against the grain

people profile

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BORN AND LIVED: I was born in Greenville, SC, raised in Asheville, NC, lived in Essex Junction, VT and currently live in Blacksburg, VA.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: My professional career started June, 2011. My library experience began in 7th grade, "working" in the middle school library.

I was lucky enough to work as a student assistant in Special Collections while I was an undergraduate at UNCA and then, briefly as a Page in Asheville’s Pack Memorial Library. I worked as a paraprofessional at Radford University for four years, got my MLIS and I was hired as the Collection Management Librarian this June.

FAMILY: My family consists of my husband and our Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. My extended family (especially, my favorite niece) resides in Asheville, NC and my husband’s extended family resides in Upstate New York.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I knit, make jewelry, volunteer, hike, camp, travel and, of course, play with the dog in my spare time.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Anything by, Barbara Kingsolver, Carl Hiaison, Bill Bryson, Tom Robbins, David Sedaris.

PET PEEVES: Cutting corners to save time but sacrificing quality. I would rather do it right the first time than do it not-quite-right quickly and then have to do it again.

PHILOSOPHY: Social action, social justice play a big part, so does my religious viewpoint. On the humorous side, I trend toward bumper sticker philosophies to capture the essence. (Syracuse Cultural Workers and Northern Sun.)

“Your silence will not protect you.” ~ Audre Lorde

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: It’s coming. One day.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: I hope to have contributed in some way to my field. I want to be on my way to being known as a thinker/mover/leader.

HOW/WHERE I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: We will better serve our constituents by having more direct feedback about what they want and what they are looking for. We will be more closely tied into what they are doing and seeking at a multitude of contact points (social network, Web analytics, interest groups, etc.) that we will no longer be "divining" what they want, but, in some fashion, hearing what they want and need from them. In the past five years, I think we have seen a shift toward the individual in terms of how the individual expresses their needs, thoughts, experiences and so forth (Facebook, Yelp, TripAdvisor, blogs) that give individuals a place and the power to share all of that information. Along with that trend, I think that, it is no longer just the squeaky wheel that expresses what they want, but everyone has been given the means to express themselves and the affirmation that (to a degree) other people are listening to them.

References


Rumors

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Speaking of Cambridge, with Anthony Watkinson, the wonderful (where does he get his energy? he travels all the time), visited with the energizer bunny Julie Carroll-Davis (Vice President, Global Content Alliances, ProQuest — I had always wondered where the Quorum was and what it was, quite a group of offices and buildings), Serpil Pavey (her name is Turkish and means “to blossom” and she does indeed blossom as a meeting organizer extraordinaire) and the equally energetic Heather Crossan. We are planning for the 16th Fiesole Retreat, which will be in Cambridge at the DoubleTree by Hilton tentatively April 10-12, 2014. If you are interested, we can tell you more. www.casalini.it/retreat/

Speaking of which, Cambridge is a charming town, like Oxford but more rural. There’s the Fitzwilliam Museum with wonderful ancient artifacts and gorgeous mosaic floors that put wood to shame, tons of charming and walkable colleges, the most impressive of which is King’s College which was founded in 1441 by Henry VI (1421-71) and is one of the 31 colleges in the University of Cambridge. (Did you know that Anthony himself studied at Peterhouse?) Since I have a son in the Army, I was very interested in the Eagle Pub when our cab driver told us about it. Since it was on flat land, Cambridge was where many RAF WWII missions originated. Of course the Eagle fed and watered many pilot types. There is a ceiling in a back room that is decorated with mementos from the pilots and also a plaque to them in the pub. And