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People Profile: Connie Foster

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Connie Foster

BORN AND LIVED: Born in Buffalo, NY; have lived in Greensboro, NC (through early grade) and Nashville, TN (high school and college years).

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: English teacher in middle grades, Nashville for 2 years; English instructor, Radford College (before it became co-ed and a university); John Logan Community College, Carterville IL; and then to Bowling Green for English and eventually library staff and faculty employment. Began at WKU as English instructor and then found part-time temp work in the library system. Joined faculty in 1978 and quickly pursued MLS at Peabody/Vanderbilt.

FAMILY: Husband Tom, retired graphics designer WKU; one recently married (on Tybee Island) son Michael who took his own career path and is a detective with the Spring Hill, TN police department; one 15-year-old cat, Maggie (Maine Coon hybrid without the hugeness factor).

IN MY SPARE TIME: Just love bicycling whenever I can. (Rode across Iowa twice — RAGBRAI).

FAVORITE BOOKS: Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver, and somehow I was absorbed by Stieg Larsson’s Girl Who…. Series (although I’d never want to see movies of the three).

PET PEEVES: People who end sentences with “Where ….. at.”

PHILOSOPHY: In work be firm, fair, friendly; with family and friends realize that life is short and don’t delay experiences, travel, and visits. And, when in doubt, Shop.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Besides being named Interim Dean, my other most memorable was being elected president of NASIG for the 2001 term.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Not be Interim Dean; return as a department head in the library.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: From what I am reading now, the library will increasingly use mobile applications to reach students. I think also the current search and discovery systems will continue to undergo transformations that will be more user-friendly; and small presses and societies that have not yet moved to the online environment with IP and proxy access must do so; publishers must provide more back files with current subscriptions. JSTOR and Project MUSE will continue to be major platforms for current and archival quality content.

1. PechaKucha Night: This presentation style was developed in Tokyo in 2003 and has evolved into PechaKucha Night events which consist of approximately a dozen presentations; each presenter has 20 slides that are shown for 20 seconds. Thus, each presenter has 6 minutes and 40 seconds to explain their ideas. — Wikipedia

It’s the feet that are so troubling. No, seriously. They represent the fact that business models and service approaches we’ve grown comfortable with are continuing to undergo assaults of increasing intensity. We can’t simply discount any given scenario as too implausible or unexpected to take seriously.

Back when Capt. Kirk was first signing off on the Captain’s Log on his tablet computer (over forty years ago), who’d have thought that tape cassettes would surpass the reel to reel, or even the vinyl, along with their accompanying business and distribution models? Who’d have taken seriously, back when Capt. Kirk was flipping open his communicator, that the digital cell phones his grandchildren would see with that form factor would be the cheap ones (or are they his great, great, great grandparents)?

Next thing you’ll be telling me is that it’s time to take 3-D seriously.

By definition, it’s the things that haven’t caught our attention that take us by surprise...