

By Deb Carver

A warm welcome to all of you: Jennifer and JQs family, friends, and colleagues. I'm glad you could be here. A family gathering occurred back in NY, but we felt it was important to have a campus remembrance as well.

I'm Deb Carver, dean of libraries, friend and colleague of JQs for 20 years. He said I was his boss but that wasn't true.

I admit I'm uncomfortable in this role. We don't tend to see it as part of the job description. But then I remind myself that JQ was not necessarily comfortable in his situation either, especially over the last couple of years. Nevertheless he continued to make countless contributions to the UO that were never in his job description.

I hope you forgive my less personal, more work-related perspective today. Thankfully, for all of us, JQ's work was very important to him. He was analytical yet creative, serious but good natured, always conscientious.

I firmly hold that JQ defined this research library in a way that continues to distinguish us from most of our peers. Early in his career here at the UO, he moved over to the library from the computing center, back in the DOS days, before the web, when hardly anyone had a laptop, and cell phones were ridiculously oversized and limited to one function. At that time, when digital content meant, for most people, a pine-based email on a flickering green screen, few of us appreciated the significance of JQ's presence in the library. His expertise gave this organization a critical dimension. He helped us understand the power of the technology, and it's natural linkages to the research library. It was always about the students and the faculty....never about the technology itself.

Many people on campus know of JQ as the Blackboard guy. In 1999, well ahead of the curve, JQ introduced the UO to the CMS, a mission critical service that grew to over 90,000 student enrollments/term on active coursesites. True to the Oregon way, JQ made this happen with very few resources...a fraction of what other universities were investing in their infrastructure.

What some people may not know, is that JQ was a leading expert, not just here, but nationally, in open access publishing. I believe, as did JQ, that there are few issues that are more important to the future of scholarship and the advancement of knowledge. When I got to work in Monday morning July 9, several lists serves that deal with copyright and IP were already full of messages with just two initials in the subject line. Everyone knew, all we're saddened, but grateful for his work in so many important areas.

Im not sure how many people fully appreciate and understand the impact JQ had on this library, the UO, and his adopted profession. He WAS actually the smartest person in the room, but the last person who would have believed that. He was generous with his praise, cautious with his criticism, brave throughout his illness. Personal Attention was low on his priority list. We all know how rare that can be.

As one of those Monday morning emails stated, he was truly a good person. Very good person. And we will miss him.