

RICHARD GUERRA

Richard warmly welcomed us to the second floor of Upham Hall – his little domain. He is fairly new to the UW-Whitewater community, having started his campus employment three years ago. Prior to UW-W, he worked for Nestle Purina in Jefferson, WI. He retired after thirty-four years there. Ready for something new, he applied for an opening on campus in Facilities Planning & Management and was pleased to be hired for the job in Upham.

Richard and his wife, Bonnie, have been happily married for thirty-eight years and they reside in Jefferson. He grins as he lovingly proclaims that Bonnie is “a wonderful lady”. They have two grown children. Their daughter, Audrey, is a Deputy County Clerk at the Jefferson Courthouse. She and her husband, Tremaine, have three sons – Jalen (16), Trevon (9), and Breden (7). They live close by in Jefferson. Richard Jr. and his wife, Megan, live in Janesville and they also have three children – Ben (4), and twins Carson Grace and William, who were born in October of 2010. Richard Jr. is a Manager in Accounting at Panera Breads in Madison. Megan teaches in Lake Geneva. When the children and grandchildren aren’t around, Richard and Bonnie still have plenty of company. Additional members of their household include three dogs and three cats: Charlie (Black Lab); Riley (Cockapoo); Corky (Shih Tzu); Milo and Otis (twin Persian cats); and Elmo (Tiger cat). Richard assures us that all of the animals get along quite well together.

Outside of his work on campus, Richard likes to “putz” around and put his woodworking skills to use. He enjoys building birdhouses and windmills and is interested in getting started making personalized signs for people (i.e., The Nelsons, etc.). It is a great creative outlet for him. He also spends time fixing small engines and often finds himself repairing items for his children.

Richard is the second floor custodian in Upham and appears to thoroughly enjoy his job. He is kept busy cleaning the classrooms and bathrooms. Besides the routine vacuuming, dusting and mopping, he has some seasonal duties. He is preparing to start waxing the floors while the traffic flow is at a decreased level. There are not many opportunities to complete that project during the semesters. From the moment we met Richard, it was obvious that he truly loves where he is working. He appreciates the fact that his supervisors have confidence in him and believe he will get the work done and do it well. He credits that to being raised with a good work ethic. He also enjoys being around people and gets energized when he is around all of the students passing through the halls. He has nothing but good things to say about the people in his building and those with whom he works.

As for the changes that have been occurring on campus, Richard feels they are very impressive. He really likes being a part of it all. A smile lights his face. “The students are awesome – very respectful. I enjoy the people and everything about the campus”. He is eager to see the changes that will be coming in the near future, to Carlson Hall and some of the residence halls. For now, he seems to be quite content and in his element – another friendly face with a voice that cheerily promotes UW-W.