



Profiles

Profile of LaQuanda Onyemeh, John Riddick Student Grant Award Winner

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Photo Courtesy of LaQuanda Onyemeh

LaQuanda Onyemeh graduated from the library and information studies program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in May 2018 and is currently serving as the diversity resident librarian at Texas A&M University. She attended her first NASIG conference this year in Atlanta as the recipient of a John Riddick Student Grant. I completed my interview with Ms. Onyemeh on July 24, 2018.

What led you to become a librarian?

I took a circuitous route to librarianship. I started off at Charlotte School of Law (CSL) in 2014. In 2015 I received a library job at the law library. I really was not digging the legal field. I was at the point where I was showing up to class wondering why am I here. Working in the library made me feel rejuvenated. I'm happy to help students find resources for their legal needs. The

dean of the library sat me down and told me about the many opportunities for librarianship. She introduced me to ALA and AALL. I conducted informal interviews with all of the librarians at CSL. I asked in-depth questions about their careers as librarians and their LIS educations. The next semester I took a leap of faith and applied to UNC Greensboro's library and information studies program...and I got in! It was the best decision I ever made. I loved the topics I was learning about; I felt so fulfilled. Everything just felt natural and it really felt like I was supposed to be a librarian. Oh, you're probably wondering what happened to my law school career. Well, it ended up closing while I was on "leave of absence" completing my LIS program. So, librarianship really was meant to be.

How were you introduced to continuing resources?

I applied for a summer fellowship at Atkins Library, UNC Charlotte. There were multiple disciplines to choose from during their 11-week summer program. I chose the electronic resources management track because of my interests in contracts and licensing. I also wanted to learn how the library resources worked behind the scenes. I also knew e-resource librarians from the CSL library, and I was curious about the work they did on the mysterious fourth floor, ha ha.

What is involved in your current position as diversity resident librarian?

I began my new role at Texas A&M about a month ago. The diversity resident librarian position is for 3 years. In this role, I will be completing rotations in various departments in the library. I will have the

opportunity to be cross-trained in every department. I will be rotating in the following departments: instruction, information resources, special collections, scholarly communications, digital initiatives, and library administration. I am happy about this position because I get to learn about different specializations in the library.

LIS courses. I would have missed out on this great organization if it wasn't for my supervisors telling me about NASIG.

How did you learn about NASIG?

During my summer fellowship at UNC Charlotte in electronic resource management, I was introduced to NASIG's Core Competencies for Electronic Resources Librarians. My supervisors Shoko Tokoro and Liz Siler suggested that this was a great organization to be a part of.

Your first NASIG conference was in Atlanta in 2018. How was your experience as a "first timer?"

Yes, it was amazing. I received an opportunity to attend this year's conference because I was one of the recipients of the John Riddick Student Grant award. I am extremely grateful for being chosen. I had an amazing experience; I did not feel overwhelmed. Everyone was inviting and welcoming. I felt like everyone was genuinely interested in getting to know me and my interests. I had an opportunity to participate in the student spotlight session, where I delivered my presentation about implementing the Coral ERM system at UNC Charlotte. I really enjoyed attending sessions; they were informative and enlightening as a new librarian. I also took advantage of going to the dine-arounds. This was a great way for me to meet different people and engage in casual conversation over tasty food.

Would you come back again for future conferences?

Yes, I will. I am already planning the next one!

Do you have any additional comments?

I think that NASIG needs to find a better way to market to students. Possibly host an information session during