

JEFF BRELLENTHIN

Wind your way through the Center of the Arts and down to the lowest level and you will find Jeff's office tucked away in an interior hallway. It is his base of command and allows him a little quiet space to prepare for the day's job duties.

Jeff began working as a full-time employee for UW-Whitewater on October 31, 1979. Before that, he was an LTE for General Services for four months. He was hired as a custodian, a position he held for two years. He was promoted to facilities repair worker and eventually moved into a maintenance mechanic position. From January of 2001 to August of 2002, he served as a Maintenance Supervisor at UW-Parkside. Then he returned to UW-Whitewater in a supervisory capacity.

Jeff and his wife, Ivy, live just north of Elkhorn by Lake Wandawega. They will celebrate their fourth anniversary this June. He has three stepchildren – two daughters and one son. All live in the Beloit area with their families. Jeff has four step-grandchildren ranging in age from 9-14 (2 boys and 2 girls). His interests include traveling – he and Ivy like to take weekend trips around the state and to neighboring states to check out the local sites and activities, especially in the fall. He also enjoys longer trips and has traveled to South Dakota, the UP of Michigan, and Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee. Jeff likes spending time around home, relaxing and occasionally going to a movie. And he shares, with us, a well-kept secret – he operates a locksmith business from his home in his spare time.

Jeff is in charge of supervising 11 custodians in the west zone of the academic department of FP&M. Together with his supervisor, Steve Barnes, they supervise 18 custodians and 2 maintenance workers. His duties involve equipment spec'ing and ordering, arranging for vendor demonstrations, inspecting areas and conducting employee evaluations. He has been using a custodial software program that allows him to enter data regarding room types in the building, each room's floor coverings, as well as the type of use of each room and how they want to clean the room. Once that information is inputted, the program assesses the data and indicates the amount of time it will take to clean the building. This helps them justify the staff positions needed to get the work done in that zone.

What Jeff really likes about his job are the people. "We've got a good crew. They are all knowledgeable in what they do and they don't need constant attention. They do their jobs well, which makes my job easier." Regarding the campus, as a whole, he appreciates the benefits that come with the job – health, retirement, etc. – even though there have been some changes recently. He also feels there is good job security and he enjoys all of the people he works with on campus.

As for changes on campus, Jeff notes that he has seen many changes over the 32 years that he has been here. He points out the many improvements to the buildings and grounds and the various "face-lifts" the campus has received over the years. "The grounds look nice and the person in charge does a good job beautifying the campus. This campus is just the right size – it's easy to interact with many people." We asked about the current construction in his area, specifically near the auditorium. Jeff informed us that there is a new dance studio being added to the auditorium which may be ready to use by the fall semester.

Would he make any changes on campus, given the opportunity? He smiles. "I would get more custodial help." Coming from someone who is out there on the floor, getting a pretty good view of the overall situation, that seemed like a reasonable request. And with the custodial software system that helps assess those needs in the building Jeff may very well see that change take place.