

*Karen Cayea:* I've been working here for about 10 years as a library clerk, but your father and I moved here 28 and a half years ago, and I've been a library patron for 28 years. I remember coming with your older sister Cynthia when she was just an infant to just check out the library because I've always liked libraries, wherever I've lived, I've always, you know, checked out the library, and I realized what fantastic programs this library had for children. I was really, uh, really, really liked the children's and parent's services, and I became a regular visitor for everything. It started with, at that time it was Toddler Time, as she grew older all the parent collection things, and then of course, you know, when you came along I signed you up for all that stuff, you know, you guys loved it. There's one program you should in particular remember that kind of makes me laugh. Do you remember the talent show?

*Michele Cayea:* Yes, and the library continues to do the talent shows now, which I think is a great thing for kids to be able to perform in front of each other in a nonthreatening environment too, you know. A lot of kids are intimidated by school talent shows, and the library is a place where they let everyone who wishes to participate participate, and I remember dressing up in 1960s outfits and being a little hippie in 6th grade and dancing to, oh what was it, the "Hitching a Ride" song with my friends.

*Karen Cayea:* So, it's interesting that you and your sister have chosen, uh, librarian fields.

*Michele Cayea:* I think that has to go with what a good role model you were for us growing up in that your children would aspire, you know, to follow in the same footsteps of a career that, you know, you...we've seen you pursue and that, you know, that made us want to go into those types of things.

*Karen Cayea:* Well, I'm surprised you said that, because I've always regretted that I didn't continue because that bachelor's degree in education really, you know, I wasn't too employable. I had to settle for an aid position, so I'm glad to see that you still think I was a role model because I felt I didn't go that next step, so I am so glad that you and your sister are going for your master's now because it's so much harder once you're married and have a family, so I'm really glad to see that you haven't stopped. It's hard, I know you were kind of lagging.

*Michele Cayea:* I was not lagging! I got it done.

*Karen Cayea:* No, you got it done. I don't mean that, but I know...it was discouraging, you even said to me, "My god, I could have been a doctor, I've been at this for 8 years!"

*Michele Cayea:* Yea, 8 years of schooling was a very long time, but it was also the encouragement that you helped me push all the way through.

*Karen Cayea:* Because when you came home and talked about your courses, it was always the, uh, reading that you really enjoyed the most, and books, and I also knew too that libraries were changing. Remember you even said that you thought it would be too dull and boring for you.

You had like the ste, I think the stereotypical attitude that a lot of people had, you know, that libraries were just, you know quiet places where you just sit and study and read, and when you came, you started coming for yourself for your schoolwork, you said yourself it's a kind of dynamic, you know, atmosphere. There's a lot going on here, there's a lot of programs.

*Michele Cayea:* It was when I first started doing an internship here that I realized that, like, oh wow, like it is different every day. It's not, definitely not a boring or dull place to work. There's always something going on. There's always something new. There's always a program or someone asks you a different question that you hadn't heard of. There's always something new to learn, and it's a very dynamic environment. It's far from being boring, but through actually working here and getting some practice doing, through the internship, it really kind of solidified for me that this is the right career for me and I'm so glad that I chose to pursue that.

*Karen Cayea:* You know, some people have said, "Oh, with everything going on, um, computers, we won't need libraries, there won't be books anymore." I definitely think libraries are here to stay. They may look different, you know, it may mean, you know, more computers, it may, obviously, you know, technology, you know, this is an old building as it is, I'm sure the building will change or we might even need a different building. Uh, hopefully there will always be books, I just love books. I'm not one of these people who likes to see my, my literature on a computer, but I think they're here to stay. And that's a great thing.