT we have a message from new WLA President Darcy Brixey. We have a conference reflection from three iSchool students and a member profile of Jonathan Betz-Zall. There's a message from LiFE about an upcoming leadership workshop, and in our monthly Continuing Education Corner we share more about the exciting world of MOOCs.

Message from the President

By Darcy Brixey

The exciting addition of Washington Library Media Association (WLMA) has doubled the membership to the Washington Library Association (WLA). This involves merging leadership teams, budgets and traditions. We are proposing a restructure that we believe will encourage open communication at all levels of the organization and more accurately reflect the make-up of our members.

During the June 2014 leadership retreat, a restructure was proposed to address communication and member involvement. After this discussion, a task force was formed to gather information from the Board and Interest Groups (IGs) before bringing this back to the membership at large. This proposed restructure closely resembles that of ALA and other state library associations. The proposal suggests Divisions rather than interest groups. The proposed divisions are Academic, Public, School, Special and Advocates which includes Trustees, Friends, Foundations, Vendors and other library supporters.

Within this structure proposal are cross-divisional Sections that reflect the diverse interests and needs of members regardless of their library type affiliation. Examples of possible cross-divisional Sections are Children's and Young Adult Services, Adult Services, and Library Training. A more complete list of possibilities is mentioned in the proposal. [read more...](#)

iSchool Students Reflect on Their Conference Experience

By Meg Beade, Heather N., and Reilly Curran

From Meg

For library and information science students, attending conferences means more than professional development. This is an opportunity for us to interact with professionals in the field and absorb takeaways from their experiences. The hope for us is that we'll walk away with new connections, ideas for collaboration, and plans we can implement in the libraries we will (hopefully) work in after graduating.

From Heather

The 2015 annual conference in Tulalip was such a warm and welcoming experience; it was my first WLA conference but it definitely won't be my last! From the first event I attended - the Meet and Greet on Wednesday evening - I found myself collecting interesting ideas from library professionals. This continued straight on throughout the weekend, both in sessions and in conversations during the breaks.

From Reilly

All I can say is, "wow"! As I left the WLA conference at Tulalip and made the journey down south, I was struck with a sense of awe. The conference was a wonderful, informative experience. From the inspiring keynotes to the thought provoking sessions, this was a stimulating three days. [read more...](#)

LiFE is Sponsoring Essential Leadership Workshop

"Essential Leadership" and it will be held in Lakewood on May 20.

Please register soon so that we know if we have enough participation to make these successful.

Here is the information and registration is available at <http://www.wla.org/conferences-events>:

Leadership and management skills may overlap, but they are not the same. Discover the differences between leadership and management and engage in relevant discussions about successful leadership strategies.

Engage in conversation about your previous leadership experiences and what you have observed about leaders in your life. Learn about the differences between leadership and management and where they overlap. Discuss ways that leaders and managers can work together for the common good. [read more...](#)

MOOC Review: "Library Advocacy Unshushed"

by *Korissa McGlocklin*

"Library Advocacy Unshushed" is an edX course on advocacy put on by University of Toronto's Wendy Newman, Senior Fellow and Lecturer, Faculty of Information. She did an absolutely fabulous job; I would have been jumping up and down with excitement one moment and wringing my hands in panic the next at having over 600 students at once.

Advocacy and community outreach are deep interests of mine. The MOOC content was on par with my current coursework, it was incredibly beneficial, and I immensely enjoyed being in a course with students from all over the world, in different positions, sharing perspectives. There are a lot of resources shared in this course which will come in handy as I continue my library career, post-graduation. [read more...](#)

WLA Member Profile: Jonathan Betz-Zall



Jonathan Betz-Zall has been a member of WLA for 30 years, and has had many

significant roles within the organization. Many of you may be acquainted with Jonathan, but here's your chance to delve deeper:

Q. How do you like your job as Reference Librarian and Instructor at Shoreline Community College and Highline College?

A. I love being able to help people find the information and resources they need to be successful, both in person and online. I coordinate the virtual reference service, AskWA, at both colleges. It's very fulfilling to mentor younger librarians as they learn the ropes of online question-answering. At Highline I also get to teach, both in the Library and Information Services program [Technical Services and Administration] and in the Life Ocean and General Sciences Department [Environmental Science and Biology]. The L&IS program is entirely online, so we instructors don't get to meet our students in person unless they come to graduation!

Q. How long have you been a member of WLA?

A. 30 years.

Q. How have you been personally involved in WLA?

A. Primarily through interest groups: CAYAS, IFIG, RIG and especially the Social Responsibilities Round Table, which I chaired for many years. I served as IG rep for one term and then got elected ALA Councilor twice. I probably took that role too seriously—I sent the membership WAY too many email messages on ALA activities!

Q. What does WLA mean to you and how have you benefited from being a member of WLA?

A. I am so grateful to WLA people from all over the state for befriending me right away when I arrived and allowing me to learn and grow in service to the association and the profession. I especially appreciate learning about how budgeting REALLY works by attending Board meetings and being very thoroughly introduced to effective lobbying through Library Legislative Day. And trying to get resolutions through a WLA membership meeting taught me how professional politics works. [read more...](#)



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