

Nikki Edrington: Those are the sounds of Create in the bottom of Decker Hall. There, you'll find Marty, who has worked at AU for 20 years. Students love her genuine spirit, and how she makes sure to remember the names of everyone who comes through her line at Create.

Marty Courtney: I see their card, and a lot of them, I even in a grocery, if a cashier rings me up I'll say, "Thank you, Lauren," or "Thank you, Nikki." I'll do that just to let them know I'm paying attention to their name tag. I think it's more personal.

Nikki: Marty loves her job. Her fellow coworkers, as well as the students keep her smiling day after day, even when life gets her down.

Marty: I've always been the register person. I've worked under Marilyn years ago. She trained me, and I think she trained me well. I just really fell in love with the job. It's more the people that keep me here, and I love the staff that I work with. In the summer I worked in the Marketplace, but I still enjoyed it. I make it fun, the people around me make it fun. That's what's best, to have a job you like. I am a very people-person at work, so I just enjoy the students. Say, I could be upset about something at home, or something not going right, and when I get here and I see you kids, you make me forget about my problems. So, that's like truth. I love my job, I love serving you students, and taking care of you. It's like my own kids. I have a 23 year old daughter and a 30 year old son, so this is like taking care of my kids.

Nikki: Outside of her work at AU, Marty spends her free time with her family. She particularly enjoys bonding with three very precious young people.

Marty: I have three beautiful granddaughters. They will be two in July. I have a set of twin granddaughters from my son and his girlfriend, and then my daughter has a little girl. They're three days apart. I was there at the hospital for both deliveries, and it was just a wonderful experience. I never knew that I'd love my grandchildren so much, but they just bring so much joy to my life.

Nikki: Marty is also passionate about gardening. True to her genuine nature, she even gardens for friends who weren't blessed with a green thumb.

Marty: Oh, I love gardening. I have a solarium. Where we moved out in the country, near Frankton, we live all cornfields around us, I have a solarium. We have like three acres. I have a girl that loves cilantro, so I grow cilantro for her, because she doesn't have a green thumb.

Nikki: In closing, Marty shares a message of encouragement for AU students.

Marty: Go with your dreams, and if you ever need a hug come down here. I will step away from my register, I will give you a hug if you're having a bad day. I'm here to be your friend and take care of you.

Nikki: So perhaps the next time a student needs a hug, they'll know just where to go. This is Nikki Edrington reporting for the Andersonian.