

## RANDY OLP

Randy is into his thirtieth year working for the State of Wisconsin and has been with Residence Life for most of that time. He began working for the State back in 1981 and his first year and a half was spent in Madison. From there he transferred to UW-Whitewater, initially working in the Andersen Library building for a little over a year. From the library, Randy moved on to Wells Hall and was there for about four years. A one-year stint at Knilans Hall came next and then he finally landed in Bigelow, where he has been for the past twenty-one years. At this point, he seems to be quite satisfied with where he is at. He did check out the new residence suites and the possibility of working there, but decided he was happy at Bigelow.

Randy and his wife, Catherine, have been married for twenty-three years and they reside in Delavan. Catherine has worked at A-1 Creative Packaging in Palmyra for about thirty-five years. They have a son, Shaun, who just graduated from UW-Whitewater in December of 2010. He majored in Psychology and is currently seeking employment in that career field. He is willing to consider other types of employment (to pay the bills) until something comes along that is related to his field of study. Sara, their daughter, is a junior at UW-W, majoring in General Business. There is one household pet – Garfield – a “lazy” cat, as Randy jokingly describes him. Garfield is ten years old and according to Randy, “all he does is shed.” Beneath Randy’s humor, we believe we detected a sign of attachment for old Garfield.

Outside of work, Randy’s interests include riding his motorcycle and traveling. He says he has a Honda and that he prefers it to a Harley. He feels the upkeep is much easier and less expensive than it would be on a Harley. He enjoys getting out and riding around the area – mostly in Wisconsin. Sometimes he even takes Catherine along for the ride. As a family, they all enjoy traveling and Randy acknowledges that the destination is determined through a democratic process. Everyone gets together to suggest possible places to visit. They have been to Branson, Tennessee, Florida and Colorado, taking in sights such as Pike’s Peak, Seven Falls, Disney World, Universal Studios and Sea World. They like to take road trips which provide them with some quality family time.

In Bigelow, Randy is responsible for keeping the building clean. That includes 100 residence rooms, as well as the general areas (restrooms, showers, recreation areas, etc.). He’s the man who wields the vacuum, broom and mop – sweeping on a daily basis and mopping 2-3 times a week to keep the dust at bay. He also has the thankless task of keeping the bathrooms clean and taking care of the trash. Once a year, the windows are cleaned. He notes that, for the past couple of years, there has been a window crew that has come out to clean most of the windows, so he doesn’t have as many to keep track of anymore. However, there are still some by the lounges and a few other areas that are relegated to him. Compared to Wells, Randy says window cleaning at Bigelow is easier because there are not as many. In the winter, he is responsible for shoveling the snow around the entrances. The snow must be cleaned out at least ten feet from the entrance and more in some areas, depending on the location and how difficult it is for the grounds crew to maintain with their machinery.

What he likes about his job is the fact that there are shifts in the groups of students that come through the dorms. During the year he sees the older students in the hall, but in the summers there are a lot of younger students who come for a week for a variety of summer camps. It can be a nice change of pace. He also likes the fact that there is nobody hovering over him while he is trying to get his job done. The freedom allows him to maintain a regular routine but still accommodate unexpected surprises. Randy is very appreciative when he is able to get student help and notes that he has had some good assistance over the years.

Regarding some of the recent changes on campus, Randy says he doesn’t get out of Bigelow too often, but thinks the new residence hall is very nice. If he had an opportunity to change something or add something on campus, his first wish would be to get air conditioning in Bigelow. All in all, things are pretty good and, with retirement looming on the horizon, he is content.