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WEBWORTHY

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My favorite memory of Dana:
Dana was a big fan of competitive ice skating and enjoyed attending skating performances. During a visit to academic libraries in Hartford, we sneaked into a figure skating practice for a performance the next day. We stumbled around in the dark outside of the skating rink until we found an unlocked door. Instead of hiding in the back, Dana insisted that we go down front—and sit just a few rows from the ice. She sat us down among the Russian skaters, most of whom she greeted by name. No one questioned our being there. I guess people thought that we were part of the Russian coaching staff. We had the best time watching the practice, listening to coaching instructions, and watching quickly how the skaters followed them. It was striking how hard everyone worked. Dana loved being there, and I loved being there with her.

I miss Dana—and will always remember her with affection and respect.
— Sharon O’Connell

I knew and worked with Dana over many years as she worked with first with Blackwell North America and later with Baker and Taylor. While I have many memories of various times with Dana, I think that one in particular stands out in my mind as a truly amazing occurrence.

While I don’t remember the year, it was springtime in the Great Smokies National Park, probably late April. My wife and daughter and I were visiting the Smokies to see the blooming wild flowers as we tried to do often. It was mid morning and the mountain mist was beginning to lift as we were visiting one of our favorite spots on a nature trail. This trail was easily accessible by automobile. Visitors were able to park and then take a short hike to mountain cabins or other destinations.

We were taking photographs in a clearing behind a log cabin not too far from the parking area, when I noticed someone coming up the trail from the parking area. As the person approached, I walked out on the porch of the cabin and started down the trail. And there walking up the path was Dana. As we looked at each other there was that instant of recognition somewhat hampered by the out of the normal surroundings in which we found ourselves. After all, who would have ever thought that we would run into each other in the middle of the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee rather than in a library in Georgia or at a library conference?

It seems that Dana was passing through Gatlinburg and having never had the opportunity to visit the Smokies decided to take a short excursion off the main road going through the park. She wanted to get a sense of the beauty of the mountains off the beaten path and the folks at her hotel had recommended this nature trail as being easily accessible.

Over the years that followed, we often laughed at this event, realizing full well that you never know when you will find on a mountain path...
— Barry B. Baker, University of Central Florida

Dana Alessi was a wonderful library professional. She was very bright, possessed style and imagination, and was just a quality person generally.

I met her in the late 1970s, maybe at that joint SELA/SLWA conference in New Orleans in the fall of 1978 when she had just signed on with Blackwell/North America. Later, early in 1981, she recruited me for Trinity’s collection development position when they were seeking to build the collection fast and well at the same time. I wasn’t familiar with the institution, but she clued me in, and I’ll always be grateful to her for that.

As I’m sure all your correspondents are saying, she’ll be greatly missed.
It’s true.
— Richard Werking, U.S. Naval Academy

WEBWORTHY

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