

What's your name and where are you from?

Monica Teresa Ingold . I am from Logan. Six years ago I bought the house I grew up in just about two blocks away from campus. I take care of my 96 year old dad right now.

Growing up, my mom taught German and French in the language department up here so I spent a lot of time on campus when I was growing up anyways.

Tell me about your profession, how did you end up at USU?

Totally accidentally; I found myself divorced, one of my children was married and the other one was still at home with me and didn't have a job. I looked every place I could and I really pushed to get one up here when I walked into this building for my interview I got to Norm Jones and said, "hmm, This is my Job". He believed me, and he hired me in 1996 and I've been in the history department ever since. It's been 20 years and it has been very awesome. It's been a good place to work, and good for me.

What was your experience prior to this job?

I had a lot of business training because my ex-husband and I ran our own business and I did all of the office work. It was a commercial and industrial paint business, we had about seventeen people so I did all the payroll, all the billing and all of everything like that.

How has your work here at USU changed over time?

When I first started working here I was the secretary and I basically did typing and copying and answering phones and sorting mail and I managed to survive through a budget crisis in 2008. Before that, in 2005, the onset of the banner program came along – that was huge. Slowly the people who I worked with in the main office left and I kind of stepped up and took other jobs and took on more responsibilities and now I am the business assistant three for the college, not just the department. I do a lot more business related items: payroll for the department, all the scholarships for the whole college, budgets for the department, and pretty much anything I'm asked to do.

What have you enjoyed most about working here over time?

The comradery within the department has been wonderful. I know there are departments where people don't get along, but this department has been amazing. They are not colleagues, but they are friends with each other too. That makes working here pleasant and a lot of fun. Of course, Norm Jones was my boss for eighteen years, so that was another hard transition – having a new department head, and Tammy Proctor is really good too.

Would you choose your job in the history department over other positions?

Over the years, I have been encouraged to take other jobs in other departments. I just do a little bit of looking to see what the department was like and have decided, "No, it's a good thing to stay where I am at", and it has been good. It's just the comradery with everybody [is different

from elsewhere] and maybe it's a little bit that I've been here long enough and I have everybody scared of me and so they have to do what they are supposed to be doing (laughs). It's nice that they kind of respect me and my position, because a lot of staff are not respected at all – they are looked down upon. And the people here too, kind of respect my position and understand that I have work that I have to accomplish and they need to follow the rules to get their travel done, to get their extra pays done and those kind of things. In other departments, people sometimes expect staff to jump when they say jump and they don't realize that the staff have a lot of responsibilities that they are supposed to take care of too.

Have the people you work with had an impact on you and your work?

Oh absolutely! The girl whose job I took over, Sally, she was extremely helpful from the new department she went to. She still helped to train me. Caroline, the woman I worked under in the department who helped hire me, she was a real guiding factor in my job and how to handle, not just my work, but people too. Norm kind of gave me free reign to the point that he trusted me to approve things for him because I had worked for him for so long. Dan McInerney, who was Associate Department head for many years, has been really good to work with. I'm able to tease everybody in the department, and that's a big part of *me* I guess.

What do you think that you bring to the department?

Maybe a little bit of stability. People know that if they need things done, that I will make sure that they get done, whether I do them or turn them over to the other staff in the department.

What accomplishments are you most proud of in your life?

First of all, I think that would be my two boys and my six gran-kids. They are awesome. I did a lot with Old Ephraim Mountain Man Club and I did a lot of mountain man reenacting and held different positions with that group. That was a lot of fun over the years. I shot a lot of powder-rifles and had competitions in knife and tomahawk throwing. I still do it a little bit, but I don't participate in the rendezvous quite as much as I used to because it is a lot of work to set up a 12x14 wall tent. I'm old enough now I bought a new trailer and I can just enjoy that (laughs).

How do you feel about your time working for the history department overall?

I've enjoyed almost all of it. There have been some really stressful times, like the budget crunch in 2008. Norm was on sabbatical then and we kind of had a hard dean at that point so it was a lot of balancing. A lot of people were laid off, they got rid of a lot of lecturers. We had to fight to keep ours. We were very lucky because we had a couple of people that had retired about that time so between Dan McInerney and I, we fought to keep those positions. We turned those positions over as part of our budget cut and didn't have to lose anybody. Still, we lost a lot of our budget, so it was tricky for a little while, but I'm kind of proud we managed to do that without losing anybody. Most departments did lose people, we just found a way not to.

What do you think of the Light of Old Main Award that you are receiving?

I'm very honored about it, I think that most of the staff or business assistants that are doing my job in other departments equally deserve [the award]. We have a lot of staff who are really awesome. There are four business assistants, and we all work together really well and that has been wonderful. Any of us can call one another at any time and ask for help. We always drop what we are doing to help out. That makes this job really good; knowing that we have that comradery with each other throughout the departments.

What do you do when you are not at work?

I do a lot of camping when I can get away. As I mentioned, I'm taking care of my 96-year-old dad and this year I am doing a lot of snow-blowing and shoveling. I go to see my gran-kids whenever I can. Two of them are in Brigham, and the other four recently moved to Missoula, which makes me sad. I've managed to get up there twice this past year, and hopefully after I retire I can take my trailer up there and spend some time. I'm retiring at the end of July. A lot of people have told me that I wasn't allowed, but it's going to happen. I think I will enjoy it. I can start getting away a little bit more.

When I take vacations, I've learned to take real vacations and in the last few years my girl-friends and I go to Florida and we go swim with manatees, we've gone swimming with dolphins, we've gone snorkeling in caves and cenotes in Mexico. We really have a good time. I've learned that I've got to travel while I'm healthy and enjoy it.

Is there anything that you have learned in your work here that has affected the way you live or work?

Just to try to be kind and understanding with people, even when you want to smack them (laughs). Years and years ago when my kids were little, I ran a beer bar. I learned that if you keep a smile on your face and are kind with everybody, when you have to get serious, and put a point across, people tend to listen much harder when they see you getting angry about something because they have never seen you angry before.