Get to Know Jennifer Dell!

What is your role in the School?
I am an Instructor and Undergraduate Coordinator in Norman.

Have you always lived in Oklahoma? Or, are you a transplant? Tell us more!
I grew up in Oklahoma City and then I lived in Saint Louis, Missouri just long enough to graduate with my Bachelor's Degree from Saint Louis University and become a Cardinals baseball fan. During college I did venture to Europe where I traveled extensively and lived in Madrid, Spain for six months. I have called Norman home since 2005.

Where did you go to school?
Saint Louis University for my undergraduate degree and I have my MSW from the University of Oklahoma. Boomer Sooner!

What are some of your favorite places you’ve worked, work you’ve done?
Before working at OU I worked for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for fifteen years. I worked for over a decade in direct practice with adolescents with substance use and mental health challenges and on a number of state level initiatives that worked to improve treatment services and supports for youth and families. My favorite part of this job was working at the community and local level with providers and community organizations.
Why do you like working at OU?

I am passionately curious. Working at OU allows me to be immersed in an environment that celebrates my love of learning and gives me the opportunity to hopefully pass that on to others.

What goals do you have for your new role?

To continue the efforts to recruit a diverse pool of social work students and to ensure that the program prepares students for the workforce.

What is your favorite thing about social work – or what surprised you about social work?

I love the many different hats that social workers are trained to wear. My favorite thing about social work is that no day is ever the same. I love the opportunity to work with people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

Do you have any hobbies?

I love trying new restaurants, road trips, cooking, movies, and the outdoors. I am always on the lookout for the next great book or podcast.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself that few people know or that would surprise people?

I can't carry a tune, but I absolutely love music and also musicals. In fact at the young age of five I was escorted out of my first musical "Annie" when I thought the people seated near me had paid to hear me sing.

Anything else you’d want people to know?

Other life goals include publishing a children's book and running a half marathon in all 50 states (1 down, 49 to go!). When I retire I would like to do service work outside of the United States.