

## **RHONDA JONES**

This September, Rhonda will be celebrating her eighth anniversary working at UW-Whitewater. She has worked all of those eight years in the University Center Administration Office and the Hawk Card Office, and reports that she has been very happy, despite some of the inconvenience of the recent UC remodel. During that time period, when most UC staff members were moved to temporary quarters elsewhere on campus, Rhonda and her colleagues remained in the building, braving the distraction of construction and a few chilly winter days without heat. She is now settled into her new office area and has even seen additional changes in the brief period since the remodel. She takes it in stride and goes with the flow.

Rhonda and her husband, Everett Jr., have been married for 27 years and they have four children. Their oldest son, Everett, is 26 and was just married this past Sunday. He works for R and D Laser in Janesville. Andy, the second oldest, is 23 and works for Simmons Mattress in Janesville. Jamie is their oldest daughter. She is 22 and is a student in Hawaii, majoring in Psychology. She plans on pursuing a career as a doctor. Six-year-old Katy is the youngest and will be entering second grade in the fall. Rhonda and her family reside in Janesville, and Everett Jr. has been employed as a CNC Operator (machine operator) for twenty years at a local company. Sharing the family home is Jingles, their four-year-old male alley cat. He was Katy's 2-year birthday present and pretty much rules the roost. According to Rhonda, he is quite independent and not as affectionate as she would like him to be.

Camping is one of the major family activities for Rhonda. She and her family like to go camping in various locations throughout Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois. She also enjoys reading, particularly Christian books, and she is quite involved with activities in her church. Her son's recent wedding provided an additional flurry of activity and a joyous occasion to add to the family annals.

Rhonda is responsible for providing program support for the University Center administrative staff – Bob Barry, Dave Halbach, Kim Adams and Mike O'Connor. She works extensively with Kim. Her duties include Hawk Card Office support – covering information tables at the Plan It Purple events and taking pictures for student I.D. cards. She also works with the dining contract changes. What she enjoys most about her job is the diversity of her job duties and the opportunity to work with so many students, especially the student employees. She says that it's easy to get close to the students when they are employed in the same office for 3-4 years. Between the Hawk Card Office, UC Administration, UC Graphics, and the Gallery, about 25 students are employed during the academic year and 15 over the summer. "It's easy to relate to the students when they are the same ages as your children and they are fun to work with".

Rhonda's thoughts regarding recent changes on campus? From a personnel standpoint, she feels that Tom Rios is a very positive addition to the Division of Student Affairs. "I like his philosophy and he is very down-to-earth." She notes that there has been a great deal of restructuring in the UC and hopes that it will make things even better. And, she thinks the new residence hall is a pretty awesome addition to campus.

We asked her, if given the opportunity to change something or add something on campus, what that would be. Her response was that she would like to see a change in the Search & Screen process. She has assisted with the administrative portion of a Search & Screen and feels that it would improve things if committee members did not have to spend quite as much time on the process and if less money was spent – just something to think about in these days of tight budgets. She feels this could be accomplished and there would still be well-qualified candidates to interview.

As for UW-Whitewater on a whole, Rhonda likes the overall campus atmosphere. She feels it's a pretty relaxed environment. The students make it a great place to work, as do the positive attitudes of her fellow workers.