

Beverly Bartolomeo: Behind-the-scenes effort; upfront results

A tribute to the first ISI employee

Jim Hinkle
Thomson Scientific

We all know about those behind-the-scenes people ... the ones who have quietly made a significant impact on the way a company or institution runs ... the ones who have left an indelible stamp of quality and high standards for others to emulate. Perhaps you have encountered these people where you work? Thomson Scientific would like to tell you about one of ours ...

First steps at ISI

In July 1958, it was time for Eugene Garfield, Associates, as ISI was then called, to hire its first full-time employee. An ad for a secretary brought Beverly Bartolomeo, a young woman right out of high school, to Dr. Garfield's then-run-down and small offices.

"When Beverly came in for an interview, her father was going to drop her off on his way to work, but decided to wait outside for her when he saw the broken-down building," recalls Dr. Garfield. Beverly, however, was intrepid. She was looking for a job with a new, growing company. She found one at ISI—and started a 47-year career that began as Dr. Garfield's secretary, and just ended in April 2005 with her retirement as Senior Director, Database Publishing Management.

As Beverly progressed from administrative duties to *Current Contents*[®] production to senior management, her skills and dedication were much needed and appreciated.

Jim Testa, Director of Editorial Development, Thomson Scientific, has worked with Beverly for over 22 years: "This is a detail-oriented

"This is a detail-oriented business, and Beverly can see around corners when it comes to details."

business, and Beverly can see around corners when it comes to details. When she started, she provided the stability and organization that complemented Dr. Garfield's creativity and innovation. She has a visual acuity. She embodies the careful attention to quality that is necessary to produce these kinds of research databases."

Taking charge of Current Contents

Over the years, Beverly has been in charge of the production of *Current Contents* and the Citation Indexes—responsible for the smooth and timely indexing, translating, production, and inventory of these widely-used scholarly resources. And, as Jim Testa states, "In over 40 years of producing the *Current Contents* print booklets, she has never missed a deadline. She

saw the many transitions that have come to pass in this industry and she has helped steer ISI and then Thomson Scientific through each change. The transition of CC[®] from print to diskette, the inclusions of abstracts, the change from manual entry to scanning ... all were seamless, in large part due to Beverly's diligence and leadership."

Quality control for information professionals

Merle Jaffe, Vice-President, Publisher Relations and Editorial Development, Thomson Scientific, remembers being a new manager at bibliographic policy meetings: "Beverly really gave me an appreciation of what it takes to produce this kind of product. She was always a prime force behind assuring that editorial conventions were correct, consistent, and meticulously followed. Without those carefully established policies, it wouldn't be possible to provide the level of reliable data or search results that we offer."

"Beverly's rich and varied experience enabled her to look at issues from every angle and realize the implications of decisions that others might not have. She made the right call — time and time again."

Although librarians, researchers, and other information professionals may not be familiar with Beverly Bartolomeo, they are familiar with the results of her hard work. Over the years, she has made a most significant impact on the quality and basic structure of the information resources they have come to depend on.

As Dr. Garfield states, "ISI is people—not paper, systems and machines¹". During Beverly's retirement party, Dr. Garfield fondly remembered how they first met — and expressed gratitude that: "her father didn't just drive away with you when he first brought you for that interview!"

All of us at Thomson Scientific are grateful, too—and want to give Beverly the recognition she so richly deserves. Enjoy your retirement, Beverly—and thank you!

To read more of Dr. Garfield's comments about Beverly Bartolomeo, go to:

<http://www.garfield.library.upenn.edu/essays/v3p686y1977-78.pdf>

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References

1 "All the I's at ISI" Dr. Eugene Garfield, *Essays of an Information Scientist*, Vol: 2, P. 399-401, 1974-1976; <http://www.garfield.library.upenn.edu/essays/v2p399y1974-76.pdf>

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April 1, 2005

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Beverly Bartolomeo

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