

MARETTA MILLER

Energetic and enthusiastic, Maretta infuses her own brand of optimism into her job at the Registrar's Office, and into the other aspects of her life. She has been at UW-Whitewater since 1997, starting out in Academic Support Services with Roger Pulliam, for about six months. She then moved to her current position in Registrar's.

Maretta hails from Iowa and has moved a number of times in her life. She has worked for a variety of educational institutions, including Iowa State University, Ozark Christian College, the University of Missouri-Columbia, and UW-Madison. Her husband's job took them to Zaire for a couple of years and a brief stint in Mali. Her life has been anything but dull.

Her marriage in 1980 incorporated her into a ready-made family. She is pleased to label her husband, Dave, "a good one", indicating that he cooks, washes clothes and takes care of the yard work. Together, they have three children. Betty Gail is the oldest and lives in Janesville with her teenage daughter. Son, Paul, is the second oldest. He and his wife, Kim, live in Evansville with their three children (ages 8, 6, and 2). Last, but not least, is daughter, Fran. She and her husband, Rick, have one daughter who is seven.

Get her talking about her interests and Maretta is a wealth of information. A degree in Home Economics set the backdrop for her continued interest in foods and textiles. She enjoys a variety of interests, including quilting, cooking, genealogy, and traveling. She says she never liked hand-sewing, so her mom taught her to use the treadle machine – look out, world! While living for a period in Fargo, North Dakota, she was convinced to take up hand-quilting and it has been a big part of her life ever since. She judges at quilt shows both in- and out-of-state. She also teaches and lectures at schools and guilds. (While teaching at Ozark Christian College in the early 70's, she ran her own custom dress-making business.) One of her annual projects is making quilts for Relay for Life.

Maretta's interest in genealogy dates back to the early 1980's. Her family held reunions every year in Iowa. One year, a call went out to all relatives to bring along any quilts that their grandmother had made. Maretta considers that "quilt reunion" one of the best family reunions, as many more people attended that particular event. It was during that reunion that she realized how many relatives did not know each other. So, she took it upon herself to create books for everyone, with information on family members. She kept adding material as she found it and, at the next reunion, she was able to present a gem of genealogy – the discovery of a journal belonging to a great aunt who traveled west with her family to Iowa. The journal dated from 1915 and also contained a family picture.

Maretta enjoys her job in Registrar's, indicating that Dan Edlebeck and Jodi Hare make the office a great place to work. She gets the freedom and encouragement she needs to do her job and says there is a good mutual respect between staff in the office. She enjoys the fact that they have office celebrations that flow out into the offices around them. Having worked at a number of different universities, Maretta likes the size of UWW, noting that the parking is much more accessible and costs much less than at larger institutions. And, despite its smaller size, "it's a campus where things are happening."

Regarding the changes on campus – Maretta is quite happy not to have to move again. She was recently uprooted when Registrar's moved to the newly remodeled Roseman Auditorium space. She is ready to retire in every way except financially. She should have plenty to keep her busy when that day finally arrives.