

BRIAN QUASS

If, at first, you are having difficulty locating Brian on campus, don't give up. His job with Residence Life requires that he move from building to building, so he is not necessarily in one place for any lengthy period of time. Brian has been working for UW-Whitewater on a full-time basis since January of 2002. He initially began working on campus in an LTE capacity and found a full-time position available in the University Center in 2002. Employment before UWW included three years with the Plasterers Union. Prior to that, he worked for a couple of plastering companies. His work at UWW started on third shift. After a number of years on that shift, a first-shift position opened up and he pursued it. A wry smile lights his face when he says that he likes working days and seeing the sun.

A Whitewater resident, Brian shares his household with his mother, Patricia, who retired from General Motors a few years ago. They take care of each other – Brian taking care of his mom's "to do" list and his mom keeping him in line. He chuckles and notes that the situation works out well for both of them. The other family member who shares the house is Bailey, a 10-year-old female Jack Russell terrier. Brian had a couple of cats – one lived to be 21 years old and the other 23 years old – but both have passed away. He still maintains fond memories of them.

Outside of work, one of Brian's favorite pastimes is fishing. He enjoys fishing on the Bark River. Prince's Point is a regular haunt, even if he's just pulling in catfish. Just getting outdoors and soaking in the sun and the river environment makes it worthwhile. It's a great way for him to relax. He also likes to dabble in karaoke for a little different kind of fun. (We would have asked him to sing for us, but we ran out of time.)

Back on campus, Brian's unofficial title is "floater" and he goes wherever he is needed for Residence Life. Many times, he fills in for someone else who is unable to work on a given day. He admits that he wasn't certain, at first, whether or not he liked the idea of moving from building to building. At one point in his employment, he was assigned to Lee Hall, so he had his own building. However, after working the floater position for awhile, he has decided that he likes it even better than having his own building because he encounters a wide variety of work and has the freedom to develop his own schedule, for the most part. He enjoys having that independence. In summers, he helps others with cleaning in different buildings while the students are gone. The rest of the time, he works pretty much on his own. Aside from his regular work, he attends weekly union meetings and occasional safety meetings. He explains that, in these days of technology, the safety meetings are mostly covered online instead of individuals gathering together.

What does Brian like most about his job? He likes his varying work schedule and the flexibility it allows him. He has worked with many good people and gets to meet different individuals with his shifting job. He has accumulated many good memories thus far, and is looking forward to the future. He was very impressed by the fact that Frank Bartlett, the Interim Director of Residence Life, was outside in the winter helping to shovel the snow. It was a real team effort.

As for the changes that occur on a continual basis on campus, Brian feels it's good to continually make improvements on campus. "Things get better every year and the remodels of the dorms are a good thing for the students". He believes in maintaining a positive and upbeat attitude towards life and it definitely shows when you speak with him.