

TRICIA BORCHARDT

Tucked into the southeast corner of the second floor of McGraw Hall, Tricia has access to a view that looks out over the old Hamilton Field (now part parking lot), stretching to Prairie Street. McGraw Hall was completed in the late 1980's, replacing the Hamilton Building (which had been the first campus building besides Old Main). Tricia has been working for the university since January, 1999. Her first job was working in the convenience store located in the University Center. About a year and a half later, she began a new position in the University Bookstore. In October of 2002, Tricia accepted a job in the Management Computer Systems office and she has made that her campus home.

Tricia and her husband, Bruce, will celebrate their 26th wedding anniversary in August and they are the proud parents of three children. Scott, 24, is the oldest and he has been in the U.S. Marine Corps since 2007. He is currently stationed in North Carolina, training in several areas, including communications. This April, he will be marrying his fiancée, Kitty (Katheryn) and they will remain in North Carolina. He will be deployed later in the year. Their son, Aaron (19), is the second oldest and he is finishing up school at Gateway Technical College. He will receive his degree in welding this coming May. Daughter, Samantha, is the youngest and she is finishing up high school. She will celebrate her 18th birthday in April and graduates in June. She is planning on attending a technical school and is considering a degree in the business field. Bruce is a truck driver for Golden State Foods (a distributor for McDonalds Corporation). He is usually on the road in-state, with a weekly run to the UP.

The non-human portion of the family is made up of a dog and several cats. Dodger, a male mix that they brought home from the Humane Society, is now eight years old. The cats are a mixed bag of personalities, a couple of them homeless wanderers that came calling at the Borchardt home. They are comprised of three females – Fluffy, Luna and Apple (the naughty kitty). Oreo is the sole male in the group of felines. Tricia's hobbies include quilting, traveling, reading, and gardening. She loves planting just about everything, from fruits and vegetables to flowers. She is especially fond of the raspberries they grow. As for travel, the UP is Tricia's and Bruce's favorite destination.

Tricia's job duties in MCS concentrate heavily on supporting students and staff, making certain the office runs smoothly and efficiently. She maintains the office website and assists in interviewing graduates and current students for articles added to the site. She provides administrative assistance to Dr. Horton with I-fairs – events created to educate middle school students in career options available in the field of technology. These events are similar to trade shows for those students, where they can learn what types of technology are currently in use and what is on the cutting edge for the near future.

What she likes most about her job is helping the students who come through the MCS department. She enjoys the interaction with students and with the department staff. What she likes most about the campus is the fact that the university works hard to maintain the landscape and buildings, always trying to improve the environment. The fact that UWW is a smaller campus is also a plus. Everyone is friendly and it's easy to get to know people. The five-minute commute to and from campus definitely makes her happy.

Regarding the changes at UWW, Tricia feels that the changes are all good and put UWW in competition with other schools. She is very much in favor of the new residence suites under construction, citing that the finished product should attract a lot of students. She is very excited about her pending move to Hyland Hall, sometime in July. She is looking forward to working in the new building and having some great new facilities available to the students.