



The Inkwell

Spring 2008



A special edition of *The Inkwell*
Readers' favorites from "Kuhar's Corner" selected from *Inkwell* 1.1-2.2

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The Hits

What is your favorite aspect of working in Kirby Hall?

My favorite aspect of working in Kirby Hall is the people—students, faculty, and staff—with whom I share these halls on a day-to-day basis. We focus on setting when we study literature but sometimes overlook the importance of place in our lives. Kirby Hall will stay with us as a prominent part of the stories we form together here. The story of Kirby Hall is not the story of the building's fascinating origins and incredible history; it's the story of the people in it.

If you were stranded on a desert island, what three things would you bring?

A few years back I would have responded with the obvious: duct tape, dental floss, and a harmonica. However, times have changed. Today's three essentials include duct tape (still the most important), a model-sized V-2 rocket replica (for an imagined departure), and a cell phone/camera/computer/MP3 all-in-one gadget (this I've learned from my son and daughters).

How do you prepare for a new academic school year?

New academic years shape our arrivals. We restart our stories with our students and colleagues, re-engage research projects, and renew our mental "power packs." Like our English majors and minors, our work in academics requires us to prepare at the academic and administrative levels. At the academic level, my preparation involves reading for teaching, identifying new texts to teach, and reviewing related research. I'm also focused on the work of serving faculty and program needs, including assessing course offerings, registering new and transfer students, and sharing aspects of our culture and values with adjuncts, new hires, and students. The most rewarding part of preparing for a new academic year is talking with returning and new students and faculty and the sharing of our return and arrival stories.

You seem to be wise, quite wise. What are your thoughts on Led Zeppelin?

Well, let's see. My favorite Led Zeppelin album is the mostly-acoustic *Led Zeppelin III* (1970), with honorable mention to *Presence* (1976) and *Physical Graffiti* (1975). We can place John Bonham as one of the most innovative and important rock n' roll drummers of all time. Where else (except for Pete Townshend's lyrics) can we find references to *The Hobbit*? Finally, what would most (if not all) high school classes from 1971-2000 have selected as their senior class song if "Stairway to Heaven" was not recorded?