

JASON SCHMIDT

A relative newcomer to the UW-Whitewater campus, Jason has worked in iCIT for three and a half years, since August 2006. His office is located in McGraw and we found him in the midst of an environmental upheaval – parts of McGraw are being remodeled. Wet paint signs decorate the floors near the newly painted walls. Office furniture lines the hallways and owners are displaced for the time being. Remodeling usually exacts a price on those who must find temporary workspace elsewhere, but those in McGraw seem to be making the situation work and Jason takes it in stride.

Jason earned his degree at UW-River Falls and was employed at that university after he graduated. He was there for five and a half years, working in Information Technology for the Student Affairs department. When a position opened up at UW-Whitewater, he signed on here.

Jason and his wife, Katie, make their home in Stoughton. Katie works for the Department of Workforce Development in Madison. They have two children – a son (Evan) who is five years old, and a daughter (Abigail) who will soon be two years old. Jason notes that the commute is not too bad – about 35-40 minutes, depending on weather and traffic. He likes being close to Madison and the activities that the city offers. Both he and Katie enjoy spending time outside with the children, and the Madison zoo offers great family entertainment on a scale that doesn't wear everyone out with extensive walking. Jason also enjoys going to Badger football and basketball games and his dedication to those sports is obvious, given the fact that he holds season tickets.

Job duties for Jason include working on the campus network – troubleshooting and upgrading the system on a regular basis. He is also responsible for the wireless access on campus, something that is continually being improved upon so that students, employees and campus guests have greater ease in utilizing the wireless capabilities of the campus. Do you ever wonder how all of the maintenance and upgrades get completed so that everything is up and running by 7:00 in morning? Jason is one of the individuals who, many times, comes to campus in the early morning hours to see that the technology is operational by that 7:00 a.m. start time. Sometimes we forget about (or don't realize) what goes on behind the scenes to keep everything functioning properly on campus.

What Jason likes about his job is working with the technology and equipment. He enjoys the people with whom he works and he likes helping others. He feels good about providing a necessary service to people on campus. As for UW-W, on a whole, he says it's nice to see a lot of updates on campus, especially the new buildings – Hyland Hall and the new residence hall suites that are currently under construction. He appreciates the size of the campus and the fact that it is not so spread out, which leaves everything within easy walking distance.

Regarding the changes on campus, Jason is happy to be a part of the change and the updates. His skills are needed in the technology for the new buildings, as well as the older ones. And, he appreciates the remodeling going on in his building, despite the temporary displacement. With luck, he will soon be settled back in his office, ready for the next change that comes his way.