

TOM KRUMMEL

We found Tom in one of the larger rooms out at the General Services building on Fremont Street. He was quietly going about his business in his own little corner of the world. He has been an electrician on campus for twenty-one years. If the office or department in which you work has ever needed any electrical work done, you have most likely seen Tom on the job. Prior to his employment at UW-Whitewater, Tom worked in outside contracting. During those years, he did electrical work in construction, working with about five to six different contractors over that period of time.

Tom is a widower with two grown sons, Robert and Kurt. Robert resides with Tom in their house on Waubeesee Lake, located between Waterford and Muskego. He is in charge of security for Johnson Controls in Milwaukee. Kurt is a molecular biologist and geneticist, and lives in San Diego, California. Tom's wife, Linda, worked in the University Bookstore from 1992 to 1997. She passed away in December of 1997 after a battle with breast cancer. She was 47 years old. Tom and Linda were married 28 years.

Living on a lake, you can probably guess that one of Tom's interests is fishing. He likes fishing for bass and a variety of other fish, and fishes in Waubeesee, as well as lakes farther north. He also enjoys hunting and target shooting. He hunts deer and small game. Tom does a little gun-smithing for himself, his sons and his friends. A hobby that has captured his attention for the past twelve years is cars – specifically Corvettes. He shows them at car shows and other events. His screensaver displays a silent testimonial to his passion in this area. He seems to have found a good balance of work and fun in his life.

Tom is a journey electrician for UW-Whitewater and he manages all new construction and technical layouts on campus. Usually, other contractors are in the new buildings until completion. Then, there is more personalized work that needs to be done to meet individual needs within a particular building. Following the remodel of the University Center and the construction of Hyland Hall, Tom and his crew went in and worked on requests from individuals and offices/departments. He supervises seven LTE electricians. They handle the academic and administrative buildings on campus. There is a separate electrician for the residence halls.

What Tom likes most about his work is the fact that there is so much variety. "There is never a dull moment," he says, noting that there is seldom any repetition in his work. As for what he likes best about the campus, he is quick to point out that the people make the community here – they are very friendly. He has great co-workers and they make the campus a nice place to work. He likes working in one place, versus various sites, and he really enjoys being around all of the young people. "Looking at them is like looking in a mirror. I never feel like I am getting old." It's a great philosophy!

We asked him about all of the changes on campus -- particularly the more recent construction projects. He puts it into perspective and comments on the fact that there has been an unbelievable amount of change over the 21 years that he has been at UW-Whitewater and all of the change has been for the better.