

KEITH SCHULTZ

We unintentionally picked a hot, muggy day to interview Keith, but he is a man used to working in extremes and the sultry weather does not faze him. As a member of the Grounds Crew for Facilities Planning & Management, he is well-adapted to being outdoors in all types of weather. Keith has been working in the UW system for twenty-one years, eighteen of them here at UW-Whitewater.

Keith and his family live in Fort Atkinson, where his two daughters attend school. His wife, Becky, is an editor for Cygnus Business Media (formerly Johnson Hill Press) in Fort. He and Becky have been married for twenty-one years. Their older daughter, April, is seventeen and will be a senior in high school this coming fall. Hannah is thirteen and will be entering the eighth grade. Both girls are involved in a variety of activities, including: FFA, 4-H, basketball, and softball. Both girls are catchers for their softball teams. Keith proudly notes that Hannah also has a black belt in karate.

When he's not working on campus, Keith and Becky are busy following the girls' activities and chauffeuring them around. April just got a car, so she helps a little with the travel to and from school. One of the big interests of the family is showing sheep. Keith says that his job helps support his hobby and he raises sheep for show and for the meat. He has a side job shearing sheep. The family has been showing sheep for years and they attend area county fairs (including Jefferson and Walworth). They will all be at the Wisconsin State Fair for about a week, seeking ribbons and trophies to add to their growing collections.

In addition to the sheep, there are a few other animals that are part of the Schultz residence. Their dog, Buddy, is a Golden Retriever and he shares the household with Hannah's guinea pig (Hughie) and the family cat (Oliver). Keith declined to name the sheep – too many.

Keith enjoys working on the Grounds Crew. He likes being given his instructions and then just going off and doing the job, without someone always looking over his shoulder. His job incorporates a variety of duties, which makes his days interesting. His duties change with the seasons. Keith helps with the landscaping -- doing the plantings on campus, pulling weeds, trimming trees, mowing grass. In the winter, snowplowing is on his "to do" list, and he has been helping to build a support wall near Hyland Hall this summer. He also helps pick up trash and maintain the campus, keeping it looking nice and inviting to both the campus community and visitors. He is very happy to be working outdoors in most any type of weather.

What he likes most about working at UW-Whitewater is that it is close to home and just a short commute. Campus employment runs in the family – Keith's dad worked on campus for Residence Life. We asked him if any particular work-related anecdotes stood out in the years he has been at UW-W. He grins as he mentions a couple of odd stories his dad told him. According to Keith, there was a time, one fall (quite a few years ago) when some of the crew members were asked to pick up leaves and glue them under the trees for aesthetic purposes. He also notes that one time some of the crew were instructed to vacuum up puddles of water outside. Sometimes, the stranger and more far-fetched the story is, the more likely it is to stick in your mind.

Keith doesn't have any particular thoughts regarding the changes around campus. He goes with the flow and accepts things as they happen. He does like things as they are, especially the people with whom he works. He points out that, because he's been working with most of the same crew for a long period of time, a certain camaraderie has developed and he really enjoys that working relationship. For him, it seems to be one of the special things about UW-Whitewater that makes it a good place to work.