

JOURNAL PROFILE

Julia McCurley

Founder
Something More

Julia McCurley never thought she'd be able to laugh about the many boyfriend breakups over the years.

"One time my mother broke up with somebody for me. I was so mad at her, but now I just laugh my head off," McCurley said. "I didn't ask her to."

The entrepreneur who says she "makes love" for a living has always matched friends and family with others as a hobby, so it was a natural transition when she eased into professional matchmaking after working as a high tech recruiter.

McCurley officially launched her company — Something More — in 2009. Revenue tripled from 2010 to 2011, McCurley said, but she declines to discuss specifics.

The Austin love lady admits to occasionally setting her television to watch "Millionaire Matchmaker" on Bravo. The star is Patti Stanger, the Los Angeles-based CEO of Millionaire's Club. Though the two women share the same profession, McCurley said Stanger's love-finding techniques differ from hers.

"Her model is all about the cattle call, which I think is degrading to women. Putting them in a room and the 'pick me' concept reminds me of a junior-high dance," McCurley said.

When love isn't on her mind, she can be found tearing up the tennis court two-to-three times per week. One of her favorite athletes is tennis great Ivan Lendl. McCurley is such a big fan of the sport that she's building her own court.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

An interior decorator, although an aptitude test said I should be an engineer.

What do you think is the best invention in the past 50 years?

Long-wearing lipstick — Chanel, the rose-quartz color.

What's something not many people know about you?

I can do calligraphy, I love chess and I'm athletic.

What do you think about speed dating?

You can't get to know someone in five minutes, and it's fun but I'm not sure about the results. It's good practice — the more dating experience you get the more confident you are.

What's the toughest part of your job?

Turning away clients several times a week, mostly because they aren't emotionally available and have unreasonable expectations.

If you could travel in time to any place, where would you go?

I would want to be one of King Henry VIII's women. I'd put him in his place.

IN DETAIL

HOMETOWN: Vancouver, Washington

AGE: Year of the snake

FAMILY: Husband, Dave, married 7 years; 3 children and 3 stepchildren

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in communications from University of Puget Sound

Favorite place to eat?

Soleil on Lake Travis. I love the calamari.

What fascinates you?

People and what drives them.

What's the most impulsive thing you've done?

I broke up with a boyfriend while on a cruise.

Favorite ice cream flavor?

Chocolate chip cookie dough. This would be part of my last meal.

Favorite movie?

"Dumb and dumber."

What's the best part of your job?

Changing people's lives for the better. Everyone deserves love and happiness — its part of human nature to have a mate. Even if we say we don't need anyone, we really do.

■ Interview by Sarah Drake



NICK SIMONITE

WHAT OTHERS SAY



Karen Forner
Founder and managing attorney
K-Solutions Law

Julia has been successful in everything because she is smart, perceptive, intuitive and loves a challenge. Just as Julia is great at playing Scrabble, she can see potential matches between men and women that they can't see themselves. Julia is also successful as a matchmaker because she has the ability to address head-on the barriers people have to successful dating and coach them on those issues. Austin singles are lucky to have Julia as a resource.

If you walked into a meeting with Julia, you would understand right away why she is a successful business woman. Julia has an innate feeling for people and their objectives. She is focused and driven on helping clients and colleagues meet their goals. She understands and realizes obstacles, but through years of experience, has a solution. With Something More, she has translated this ability to helping people on a personal level.



Jennifer Young
Account Executive
Dynamic Computing Services Corp.