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IDS 142 Living a Life of Significance

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Interview Essay

A major portion of living a life of significance comes from a person's life in college, their selected career, and their contributions to the community. The different experiences people have with these will not only shape their own significance, but it changes the way in which they view what it means to live a life of significance. To see this firsthand, I conducted an interview with Ronald Bean. He is a high school librarian, as well as the music director for a church. In addition, at the school he coaches academic team, and has an effect on many students that way. In the interview, he was asked a series of questions about his career, his college life, and his view on what it means to live a life of significance.

**When did you decide to pursue your career as a librarian?**

“Probably in middle, maybe late high school. I had decided that being a librarian was what I wanted to do, though I was already working in the church, so I had that”.

**How did you decide to pursue your career?**

It really just kind of were opportunities that were given to me like when I was working in the church someone told me I should look into it. She was the secretary to the library administrator at the Addison County and she knew this position was coming open and I went up there and got the job. I really just enjoyed it. I enjoyed helping people and whether that be help them with finding something to read or helping that decision, giving them the information to make decisions. And the people you know, you would work with the class and call in and you will help them you know, select things to read and get to information that will help them for whatever they will do. And so it's a very service oriented profession, and I really enjoyed that.”

**How do you balance your career and your personal endeavors?**

“Well that was a little trickier because I find that having can disorder jobs. A lot of what you do, you're basically with the thing about it is my wife is also an organist at a company has determined, so we're together on a personal level that way. A lot but I think, as I've gotten older, you just learn that you don't have to finish everything up in a day, but you don't finish in one day. It's got to be there waiting on that doesn't mean we don't have deadlines from time to time. And you have to meet that. But, but you have to realize that there are so many hours in the day, you devote all the hours you can do the work that didn't make time for yourself. And for me, that's getting up a little earlier. In the morning so that I've got that time over my hot brewed coffee, you know, and can kind of have that time for myself. And then some time to kind of zone out of the day and reflect you know, because work is always going to be available to you. There's always something you can do. And the fact that you don't finish it all of a day is job security.”

**Who served as a mentor to you and how did they do so?**

“Was First and most importantly for was Dr. Francis Moss, who is retired now he was head of community college. I think she was able to see things in me that I was not able to see in myself. She helped me tap into that potential like he is actually still somebody that I meet with from time to time. Talk with visit with him. Well, we'll meet for lunch and serve for five hours later we get up to leave at all, but she is just a person that I just feel at ease with and I feel like that I could talk to her about that things be it on a professional level or personal and she's gonna give you good solid advice. But it started out with Calvin as a music major, and she was the co-director and that was kind of my first experience singing on a regular basis with a group of other singers that kind of helped me find that footing in that career.”

**How did college prepare you for your career or didn't?**

“Well, college helped me understand that there are some things that we may not want to do. But we do anyhow to reach a goal. So, it helped me set goals and do the work that needed to be done to that to reach them. Okay. And I'd say that's what you do in a career. Now some of your goals you may set for yourself or some of your goals. You may have a boss or supervisor that set for you. But then you realize that in order to achieve that goal, you need college.”

**What was the time you hit a roadblock in your professional or academic career and how did you overcome it?**

Well, I think the first roadblock would have been I had a disagreement with my parents and I decided to move out. I had a period of time where I didn't know if I was going to be able to go back to school, but that that over a period of time had a positive resolution and and moving out on your own is not always necessarily a bad thing. You know it can because I remember Bailey saying got a job and I got a job as a busboy at a restaurant. So, it can be it can be a humbling experience. And a gratifying experience. Career wise, anyhow, I just kind of hung in

with school. You know, tried to stick it out or and I did I did spend an extra year at the junior college level. Just because I didn't want to leave and I kind of had that. And then it was it was the year of the semester of fall of 74 that I was at una where I had a disagreement with my folks that moved out and did not go back to school. That's when I moved to the astronaut crew area. So, So anyhow, it didn't work out exactly. Like I had the ramp was the workout. pre college, you know, but it finally did work out and a little bit different way. So I did get a college degree even though I have some time lapse. So you just you just had that goal. And even though it took me a little bit longer to meet it I've never lost sight of that. And then on a professional level, I think at any time that you will get something a little shaky or you have any I would always look okay. How can I make this situation better more? Or what doors will open that will enable me to do something a little different to kind of keep the you look for alternate routes to get to where you want to get to, you know, kind of went on with it.

**If you give a piece of advice to your younger self, be it a child or a teenager or young adult. What would it be?**

“I had a friend and co-worker in high school that made this statement and I thought it was very wise to this day but it was choose your battles. Okay. And if I were talking to my younger self, I would say that the battle when I chose to leave home was not a battle to choose.”

**What does it mean to you to live a life of significance?**

# “For this one I think of a quote by John Wesley, I think it goes “Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can.””