

Interview with Rhonda Jones, 10/14/16

Rhonda is a long time presence in the University Center. Originally hired 14 years ago to serve part-time typing, filing and reconciling credit card accounts. She later added a second part-time position in the Hawk Card office and the rest is history. Rhonda now helps to manage the UC Employment area, along with two administrative assistants and two UC HR Interns. They are responsible for Student Development, which includes hiring and training of all the UC student employees. The system they have developed includes many types of training along with additional professional development opportunities and introductions to the staff, which creates the feeling of “family” within the UC employees. Rhonda is very proud that the skills she has learned while doing her job have helped her to become a better person. She recently had the opportunity to present on the UC Employment program at a conference in Minnesota, The Association of College Unions International. She finds her work at UW-W very rewarding and states “After 14 years, I still like my job”. Her immediate answer about her favorite part of the job was “the students!”

Prior to coming to Whitewater, Rhonda worked in the restaurant industry for 22 years. When they moved back to the area from North Carolina, she decided to return to school (UW-Whitewater) as a non-traditional student and earned her degree. She began working here at that time.

Rhonda has been married for 33 years to her husband, Everett. They have four children; Everett III, Andy, Jamie and Katy and two grandchildren. While the three oldest are grown (Everett married with two children, Andy in Augusta, GA and Jamie in the Air Force in Maryland), Katie (13) is still at home. They make their home in Janesville but have also lived in Rockford, IL and North Carolina.

Rhonda’s favorite hobby is reading. She says she reads about 150 books per year including non-fiction Christian books as well as mysteries (John Grisham novels are her favorite). She also enjoys gardening and has such a productive garden that she has canned dozens of quarts of tomatoes, carrots, green beans and squash this year alone.

Rhonda finds the relationships she has built over the years to be the best thing about working at UW-W. She says you can’t help but get close to the people you’re around. She is amazed at just how many people on campus she knows. I guess after 14 years in a university hub like the UC, you can’t help but meet people!