



Editor's Notes: Journeys Through Time

James E. Becvar, Editor
University of Texas at El Paso
jbecvar@utep.edu



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Editor's Notes

Journeys Through Time

James E. Becvar

Issue 2 of *Advances in Peer-Led Learning* (APLL) continues the effort of the Peer-Led Team Learning International Society to communicate research and innovations in peer-facilitated models of learning, like Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL). Papers examine individuals' journeys: from student to Peer Leader, thence to graduate and medical school, to a career in academia. They also examine the beginning of the journey in implementing PLTL: in a different educational system – from the USA to the UK; from a desire to retain and excite those not usually found in engineering; to designing changes in how Peer Leaders are prepared for careers as mathematics instructors. Then there are the longer views: how the PLTL program remained innovative and supportive at Washington University in St. Louis, and the conundrum of how PLTL can be sustained across time and institutional changes.

Reflection is critical to the ongoing success of PLTL. What started the journey? What were the challenges? How were issues resolved? The academic world often is focused on the small unit of time, the semester, or the academic year. How do we remember what happened last Fall?

Encouraging all the participants in your PLTL or peer-led program to keep journals, to jot down successes and failures while they are fresh in memory and before details fade, to meet regularly with other leaders to discuss what is happening and what can change, and to share how all stakeholders can be brought into the discussion is a hard challenge. But those details are often so very important, so valuable, at an unanticipated future time. Collecting data for later discussion and analysis promotes scholarship and research and is important for effecting change. Strong recollections give voice and provide venues for discourse in a changing world, where PLTL provides for evolution of learning among generations, adding to the river of knowledge, and creating community. PLTL matters!

We look forward to your contribution to Issue 3!

James E. Becvar, Editor
University of Texas at El Paso

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