

PEG MURRAY

Peg started working on campus in 1968, for the Safety Education Department. She was also assisting Coach Forrest Perkins with duties in the sports area. When the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics was created, the following year, she was assigned to that department, and her duties were all sports-related. In 1971, Peg took a few years off to start a family, returning to campus in the fall of 1977 to work in the University Library. Initially, she served in an LTE capacity. She then secured a part-time permanent position, moving up to a three-quarter time assignment and finally full-time. The library has been her campus home for many years and she has had an opportunity to play a role in its growth and change over those years.

Peg and her husband, Ken Conner, live a short commute away, in Janesville. Ken owns and operates Clock Master, in Janesville. His occupation is repairing antique clocks and Peg laughs as she mentions that the sounds of many clocks can always be heard around her house. Ken and Peg were married in September 2007 and they have a blended family. Peg's son, Ryan, recently received his master's degree from UW-Milwaukee and he is currently teaching third grade at the University School in Milwaukee. Ken has two sons (Tim and Jason) and one daughter (Tara). Tim is married and living in Illinois. He and his wife, Jen, have three children. Tara lives in Sun Prairie. She and her husband, Jim, have two girls – ages 4 and newborn. Jason and his wife, LeeAnn, have both made the military their career. Their home is in Alaska, but they have both served terms of duty in the Middle East.

Outside of work, Peg absolutely loves gardening. She enjoys planning and nurturing her flowers and is continually adding more to their home landscape each year. She prefers to work with plants indigenous to the area and would be thrilled if she could plant every inch of their acre and a half yard. They have a fenced in yard and Ken takes care of the lawn while she manages the flowers. She is interested in genealogy, but hasn't had much time to spend on that hobby lately. Travel is high on her list of leisure-time pleasures and, over the years, she has been to many destinations around the world. After retirement, she plans on volunteering time at the Humane Society and the Historical Society.

Peg's job responsibilities are quite varied. She opens the library in the morning and then takes care of all financials (deposits) for the day, and all billing related to fines and fees. She is in charge of the hiring and training for the circulation area, which includes about two dozen student employees. She handles all payroll and scheduling for these students. She is responsible for main circulation item stack maintenance and supervises the periodic moves of these items. Peg also provides back-up for the circulation desk and covers that desk a number of hours each week.

Since Peg has been on campus for quite a few years, she has seen, first-hand, the changes that have occurred both in the library and on the campus, as a whole. She notes that quite a few things remained the same in the library for many years, but now there have been some sweeping changes – many due to the advancements in technology in recent years. She is excited about the new resources that the library now has available to the campus and the community. "I can already see that these new resources are bringing more students into the library," she says. "Our numbers have definitely increased." Some of the new resources available are a wide screen TV and seating area, feature films available for checkout, new DVD's and CD's for checkout, kindles, flip cameras, color copying and color printing. There are laptops that can be checked out for use within the library. There is also a gaming section where games can be checked out and played in the library.

What Peg likes most about her job is working with students, and the changes and updates she has seen in her area. What she likes about UW-Whitewater are all of the sports teams that are doing so well – her heart is still in sports, from the time she first began working on campus. She believes that the sports bring lots of people to campus, as well as the academics and the cultural arts provided on campus.

While retirement is on her agenda, she has not yet mentioned a set date for that event. We asked her if any particular events stand out for her over the years. Peg remembers the early years of her employment, out at Williams Center. There were some unsettling times that the campus lived through and she had a front row seat to some incidents which, thankfully, are in the past. Two things that stand out for her, personally, are her receipt in 2007 of an award and a certificate of appreciation for her work, and her receipt of the 2007 Women of Leadership Award. She says they both meant a great deal to her – it's nice to know that your work and efforts are appreciated.