

KAY VANT

Kay started working on the UW-W campus in September 1996 in the Technology & Information Resources (T&IR) Department located in the Andersen Library building. She was not there long before she moved to the Occupational and Environmental Safety & Health Department, where she remains to this day. (T&IR was renamed iCIT in later years.) For many years, she worked in an office on the top floor of Winther Hall. When Hyland Hall was opened in Fall 2009, her department was relocated to the new business building where she currently occupies a spacious third-floor office with a southern view of the campus.

Kay has been married to Loren, her husband of many years (she declines to disclose the exact number) and they reside in Whitewater. Loren is a former employee of the City of Whitewater and is now retired. They have one child – a daughter, Amanda, who is a nurse for Aurora Lakeland Medical Center in Elkhorn. Amanda was recently married in August of 2010 and her husband, Ben is a distributor for an auto parts store. He has a son and a daughter. Keeping Kay and Loren company at home are their pets, Rascal and Stuart. Rascal is a black, male cat who has been a member of the Vant household for seventeen years. Stuart, a six-year-old coon hound gets along quite well with Rascal, provided he remembers that the cat rules the house.

Outside of the workplace, Kay describes herself as a “homebody” and enjoys light reading, particularly mysteries. She considers a good whodunit a great way to occupy some of her leisure time. That does not mean that she stays in the house all the time, however. She has a passion for rummaging and is always on the lookout for a good rummage or estate sale where she might discover some particularly delightful treasures to take home.

As an Academic Department Associate, Kay’s job duties cover a wide range of responsibilities. She notes that she “does a little bit of everything”, as needed. That would include the typical duties of an ADA: hiring and training student employees, student payroll, budget-related activities, pertinent correspondence, assisting faculty and students, etc. She is quite happy to have such a variety of job duties and thoroughly enjoys working with the students and staff. She also finds the interaction with others in the College of Business & Economics to be an added plus to her move to Hyland.

What Kay likes most about UW-Whitewater is that it is a beautiful campus. She extends kudos to those who keep up the grounds and plant the trees and flowers. She is very appreciative of the time and effort that go into the campus landscaping. She also appreciates the view from her office, which looks out over the mall, the hill with the log cabin and schoolhouse, the University Center and beyond.

Regarding the many changes on campus over the past few years, Kay is rather noncommittal. She merely adapts and makes the necessary adjustments with those changes affecting her, and moves on with life.

When asked if she would change anything, given the opportunity – she grins and gets a mischievous look in her eyes. “We would all get a raise”!