

KATE (DAVIS) BRAMAN

Kate's employment in the University Library began when she was a student on campus. She was employed as a student worker from 2000-2002 while she was pursuing her Bachelor's of Science degree. Her major was English with a Writing emphasis. She minored in Library Media with a Public Library emphasis. In February 2003, she was hired for a full-time position in the library. At that time, she was also attending graduate school on a part-time basis. She received her Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies, graduating in December 2006.

A veritable newlywed, Kate and her husband, Kurt tied the knot on August 21, 2010. They make their home in Fort Atkinson, where Kurt is employed as a computer programmer for NASCO. He is also a volunteer firefighter for the City of Fort Atkinson. They definitely hope to have children, but expanding their family is a goal they have set. First, they want to enjoy some time with each other. In the meantime, they have two cats that round out the household. Female felines, Golde and Chava, are both three years old and their names reflect one of Kate's favorite movies, "Fiddler on the Roof."

Kate was hired to fill the position of Library Services Assistant-Senior. Her duties include hiring and training student employees. She has two students who work directly under her supervision. She supervises the Government Documents area of the library, which involves processing and cataloging all of the documents that are received by the library from the Federal and State government departments (i.e. the Department of Education and the Department of Defense, to name a couple). The library receives about two or three shipments of documents a week. Documents range from information provided by the U.S. Census Bureau to presidential budgets, to information relating to wars and peacekeeping efforts. What she likes most about her job is helping people find pertinent resources and helping them find answers to their questions, particularly the more challenging questions that arise. It gives her a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment when she is able to provide a connection for people who are searching for information.

When Kate is not at work she has a number of interests that keep her occupied. She is quite focused on exercise and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Her regimen of walking three times a day carries over into her work day and you may very well see her going for a brisk walk around campus during her lunch break. She enjoys swimming and participates in a water aerobics class twice a week. She says her New Year's resolution for 2011 is to begin a running routine. Of course, working in a library, she also has a love for books and movies. Her favorite movies and books are either action-oriented, adventures or comedies. She is currently wrapped up in the Stephanie Plum mysteries by author Janet Evanovich.

Kate loves the sense of community that she feels on the UW-Whitewater campus and she is happy to be a part of this community. She also enjoys being part of the library staff. "Everyone works well together. If you don't have an answer, you can find someone else in the library that can help." For her, it is that close-knit environment that makes her job fun.

She hopes that the changes that regularly occur on campus will not only improve the campus, but inspire its members to help one another achieve better lifestyles, encourage individuals to be more open-minded, and instill a desire in others to pursue lifelong education.

If she had an opportunity to change something or add something on campus, Kate would definitely like to see a new library built on campus – a facility that would be able to meet the growing demands and expectations of students, faculty, and the entire campus community. She is proud of the facility renovations that have taken place in the present library building with its remodeled areas and new programs and technology, but there will always be a demand for more services and better ways to connect students and the world of information waiting to be tapped.