

DAWN TRUELSEN

Dawn has only been working on campus for two and a half years, but she is totally immersed in absorbing as much of the university atmosphere as she can. She was actually on vacation when the notice arrived regarding an opening in the Political Science Department. She arrived home, saw the communication and, literally, had only a couple of hours to respond as to whether or not she was interested in interviewing for the position. She must have been destined for that position – she got the job.

Work experience for Dawn, prior to UWW, has mostly been in the private sector and includes experience in the field of social work and in legal services. Dawn's background in social work led her to a position as a case worker at a shelter for battered women. Individuals in those types of positions tend to burn out after awhile and Dawn was no exception. She reached a point where she was ready to move on to something else. She tried her hand in legal services and enjoyed the work. When she was busy expanding her family, she decided that she wanted to be a stay-at-home mom, but still wanted to have an income. She began doing temporary work for attorneys and built up a good business for herself, working from her home. She had, she says, "the best of both worlds."

Dawn moved to Whitewater from Kenosha, and is busy getting to know the area in and around the city. She down-sized from a house to an apartment and is still working on letting go of items to fit more comfortably into her new home. She has two children, both grown and out on their own. Daughter, Erin, is 22 and lives in Clovis, New Mexico. She works as a 9-1-1 Operator, but is considering joining the Air Force. Son, Andrew, is 19 and in the Army. He was deployed to Iraq on October 21st and Dawn is, understandably, concerned about him. Both children left behind personal items for their mother to store. Dawn also acquired a cat from each one, bringing her pet count up to three felines – Bitsy (hers), Tiger (Andy's) and Dusty (Erin's).

Dawn says she is a voracious reader and enjoys many kinds of reading material, especially murder mysteries. She also enjoys biographies of unusual people, something a little more off the beaten path. She has fun hanging out with her friends, playing dice games and word games, and she loves being outdoors and traveling. Since she has moved to Whitewater, she has spent time going for drives, getting a feel for the area and a wide radius of terrain. She wants to do more exploring of the Kettle Moraine. Dawn is active in her church and in the local A.F.S.C.M.E union. She is also on the executive board of the union and is involved in putting together emergency kits for law enforcement officials to distribute to individuals who find themselves in need following a fire, flood, etc.

When asked what she likes about her job, Dawn readily responds that she is thoroughly caught up in the diversity of the faculty, in her department, as well as across campus. There are people from all over the world with different perspectives that she can tap into and she says she did not have those opportunities in the private sector. What she enjoys most about the campus is the openness and willingness of people, with so many different backgrounds, to share their beliefs and knowledge.

As for the construction on campus, Dawn says she had fun moving from Salisbury to White Hall. She was happy to be able to set up her office as she wished and even enjoyed helping others pack. She said that sometimes it was tough getting around the construction but she likes where she is located. She leaves us with her life philosophy: "Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about getting out there and dancing in the rain."