

DONALD FRIEDEWALD

We found Don working in the basement of White Hall, but quickly learned that he travels all over campus, as the work requires. He has been working at UW-Whitewater since 1984, when he started his employment as an LTE in the University Center. At that time, he worked 20 hours on weekends (10 hours each Saturday and Sunday). After just three months, he was hired permanently and continued on at the University Center, working various shifts (9-5, 6-2, 11-7). Some of his co-workers included Larry Sherman and Richard Crary. From the University Center, Don moved to Williams Center and spent thirteen years in that facility. After Williams Center, Don found himself in Salisbury Hall and worked there until it was razed to make way for Hyland Hall. He has been in White Hall since then, but gets called to work at other campus sites periodically. The only place on campus that Don has not worked is in Residence Life.

Don is proud of the fact that he and his wife, Melody, will be celebrating their 37th wedding anniversary on November 3rd. Melody is a Human Resources Payroll Specialist for Aurora Lakeland Medical Center in Elkhorn, and has been there for fifteen years. They have two daughters – Rachel and Amy. Rachel is married and is a stay-at-home mom. Her husband, Mike, works for Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center in the Surgical ICU Department. He is also going to school to become an anesthesiologist. They live in Elkhorn with their two daughters (five-year-old Mariah and one-year-old Amelia). Amy and her husband, Tyler, also live in Elkhorn. They were just married on June 5th. Together, they run a check-into-cash business located in Elkhorn. Tyler runs a second business located in Richmond, IL.

Resident pets in Don's house include: Sandy, a sixteen-year-old sandy-colored lab; Amy's Peekapoo, Chewy (6); and Rachel's Shih Tzu, Gizmo (9). Rachel's chocolate lab, Bella (6 months), loves visiting Grandma and Grandpa and gets sleepovers, just like the grandchildren.

Don is a big sports fan. He loves Packer football (especially Aaron Rogers) and he is a Warhawk fan, as well, catching many of the football and basketball games. He has a lot of co-workers who share the same passion for UWW sports and that's a plus in his book. He was part of a bowling league in Delavan for seven years, but has given that up for now. He and Melody love to travel. Melody's parents are "snowbirds" with a residence in Apache Junction, Arizona, near Phoenix. Don and Melody recently visited there and then drove to the coast and up to San Francisco. They have taken many family vacations over the years. His in-laws owned a cottage at Shawano Lake for many years, and Don would take his family there during the summers. He enjoys fishing and hunting but admits that he doesn't do much of that anymore. Other activities have replaced those pastimes.

When we asked him about his job, Don grinned and replied, "I am a custodian and I love every minute of it!" He has fun working with the staff and students. While he is in charge of maintaining White Hall, he also gets called to work at the Recital Hall, McCutchan, Hyland, Upham, and other buildings. He recently helped wax all of the floors in Hyland. As other projects arise, he is there to assist. He happily reports that he has wonderful bosses and enjoys getting to know the people on campus – faculty, staff and students.

What Don likes most about UW-Whitewater are the people and the surroundings. "This is a beautiful campus! If not for the people, we wouldn't be here." He feels that all of the recent changes are wonderful, as long as there are people to staff the bigger new buildings. Asked whether there are any changes he would like to see on campus, Don notes that it would be helpful to have more permanent staff to maintain everything. Other than that, he is a very happy camper and his enthusiasm is contagious. If you see him around campus, his easy smile is quick to convey the joy he finds in his work.