

JAMES McLERNON

James' office is on the third floor of Hyer Hall, with a window facing the west part of campus, but he doesn't really have time to take in the scenery. He has been working on campus for fourteen years this coming December (most of that time in Facilities Planning & Management) and his work keeps him busy. While his primary facility is Hyer Hall, he does occasionally assist in other buildings if the need arises and he is summoned. His employment on campus began in the University Center. After two years there, he transferred to FP&M in Williams Center where he worked the night shift. One year later, he had an opportunity to move to the day shift in Hyer, which definitely appealed to him.

James is single (eligible bachelor, ladies) and co-owns a duplex in Whitewater with his parents. He maintains the yard and building, keeping everything in good shape. A die-hard Packer fan, he considers Packer football close to a religion. He is very much into sports, in general, but is a big fan of the rest of the Wisconsin teams, as well – Brewers, Bucks, Badgers, etc. James is also an active member of the UW-W Community Optimist Club. No pets share the household with James. He said he did have a German shepherd in the past (a stray that found him) but he eventually had to have her put to sleep.

James' job duties are general maintenance in nature. He tries to keep everything ship-shape for the students and staff who use the building throughout the day and evening. He is responsible for the third and fourth floor classrooms and offices in Hyer. Depending on the time of the year, he also assists with the snow removal around the doorways and on the steps. He doesn't have to worry about cleaning the outsides of the windows but does take care of the interior windows.

When asked what he likes about his job, he replies that he enjoys the independence that comes with his position. "I'm pretty much left to do my job – set priorities, schedule my work. I have the flexibility to do my work as I like." Some of the things he likes about UW-Whitewater overall include the great football team (among other sports teams here) and the people in Hyer Hall. He is pleased to be part of the university community.

Another plus for James is the opportunity provided by UWW for staff to take classes and earn a degree. He said the tuition reimbursement plan helped him take one or two classes a semester while he pursued a degree in sociology with a minor in management. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in that field in 2009.

James is very positive about the changes that continually take place on the campus. "The landscaping is impressive – they do a great job!" He is also impressed with Hyland Hall and the Kachel Fieldhouse. He thinks all of the construction is great. As for making any changes on campus, James gets a little whimsical and grins. "How about sidewalks that automatically melt the snow and ice?" Great idea, James! Perhaps that is in the not-too-distant future.