

DENISE EHREN

A UW-Whitewater alumnus, Denise graduated with her BFA degree in Theatre/Design in May 1999. Following graduation, she was employed at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. She started working on campus as a sabbatical replacement in the Theatre/Dance Department in January 2004. In that role, she taught Theatre 250, advised students, and supervised the lab portion of the costumes shop. She also designed costumes for department shows through July 2008.

Denise recently completed coursework and received a Certificate in Global Studies from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. She is currently working on her MA in Liberal Studies and plans on receiving that degree this coming December. Her master's degree program is an online program, also through UNC-Greensboro. She accepted a classified position on campus because it allowed her the flexibility to work on her degree. She is currently located in McCutchan Hall, working in Chicano-Latino Student Programs.

In that department, Denise is responsible for all of the paperwork and contracts for the speakers they host. She works with a large number of conferences and handles the travel arrangements and paperwork for those events, as well. Other duties include: designing brochures and posters for department-sponsored programs; maintaining multiple budgets and student payroll; and working with Project SWEETT, helping to bring prospective Latino students in from local high schools. She is happy to have the opportunity to tap into her creative side when designing advertising for the different department events, and enjoys working with the numbers and keeping track of that data.

Denise and her husband, Jeff, have been married for eight years and live in the Whitewater area. Jeff is a custodian in McGraw Hall and has been at UW-W for three years. They do not yet have any children or pets, but keep busy with their jobs and with their first house, which they purchased last fall. Remodeling projects continue to surface with their new home and they keep occupied as they fix it up to reflect their own unique style. Denise also enjoys sewing and designing clothes when she has the time. She and Jeff like to travel and hope to be able to do more of that in the future. She spent the summers of 2007 and 2008 in Italy, designing for various operas. Jeff was able to arrange time off to spend those summers with her and together they took advantage of opportunities to travel around that country. Denise will be attending a design-related conference in Georgia, over the Labor Day weekend, and is looking forward to that excursion. She would also like to have an opportunity to visit New Orleans during Mardi Gras to see the costumes and other creations that go hand in hand with that event.

Growing up on a farm in Darlington, Wisconsin (population 2,000), Denise has developed an appreciation for small towns. It's one of the things she likes about Whitewater and the campus – it has a small town character and appeal without being really small. She likes the fact that it makes it easy to get to know people.

As for the continual changes on campus, she thinks about that for a minute and smiles. “Change is always good. New people coming in bring new perspectives.” She welcomes the opportunity to work with people who approach things from a different angle and bring new ideas to the table. She appears to be quite satisfied with her changing roles and the opportunities presented to her on campus.