

**Chris Rupp, Textbook, Clothing, and Gift Buyer-WOU Bookstore,  
Western Oregon University**



CR: Chris Rupp

AW: Alexa Weight

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ED: Erika Dyer

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CR: Hi, I'm Chris Rupp and I work in the bookstore as a buyer.

AW: Hello, ok, so question one. When did you start working at Western [Western Oregon University]?

CR: Nineteen eighty-seven.

AW: What were the circumstances that led you to come work at Western?

CR: Well, I live in Dallas [Oregon] so it is close to home. I had worked here before I had children and one of the ladies that worked here at the time called and wanted to know if I wanted to be a temp [temporary employee]. So I came during RUSH and worked...at the beginning of each term for a couple years.

AW: Have you worked any other positions here?

CR: Nope. I have always been at the bookstore. I have just done a variety of things here at the bookstore.

AW: Is there anything else you would like people to know about working at the bookstore?

CR: It is really fun! [laughter]

ED: This is question two. What is the basis for your job at Western?

CR: So the hope is that, do you mean like the whole point of my job?

ED: Yeah, just what do you think it comes with?

CR: I buy things at the bookstore, so I buy the textbooks, I order the textbooks, I order all the sweatshirts and clothing items and imprinted things. So I pick all those out, so if I was not here someone else would do it, but it has to be done in order to have a bookstore.

ED: Would you give us examples of the kinds of work you do, you kind of did that, but what are examples of some of your favorite things?

CR: When I started here, I just did general books. I love to read so that was a really fun thing to do and my kids were small so we had a lot of children's books and things that were fun to do. My job because I am ah..just really overly organized, they had progressed, so eventually I ended up doing the textbook buying, which I never thought I wanted to do. I thought it would be boring, but I really have enjoyed getting to know faculty and I love buying the clothing because it satisfies all my shopping desires without having to spend my own money. [laughter] And I buy all the gifty stuff, so all the other fun things at the bookstore I get to pick out and it is like going shopping every day without having to spend money and that is really fun. [laughter]

ED: What is a typical work day like for you?

CR: So when I come in the morning, I check my emails, I make sure that everything is up to date and responded to, because I am in touch with faculty. I make sure that I respond to their emails, I get their orders for textbooks. So I prepare everything for wherever we are at in the term. Whether it be ordering things, returning things, straightening things, and then I kind of rotate my job, because I do so many different things so I do all the window displays and all the displays that we have in the store and so I arrange those and I answer questions, I help at the register, when I need to, and then I work on clothing. So I restock, put it out, plan the next sale that we are going to have, so I plan all those organizational things.

ED: Question three. What is the most interesting experience you have had while working at Western?

CR: I really like SOAR's [Student Orientation and Registration]. Because I live in Dallas and because I have always been close, I have never thought that Western was like a great place to be, it was like this college next door, so who cares. But, during SOAR's, people come and they are so excited about being here and.. and it is fun to meet all the parents and they are so apprehensive about letting their kids go and just trying to let them know that this is a good place and faculty really care about your students. They will work with the students and it is small so you get to know everybody really well and so SOAR's are really really fun, for me.

AD: All right, this is question four. What are your plans and goals at Western now and for the future?

CR: I am retiring this summer. So I do not really have a lot of goals other than to make it through to summer and the future is I am training somebody to take my place, which is an unusual thing that does not normally happen around here. They do not usually hire someone until you are gone, but because my job is a little more complicated than most, I am fortunate enough to be able to train somebody to take my spot....

AD: Is there anything else you would like to add about your experiences working here?

CR: I have really enjoyed working here. I have had fun jobs to do in the bookstore and none of it is ever boring. I feel like everyday is a new challenge, a new thing, we occasionally have some students that are not..not very much fun, but most of the time our students are really great. Everybody is really courteous, when I have help that comes in during buy backs [books that the college buys backs from the students at the end of each term] they tell me how great our students are and I just think our faculty have been super to get to know, I think they really by and large, they do really care for their students and that is good to see.

ED: Well, thank you so much Miss Rupp for your interview and we really appreciate you taking the time to do this.

Everyone: Thank you.