

## VICKIE STEINKE

Stick around UW-W long enough and you will experience, first-hand, some significant changes as the university marches toward the future in its never-ending quest for progress and improvement. Just a couple of months shy of her 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary at UW-W, Vickie has been privy to many changes during her employ on campus. She has also accumulated a wealth of memories over the years.

Seventeen and fresh out of high school, Vickie started working at UW-Whitewater in 1969. She had two half-time jobs on campus. In the mornings, she worked in the Forensics Office which was located in a house on Prince Street. In the afternoons, she worked at the Speech and Hearing Clinic in a house on Prairie Street. Her “keyboard” was a trusty Olympia manual typewriter. (Ah, those were the days!)

In 1972, her two half-time positions were cut to quarter-time positions, so she worked those in the afternoons and picked up another half-time position in the Theatre/Dance Department for the mornings. In 1976, Vickie began a full-time position in Cultural Affairs. She was there for five years and had the position, at her request, switched to job sharing with Carolyn Bodensteiner prior to going on maternity leave in 1981. She returned to the job-sharing position, working part-time until the position resumed a permanent full-time status for one individual. She was back in the saddle full-time at that point. She was busy handling the contracts, marketing, and assisting with the coordination of the technical crew for Cultural Affairs. At that point, Vickie took another time out to add another child to her family.

Returning from maternity leave in 1986, she transferred to a half-time position in the Women’s Studies Department. After two years, she picked up another part-time position in the Testing Services/Employee Assistance Program, working for Leonard Morgan. In 1989, Vickie pursued a full-time position in Cultural Affairs and moved back to that area. If, by now, you have determined that Vickie has seen a lot of campus during her employ, you would be right on the money. But, she says that she enjoyed moving around and getting to know different people in each area. She made one more move in 1993, to the Hawk Card Office, in the University Center. And there she remains.

Vickie’s job duties in the Hawk Card Office include coordinating and maintaining the student and staff ID card program, meal plans, Dining Dollars, and Purple Points. She works extensively with the new Blackboard system related to the meal plan programs. She was the staff co-chair for the ACUI (Association of College Unions International) Conference that UW-Whitewater sponsored on campus last November. Vickie also served on a Search and Screen committee for the hiring of a new Assistant Chancellor for Student Affairs.

What she enjoys about her job is the staff she works with and the students. She has had an opportunity to develop some great relationships over the years, with her co-workers, student employees and customers. “Dave Halbach is a wonderful person,” she says, and she is happy to have him as her supervisor.

Vickie grew up in Fort Atkinson and still lives there. She has three sons. Ryan, the oldest, is a project coordinator for AZCO Co. in Appleton, WI. His job involves a great deal of travel and he has made his home in a number of states, over the years, including Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and New York. Matt, her second son, lives with his significant other (Olivia) and four daughters. Shany is 10, Alyssa is 6, Paetyn is 4, and Elliana Rose is 1. He is employed as a Tower Technician. Youngest son, Evan, just graduated from the University of Minnesota –Twin Cities, in landscape architecture. Keeping Vickie company, at home, is her eleven-year-old Golden Retriever, Amber.

What does Vickie like to do in her time away from work? Her number one priority is spending time with her grandchildren. She likes taking her oldest granddaughter to church with her and to share some one-on-one time. She also enjoys taking the girls to the Young Auditorium for some of the great children's shows that appear there. Vickie's other interests include bowling, walking with her dog, and following NASCAR. She has had a couple of opportunities to get to some races out of state and had lots of fun at those events.

We asked Vickie to share some memories that stand out for her over the 40 years she has been on campus. She mentioned that, when she began working on campus, there were only male and female residence halls and the rules for visiting were pretty strictly enforced. She indicated that students could not have cars on campus. She had a number of friends who were going to school at UW-W and she often provided rides to them. She talked about the changes in technology that have affected her directly, the Old Main fire, the times of unrest on campus in the late '60's and early '70's. She remembers when there were ROTC personnel posted at the doors of the Library because of that unrest. And then, there were the more warming memories. She smiles as she remembers a particular student employee with whom she worked in Cultural Affairs. He went on to receive his master's degree in Arts Management. That was just one of the very special relationships she developed over the years. Working with Lorraine Gross in Cultural Affairs was another plus for Vickie. And the list goes on.

What she likes most about UW-Whitewater is the fact that it is close to home. "I was born and raised in Fort Atkinson and I like the smaller campus – people are friendly and it provides a family type of atmosphere."

Winding up with her thoughts regarding all of the changes on campus, over the years, Vickie is quick to point out that, "it's nice the university is trying to upgrade and make the campus more appealing to students". Speaking with Vickie, we realized that, even though there have been a few bumps in the road over the years, she has been enjoying the ride.