

What I Want To Be When I Grow Up By Laura Stoll, Assistant to the Director

You may think of your library as a building full of books, a place to seek some peace and quiet, or a fun venue for meeting friends, but there is one thing that makes all of this possible: the staff!

I recently asked each member of our staff to share some things about themselves that you might not know, including, "What did you want to be when you grew up?" We posted their answers on social media and in our e-news, but if you missed them, here's a quick glimpse into the childhood imagination of the people who keep the library running every day.

If you know our Adult Services Librarian Chelsea, you know she's got a wide range of interests as well as a great sense of humor. When Chelsea was young, she was torn between being either a dentist, a Disney Princess, or both. Are any of the Disney Princesses dentists? It seems like a good career for Snow White; the dwarves can be her patients.

Speaking of fantastical careers, Dennis had superhero dreams. "I wanted to be Batman. I'm not saying if the dream came true. That's too risky," he said. We might have to check our security cameras to see if Dennis (aka Batman) has been to the KTL after hours.

Another staff person with a great sense of humor is Shari. She said, "When I was little I wanted to be a nobody, doing nothing and going nowhere. I was going to be a hermit and never leave home. Of course that changed and I'm working at my dream job and wouldn't change it." We're glad Shari gave up that plan to work at the library!

One of our newest staff members, Corey, said he wanted to be an astronaut when he grew up. Corey wrote, "I have always had a fascination with space, and love looking at the stars and constellations. I thought, 'What a cool job this could be!'" Now that he's at the KTL, Corey has access to all kinds of books about outer space, as well as a telescope to try at home!

Jennifer S has had a lot of interests over the years. She said, "When I was a young kid, I thought I'd grow up to be a teacher. When I was in high school, I thought I'd be a surgeon. My first year of college I started as a pre-med biology major working in a research lab, but I switched majors and schools to study Spanish and History!" Her interest in all of these topics comes in very handy at the library.

One of our student employees, Eva, wanted to be just like her parents. She wrote, "When I was younger, I wanted to be an English teacher like my parents and because of how much I liked to read. It translated into a love for visiting the library!" If being a teacher doesn't work out for her, Eva would make a great librarian!

Speaking of parents, Jennifer M said, "When I was a kid, I wanted to grow up to be a mom. I was an only child and hated it. My favorite show was 'Eight is Enough' because the family was so big. I wanted to have eight kids." While her dream of becoming a mom did come true, she has five less children than her favorite TV family.

Nina also had dreams of being a teacher. In fact, she said, "I went so far as to obtain NYS certification and work toward my MAT." I imagine that if Nina were a teacher, she would have taught English or history; her favorite genre of books is historical fiction. If you ever need a reading recommendation, she gives great ones.

Aileen says that when she was a kid, she wanted to grow to be “just like Jane Goodall.” She’s had some jobs in environmental science over the years but we’re happy she’s landed in the library world.

Our fearless leader, Anne, had some big ideas of her own. “First off, I thought it would be neat to grow up and discover that fairies existed! Then, inspired by the tv specials featuring Jacques Cousteau, I wanted to be an oceanographer, however, I really don’t like thinking about deep sea creatures.” Anne’s curiosity shines through, especially when she chooses the unique range of materials for our collection.

As for yours truly, it might not surprise you to know that I always wanted to grow up to be a writer. My grandfather always said I’d write a Great American Novel but I would have been happy to write anything that put me on the same shelves as my favorite author, Laura Ingalls Wilder.

The next time you’re with a group of friends, family, or colleagues, be sure to ask what they wanted to be when they grew up. You’ll probably learn something new about them!