

SANDRA DERUS

We caught Sandy having just moved into a new position in Administrative Affairs, after working almost 29 years in the Division of Student Affairs. That being the case, we felt it important to cover both positions.

Sandy spent quite a few years located in the University Center, where she worked for Steve Summers in the Office of the Executive Director of the University Center. In 1998 part of the office was relocated to the newly refurbished Hyer Hall and Sandy moved with that group. She had been working for Dr. Summers since her arrival on campus in May of 1980. On June 22nd, of this year, she accepted a position in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs and is now working for Randy Marnocha. She moved from her office on the second floor of Hyer Hall to the third floor and is gradually becoming acclimated to her new environment.

Sandy says she lives a pretty quiet and uneventful life but it seems to be a full one. She and her husband, Al, live in Marshall, Wisconsin, a small town northwest of Lake Mills. She has a 40-minute commute, which is not always ideal during the winter. Al is a salesperson for Patterson Dental, selling dental equipment and supplies. Sandy and Al have no children, but she has three sisters and two brothers, as well as nine nieces and nephews. Some of her family are still fairly close by, so she does see her mother and some of her siblings fairly frequently. The “child” of the family is Al and Sandy’s dog, Ripa. Ripa is a six-year-old female Vizsla (pronounced veesh-lah), a rust-colored Hungarian bird dog.

Sandy’s interests outside of work include gardening, reading, golfing with Al, and watching football. She enjoys growing flowers and is constantly planting and changing things around in her gardens. She has three stone patios which display different varieties of flowers and plants. She is very fond of reading, especially mysteries, and is quite content to sit quietly with a book in hand.

While working in Student Affairs, Sandy’s job duties incorporated a great deal of budget work. She worked with divisional budgets, following the budgets during the year to help track those budgets as the year progressed. She was involved with tasks related to SUFAC (Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee), working with student organizations that applied for funding and performing other duties for the committee. She was responsible for logo licensing and also worked with vendors who had contracts on campus. Part of her new job in Administrative Affairs involves working with an online program for W-9’s and vendors. She is still in training and learning the ropes, so she has not fully embraced all of the responsibilities of her new position.

What Sandy liked about her previous job was working with the office staff, as well as with the division directors and other division staff. She enjoyed the budgets and working with spreadsheets. Her new job provides an excellent opportunity for a change and she is ready for the challenge of learning something different. She still sees the people she worked with and is settling into her new area, working among individuals with whom she is already familiar.

What does she like most about UWW? She feels that working on the campus is great because the students provide an energy that is infectious. “The students keep us young. It is fun interacting with them”. And Sandy thinks the recent changes on campus are also a plus. “You need to keep updating facilities and services to attract new students. The new residence suites will be a good option for students”. “Change” is definitely a positive word in Sandy’s vocabulary.