

JEFF SCHMIDT

Jeff signed on at UW-Whitewater in May of 2000, working for FP&M. His job requires his presence in a number of buildings. He initially worked in the Kachel Fieldhouse, Williams Center, Salisbury, Baker, the Health Center and Visitor's Center. With the razing of Baker and Salisbury, his building locations changed somewhat. He no longer works in the Health Center, but has picked up the stadium and athletic complex.

Prior to UW-W, Jeff lived and worked in Clark County, in Neillsville. He graduated from Neillsville High in 1973 and enlisted in the Army that fall. His basic training was in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After graduating from the wheeled vehicle maintenance program in Maryland, in 1974, he was stationed in Fort Hood, TX. He took a quick break to go home and marry his high school sweetheart, Kari, and then they back to Texas. He was transferred to Germany in October 1974 and Kari was able to join him there in January of 1975. After three years in Germany, he was transferred back to the States and they moved to Fort Riley, Kansas, where they lived until Jeff was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in July 1980.

Jeff then moved his family back to Neillsville where he was employed by Neillsville Medical Center/Nursing Home. He worked with that employer and the State of Wisconsin to create an indenture program for his 4-year apprentice course in Building Maintenance through Mid-State Technical Institute in Wisconsin Rapids. He graduated with a Maintenance Mechanic Journeyman degree in 1984. In 1987, they moved to Janesville where he accepted employment with Caravilla Nursing Home. He worked there as an Assistant Maintenance Supervisor until 1990, when he was hired by Rock County to work on the Building Maintenance Staff. He worked at the Rock County Courthouse, Rock County Corrections, the Juvenile Center, and the new 911 Center. Then the opportunity to work at UW-Whitewater presented itself and Jeff has been here ever since.

Jeff and Kari still live in Janesville but their children are grown and living on their own. Kari has been working in the real estate field for the past 4-5 years with Shorewest Realtors. Son, Ben, was born while the Schmidts were stationed in Fort Riley, KS. He was in the Air Force and is now a civilian, working in the warehousing industry. Ben and girlfriend, Diana, live in Dayton, Ohio. Jeff's daughter, Stacie, lives in Janesville with her boyfriend (Kyle) and daughter, Katelyn (11 years old). She is a CNA in the home health care business. Katelyn Mary is in fifth grade. She likes to sing, play softball, and is active in Girl Scouts.

Family is top priority for Jeff and Kari. Since many family members are scattered throughout the country, they spend time traveling and visiting family on their vacations. Travel ranks high on Jeff's list of interests. While in Germany, he and Kari had an opportunity to many of the sites there, including: Neuschwanstein Castle; Zugspitze (the highest mountain in Germany), near the Black Forest; the 1972 Olympic stadium in Munich; Auschwitz and Dachau concentration camps; a number of other castles on trips down the Rhine River. He notes that it was "an awesome experience. We met many great people along the way."

Initially a Maintenance Mechanic 3, Jeff is now a Facilities Maintenance Specialist advanced. He works on numerous pieces of HVAC equipment and other building maintenance equipment. "I enjoy very much working with the Williams Center staff and I have accomplished many of my personal goals, as well as work goals, while here at Whitewater. I find the people here are highly skilled and caring in what we do, creating a great environment for learning".

What Jeff likes most about UWW is the communication on campus, from the chancellor on down. He thinks it's great that the chancellor has listening sessions where anyone can come and ask questions. He finds that very open and inviting. As for the changes occurring on campus, "they're all good." He mentions that the FP&M site covers all the projects in progress and he likes the information being available there. He hates to see some of the knowledge base leaving campus, but realizes that things are constantly changing. He is looking forward to new experiences at UW-Whitewater and working with new people.