Beyond the Stalk - Jenny Donley
Transcription

Jessica: Hi everyone. And my name’s Jessica and today I’m talking to Jenny Donley. Jenny is a librarian here at Heterick Memorial Library on ONU’s campus. Um, welcome Jenny. Thank you for joining us.

Jenny: Thank you for having me.

Jessica: Um, so, how long have you been working at libraries? And how long have, uh, you been working at Heterick Memorial specifically?

Jenny: I started working at Heterick in June of 2009, so almost nine years. And before I had worked in a public library in Atlanta, and school libraries while I was going through school. But, um, this was my first official after grad, graduate school.

Jessica: Awesome. Um, so what really made you choose to become a librarian? Like, what was um...

Jenny: Biggest motivator?

Jessica: Yeah, motivator. Something like that.

Jenny: I had a special librarian in my life when I was in middle school who really helped me through books. Like, finding resources that I really got into. And, you know, just always helping me explore new ideas. And, that whole idea of helping people find things through research, whether it’s for school project or just your own interest, is really what drew me.

Jessica: So, we also have the personal librarian program here. How is that helping students? And has that, um...I guess, what has that experience been for you, as a librarian as well?

Jenny: Okay. So, we’re already liaisons with the department. We had split up the different majors among the librarians. So, the department had a contact, and this was allowing us to reach out to the freshmen students who had chosen that as their major. So, they had a contact for their research. So, it gives you a name and a face of somebody to help you over the years with your research. I like it because it means I get to work with students over the course of their time here.

Jessica: Um, kind of with this program. What is one of the most interesting things that you’ve had to help someone find research for?

Jenny: Um...I think though some of the more interesting personal topics that I’ve worked on, have been in relation to the archives. When I’ve gotten to help some of the contacts who are looking for information in the ONU archives. A lot of times it will be the descendent of an alumni, um researching their grandfather or their great-grandfather. And you can find like, sometimes there’ll be newspaper articles or you can find photographs. Like the composite photos of a class. Especially because the class sizes were smaller. So, it’s really neat to find something about somebody’s relative and to be able to say, “I’ve found this picture you’ve never seen before!”. You know, it’s just

Jessica: Yeah.

Jenny: a cool thing to do.
Jessica: Yeah, that is really cool, actually. Um, so, in October you actually received the, uh, Kathryn L. Venditti Mentoring Award. Uh, so that must have been a pretty exciting experience for you.

Jenny: It was.

Jessica: Um, so, tell us a little bit about that experience, and ...

Jenny: Um, Kathryn was a member for many years of our ALAO organization through libraries, which is the Academic Library Association of Ohio. So, she passed away and I got to be the first recipient of that award since they created it for her! So, that was an even bigger honor to me because I had worked with her in the past, and it was just really special to be recognized for something like that because I know how important it was to have mentors, like the one I had in middle school.

Jessica: Mm, hmm.

Jenny: You know, people who helped me along my path. And just, having somebody that I could go to. It’s really nice to think that I’m that to other people. That somebody could come to me.

Jessica: Yeah.

Jenny: And, so. It was very flattering.

Jessica: That’s awesome! So, last question to kind of wrap up things. Uh, the library hosts Ada Chats. Um, so, uh, what do our listeners need to know about those and where can they find information on them?

Jenny: So, the Ada Chats. We do them in conjunction with the Ada Public Library. But, the Ada Chats are ... they could be faculty, staff, somebody on campus, somebody from the community who is interested in talking about ... You know, you could be in a discipline. So, you could be an engineer, but you could have your own personal research interest. So, it could be somebody in their own research area, or it could be outside of their research area. Just, what they explore and know about, talking about it. We do send them out on the ONU listservs, but then our social media channels also publicize the events. So, if you are on our twitter or our Instagram feed.

Jessica: Awesome. Uh, well, thank you so much for joining us today, and we really appreciate you being able to make time in your schedule to come talk to us here.

Jenny: Well, I appreciate being asked. So, thank you.