

PAMELA RUMSEY

Pam works in Academic Support Services for the Latino Student Programs. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and recently earned her master's degree in Counselor Education, with a community emphasis. She has been employed by the State of Wisconsin for eleven years, beginning in January of 1998. She had been working at the UW Hospital for nine months when an opening presented itself at UW-Whitewater, in the Center for Students with Disabilities. She began her job there towards the end of 1998. In December of 1999, she moved to a position with the McNair Program. She transferred to her current position in September of 2007.

Pam lives in Fort Atkinson, with her husband, Ron. Ron is head of the manufacturing software area for Harris Data in Brookfield. He designs software for medium-sized businesses. Between them, they have five children. Ron's daughters, Melissa and Nichole, are out on their own. Nichole is married to husband, Scott, and they live in Whitewater. Erin, Jennifer & Nicholas are Pam's children. All are grown and living on their own. Nicholas is a sergeant in the Marine Corps and is stationed in Beauford, South Carolina. He married Gina, a fellow marine, and they have a daughter and son, Amie and Sam. Jennifer lives in Madison and Erin is in Fort Atkinson. With the children gone, Ron and Pam have moved her mother and his parents in with them. All three parents are 83 years old, so Ron and Pam call them "the triplets". She smiles as she indicates that life can get pretty interesting sometimes with the three older adults in the house. Pets include Pam's dog, Daisy, who is a 10 year old, golden-tan Akita. Ron's pet is Beaker, a multi-colored Mexican parrot who likes to whistle at their rainbow-colored feather duster as if he's angling for a date.

Pam's has quite a few interests outside of work. She likes to scrapbook, knit, crochet, quilt, and cross-stitch. This Christmas, she made all of her gifts. She admits that she is still finishing up Ron's gift but he should have it by the end of this month. With all of the time and love invested, it should be worth the wait. She also enjoys cooking and gardening, and she loves to read, especially since she no longer has to concentrate on textbooks and can read purely for fun. She likes reading true accounts of crimes that really took place (must be the psychology background). Her background and education also help her in her volunteer work for PADA (People Against Domestic & Sexual Assault) in Jefferson.

Pam is conveniently located on the first floor of McCutchan and is in charge of keeping the office operating smoothly and efficiently. Her duties involve budget, maintaining the office, and customer service. She is responsible for making the necessary arrangements for Latino Heritage Month, which runs from mid-September to the beginning of October. During our conversation, Pam's supervisor, Nelia Olivencia, briefly joins us and points out that Pam "runs a tight ship – she is good with students and creates graphics arts pieces" for different Latino events. For Pam, the best thing about her job is working with multicultural students and learning more about their backgrounds, history, and cultures.

The size of UWW is tops on Pam's list. "It's not too big. You get to know the professors and they get to know you." She enjoyed being a student and she also likes working on campus, noting that it feels like home to her. The fact that it is close to her home in Fort Atkinson is also a plus for her. The most difficult thing for her is getting to know the students and then seeing them graduate and move on.

As for the changes that have been taking place on campus, sometimes it can be confusing; like the time when the area was fenced off to start the new parking lot and her car was fenced in – no one told them the area was going to be unavailable for parking. And then, a lot of trees and green space were removed to build a "green" residence hall. She's still scratching her head over that one.