

MARY ORVAL

Mary has been working in the Center for Global Education for almost six years and recently moved into Hyland Hall when it was completed. She was employed by UW-Whitewater for four years, from 1980 to 1984, in the Financial Aid Office. In 1984, she accepted a position in manufacturing as a Material Planner and worked in that capacity until 2004. She seems to be quite happy to be back in the education environment and really enjoys the location of the Center.

Mary and her husband, Tom, live in Johnson Creek so she has about a 30 minute commute to Whitewater each day. She has two children. Her son, Robby Lemke, owns Lemke's D J & R Mfg., Inc. located in Helenville, WI. He is married to Angie and they have an eleven-year-old son, Esdon, and a six-year-old daughter, Kendall. Mary's daughter, Becky, is married to UW-W alum Scott Pfeiffer. Scott teaches physical education in the Lake Mills school district and Becky works in the Cashiers Office on campus. They have a son, Cody, who is seventeen. They also had a daughter, Alison, who died when she was just two years old.

Tom works in pest control at ECOLAB and covers a specific territory, servicing commercial businesses. He also serves as the Grande Correspondent for the veteran's organization "40 & 8", part of the American Legion for the State of Wisconsin. Both Mary and Tom work with veterans and their families who are in dire situations, helping to provide services via the Legion. (Mary explains that "40 & 8" is a term coined by the French which means 40 men or 8 horses – either of which could fit into one boxcar.) She helps publish a newsletter for the Children's Heart Fund and helps to raise funds for a Nurses Training Scholarship. Both Mary and Tom keep pretty busy when not at their primary jobs. And, of course, both of them like to spend time with their grandchildren.

As for her job in the Center for Global Education, Mary's duties are quite diverse. She assists everyone in the office in one capacity or another. She is a financial specialist, so budgets are a part of her responsibilities. She also makes appointments and reservations, does purchasing for the office, answers the phone, and other general administrative tasks.

Mary really enjoys her job, especially being around the students. She also finds that the people she works with and others in the building are very helpful when you need something. As for her thoughts regarding the UW-W campus on a whole, she thinks it is a very friendly environment. "People want to be a family and it's apparent in the way they treat one another." What she likes most of all about being in Hyland Hall is that people can actually find the office now, versus when it was tucked away in the Andersen Library building. "People had a difficult time finding the office in that building," she laughs. It's obvious that she prefers to be more accessible to the customers.

Mary is an advocate of the new business building and hopes to see more updates and changes on campus, especially as the university gets the go-ahead for more remodeling projects like Carlson Hall. If she could change something on campus, the first thing that comes to mind for her is that the university really needs to get better at communicating throughout the campus community. Mary, on the other hand, has no problem communicating – she considers herself the "Hyland Hall Greeter" since so many people stop at their door first to ask questions or get directions. She smiles and you can tell she is definitely in her element.