



People of PROMIG

Amanda Black
Coordinator of Access Services
University of Dayton

Image courtesy University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio
Interview and layout by Nate Floyd

People of PROMIG: How did you get started in your career?

Amanda Black: I got started in my career as a library aide which was my first job at the age of 15. I enjoyed helping people and I worked at a small branch and the Branch Manager allowed me to work at the circulation desk, checking in and checking out items to patrons. I also helped find books by doing searches in the catalog. My manager ended up showing me a video of all the careers you can have by getting your master degree in library and information science. This intrigued me since I wasn't sure what I wanted to do but knew I loved libraries and what they offered.

People of PROMIG: What's your job title?

Amanda Black: Coordinator of Access Services

People of PROMIG: What do you enjoy most about your work, either as a librarian or in your specific role?

Amanda Black: I enjoy the transformational impact when engaging and collaborating with the UD community, as well as the team I lead.



Promise Scholars at the Explore Your Library Challenge. Image courtesy University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio

Participating in an attempt at a positive impact is a great opportunity that I've been given and is why I enjoy my role and librarianship as a whole.

People of PROMIG: What part(s) of your job are most challenging?

Amanda Black: I enjoy the variety of the daily tasks in my position but at times it can be challenging trying to juggle multiple projects at one time and shift priorities.

People of PROMIG: Tell me about an event you planned that exceeded your expectations.

Amanda Black: Libraries Welcome Flyer Promise Scholars for Explore-your-Library Challenge

People of PROMIG: What do you think most people would be surprised to learn about you?

Amanda Black: I love roller skating and I'm pretty good at it.

People of PROMIG: Any recent project that you'd like to tell us about?

Amanda Black:

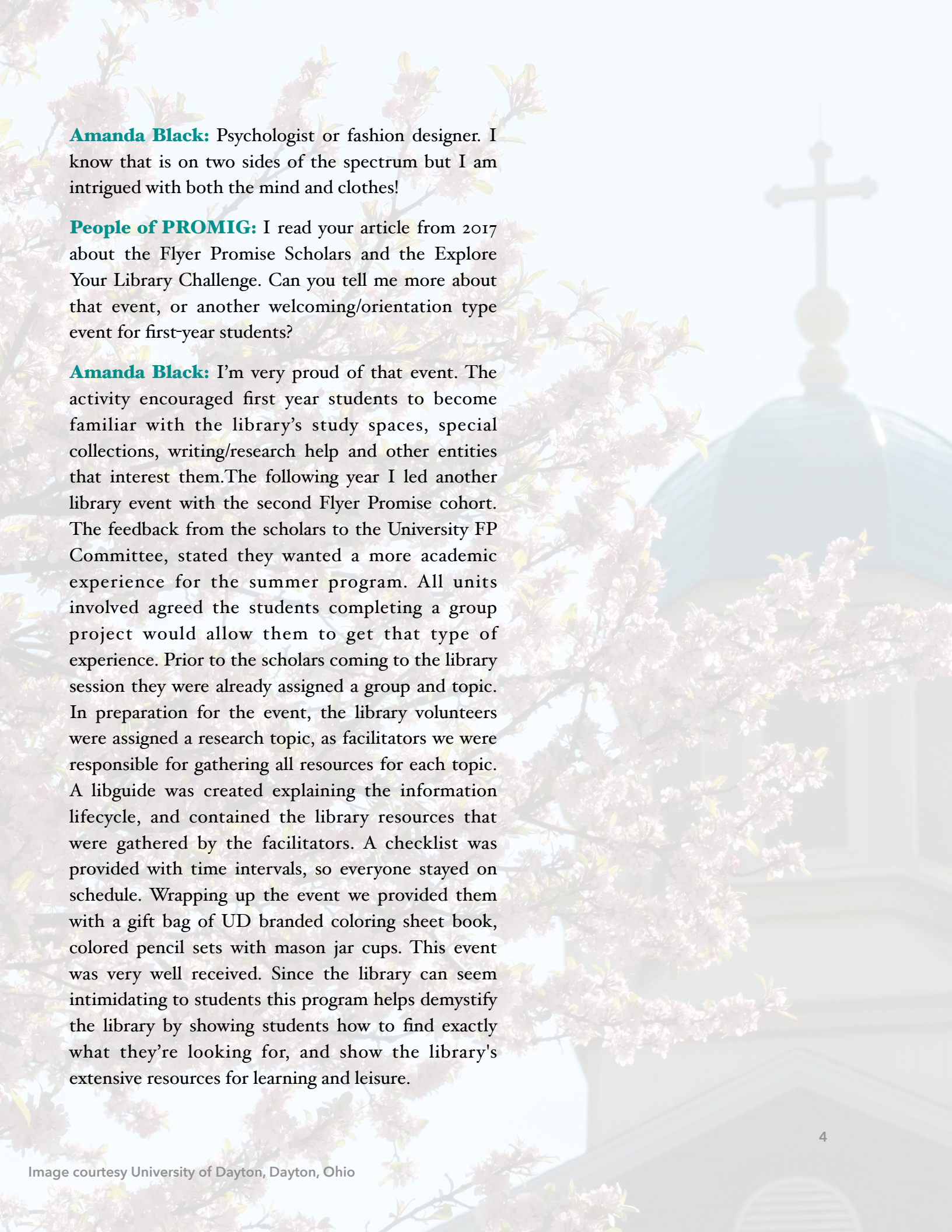
People of PROMIG: What's the best piece of advice you've ever received, career-related or not?

Amanda Black: Advocate for yourself, because your voice matters! This is not always easy to do and I still struggle with it at times. However, I've learned that I shouldn't expect other people to advocate for me, that's my responsibility. Speaking up about my ideas, skills, or suggestions is satisfying and leaves me with no regrets, or missed opportunities.

People of PROMIG: What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?



Promise Scholars at the Explore Your Library Challenge. Image courtesy University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio

The background of the page features a soft-focus image of a building's dome topped with a cross, partially obscured by the branches and pink blossoms of a cherry tree in the foreground. The overall tone is bright and airy.

Amanda Black: Psychologist or fashion designer. I know that is on two sides of the spectrum but I am intrigued with both the mind and clothes!

People of PROMIG: I read your article from 2017 about the Flyer Promise Scholars and the Explore Your Library Challenge. Can you tell me more about that event, or another welcoming/orientation type event for first-year students?

Amanda Black: I'm very proud of that event. The activity encouraged first year students to become familiar with the library's study spaces, special collections, writing/research help and other entities that interest them. The following year I led another library event with the second Flyer Promise cohort. The feedback from the scholars to the University FP Committee, stated they wanted a more academic experience for the summer program. All units involved agreed the students completing a group project would allow them to get that type of experience. Prior to the scholars coming to the library session they were already assigned a group and topic. In preparation for the event, the library volunteers were assigned a research topic, as facilitators we were responsible for gathering all resources for each topic. A libguide was created explaining the information lifecycle, and contained the library resources that were gathered by the facilitators. A checklist was provided with time intervals, so everyone stayed on schedule. Wrapping up the event we provided them with a gift bag of UD branded coloring sheet book, colored pencil sets with mason jar cups. This event was very well received. Since the library can seem intimidating to students this program helps demystify the library by showing students how to find exactly what they're looking for, and show the library's extensive resources for learning and leisure.