

## DANIEL SEIB

A man of many talents, Dan met us as he was returning from a call to help pull up a tree stump on a nearby hill. Although his office and shop are located on the south end of the General Services building, he is frequently called to other sites to assist with various jobs. Dan has been at UW-W for thirteen years and with the State of Wisconsin for twenty-three years.

His initial employment with the State was at UW-Madison, in the now defunct Poultry Department. He took care of the hatchery there and was privy to some of the research projects and different experiments being conducted at that time. Some of the more interesting things happening in that department were the research being done on different feeds (particularly for Oscar Mayer), the development of the low cholesterol egg, and the hatching of ostrich eggs for the Vilas County Zoo. Dan worked five years in the Poultry Department, but he realized there wasn't much future there, so he transferred to the Recreation Sports Department, where he helped repair and maintain fitness equipment for a large complex and also helped maintain the pool. He was there for five years when an opportunity to take the Mechanics exam presented itself and then the position at UW-Whitewater became available.

Dan lives in Cottage Grove and two of his three children still live at home with him. His older daughter, Alayna, is 23 and she and her husband, Nick, live in Madison. Nick is currently a bartender and Alayna works at The Silly Yak Bakery, which specializes in gluten-free foods. His younger daughter, Samantha, is nineteen and has just finished her first year at MATC where she is majoring in Psychology. Son, Zachary, is a junior in high school and is investigating a career as a chef. He is hoping to find a part-time job that is related to that career but, at sixteen, those jobs are rather difficult to find.

Dan's interests outside of work include old cars, camping, hunting, fishing, golfing, and traveling. He has a 1937 Ford Coupe into which he puts a lot of his time and labor. He used to display it in parades, but now prefers to just drive around in it and enjoy it. He goes hunting and fishing on a family farm located near Bristol. He hunts mostly deer and pheasant these days. He also goes hunting and fishing up in the Hayward area. As for traveling, the wanderlust has taken him around the country to places including the coast of Maine, Myrtle Beach (SC), Destin (FL), the Grand Canyon, and Mexico.

Back on campus, Dan's job duties include: taking care of all grounds equipment (from weed eaters to end loaders); fabrication; welding; repairing and maintaining the fleet vehicles and the electrical vehicles. He is the only mechanic assigned to those vehicles. There were more individuals in that role at one time, but some of those positions were eliminated over the years. Dan also helps plow snow on campus during the winter season. What he likes most about his job is the unending variety – fixing equipment and vehicles (he's been a mechanic since he was 16), mowing the prairie, helping with the prairie burn – there are so many different tasks and each day is different from the last.

What Dan finds most appealing about UW-Whitewater is the campus community, the people. They are good people and he is treated very well. He has a great supervisor and is allowed a lot of independence in his job. As for the many changes that occur on a regular basis around campus, he grins as he notes, "Every time we get something fixed up, they tear it apart. But, it's nice once it's finally finished." He supplies a little different perspective on the continual changes that some of the landscaping undergoes on campus. He is especially pleased to see more and more native flowers and plants being put into the campus landscape. And it's obvious that he enjoys being part of the human machine that makes UW-W a great campus.