

JOY GARLOCK

Joy has been working at UW-Whitewater for nineteen years and she is currently located in Williams Center, in Intercollegiate Athletics. She has been in charge of the laundry for the athletic teams for the past twelve years and the bulk of her time is spent in the laundry room adjacent to her office area. During the first seven years of her campus employment, Joy served as a custodian in various buildings – Residence Life, academic buildings, the University Center. She was in Hyer Hall for a while but became a floater when Hyer was under renovation.

Joy has two daughters and one son. Her daughter, Mandy, lives in Phoenix, Arizona and has a thirteen-year-old daughter (Kali). Joy's other daughter, Shelley, lives in Whitewater with her sixteen-year-old son (Tyler). Joy's son, Rich, lives in Chicago with his wife (Jaime) and their two-year-old son, Charley. At the time of this interview, they were expecting another son (Zachary).

Aside from spending quality time with her family, Joy is especially interested in gardening. She loves flowers of all kinds and enjoys planting anything that brightens up her surroundings – lots of color makes her happy. She also likes her quiet time and spends some of that time just relaxing.

Joy does the laundry for all UW-Whitewater sporting teams, which adds up to twenty teams and 700+ athletes. She mends the uniforms and that can mount up, especially for the rougher sports. It is her responsibility to keep track of all of the athletic clothing. At the beginning of each season, Joy meets with each team and reviews the rules with the athletes. Athletes check out clothing/uniforms at the beginning of the season and are responsible for returning all checked out items at the end of the season. If a student does not return his/her athletic items, Joy must place a "hold" on his/her account until she receives those items. Each athlete receives a game bag prior to competitions and brings the competition clothes back to Joy to be laundered. She is particularly pleased with the laundry loop that was devised for practice clothing. The clothing is attached to the loop and the clothes clean up better than in a mesh bag. They also dry a lot faster.

What does Joy like about her job? "I really enjoy interacting with the kids and the coaches." She says it's great to be a part of the all the activity that goes on with the athletics. She also notes that she used to have a tiny space in the old building but, after the remodel and addition, she has a much larger area. "It's awesome to have a new part of the building and the field house is great!" She is able to do a lot more for the students because there is more room and that's very nice.

Joy has lived in Whitewater all her life and she had help getting her job from someone who worked on grounds. She is appreciative of that and it is part of what she really likes about the campus – people helping each other. It also makes her feel good to know that the students are very appreciative for what she does for them.

Her thoughts regarding changes on campus – "19 years ago things were a little more structured and people seemed to enjoy their jobs more. People were more laid back". As for changing anything if the opportunity presented itself, she mentions the food places, the Chancellor's listening session and the Classified Connection, and she smiles. "It's all good. I don't know if I would change anything."

In the twelve years that Joy has been working in Williams Center, she says she has never been sick. And she hopes to leave on that note when she retires April 5, 2013. At that time, she will move to Phoenix to be closer to her daughter and granddaughter. We wish her the best.