

TOM STANEK

Tom has been with the university for thirty-three years, beginning in April 1979. He worked one year in the old Carlson building (now Laurentide Hall and currently being remodeled). From Carlson, he moved to Tutt Hall and worked a year in that building. He then transferred to the University Center and has been with the UC Facilities Management team ever since.

Tom married his wife, Frances (Fran), shortly after starting his employment at UW-Whitewater. They have two children – Chad and Elizabeth. Chad is the oldest and he lives in Shawnee, Kansas with his wife, Meghan. Chad works for Sanford Health in Bemidji, Minnesota, for a software company similar to Epic Systems. Meghan works for Perceptive Software in Kansas City, Kansas. Tom's daughter, Elizabeth, is married to Dan Hayes and they live in Fort Atkinson. Dan is a project manager for ATI Ladish. He and Elizabeth are expecting their first child at the end of September.

When he is not at work, Tom likes to sleep and “play in the dirt”. He really enjoys gardening and growing his own vegetables. The summer provided a challenge for some produce but was better for other types. He did run into a problem with the corn crop this year. He is also getting excited about the arrival of his first grandchild.

Tom's duties on campus run the gamut from washing windows to cleaning floors, and many duties in between. Floor work involves either scrubbing tile or extracting/shampooing carpets. You can catch him on that duty early in the morning in the University Center. He is also responsible for making sure the Moraine Bookstore is keep clean. He is sometimes called to help at Drumlin and Esker if they are shorthanded or need an extra hand. He said he does some snow removal in the winter, but it is not much anymore since the university has purchased new equipment that greatly reduces that need. What Tom likes about his job is the variety of duties and the continual change. He works with different people throughout the day which makes the job interesting. He also likes the fact that his job requires a certain amount of self-motivation since he is not always under direct supervision.

Ask Tom what he likes about working at UW-Whitewater and he is quick to respond that he really enjoys the work and he likes the people here. He feels there are a lot of good programs offered for students in academics, athletics and other extra-curricular areas. He also notes that Chancellor Telfer is very personable and seems to be doing a good job.

As for the various changes the university is continually undergoing, he likes change and thinks that some of the recent changes have been good. However, he would like to see more opportunities for custodians to have some input when it comes to the construction of new buildings, indicating that there is not always enough storage space allotted.

If he could change or add something on campus, first and foremost, Tom would like the university to consider more input from the people who will be working in, or maintaining, the buildings that are constructed or remodeled. He would also like to see new equipment purchased every five years to replace the old so that those individuals who are responsible for maintaining the buildings have the best equipment at their disposal so they can keep the buildings looking great.