

INTERVIEW BY REBECCA LINDELL

INTER(ior) View

THE OFFICE OF
SARAH MANGELSDORF
DEAN OF THE Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

Like every room at 1918 Sheridan Road in Evanston, the dean's office has a history. That's because the stately brick building was once the faculty clubhouse, and the office was the dining room and the center of much conviviality. Before that, the building was a family home, and the room was a garage. Despite its humble beginnings, Dean Sarah Mangelsdorf loves the space. "It's warm, it gets lots of light, it's not sterile at all," she says. "It's part of a funky house that has a lot of character to it."

Northwestern campus there. You could almost use it as a rug in a dollhouse. I use it as a coaster.

5 Cracked flower vase

That was a wedding gift. On one of our many moves, it got busted. I thought, "I'll put it in my office. No one will notice!"

6 Crane mobile

A friend brought this back from Japan for me the summer before we moved here. Those are purple cranes, so she thought it would be appropriate.

7 Painting

My sister and her husband are both artists, and they give their art as gifts. This is by my brother-in-law. He's very into trees and clouds. It works well in here. It seems peaceful.

8 Miró exhibit poster

In 1999–2000, Karl and I were on sabbatical in the Netherlands. We traveled a lot that year, and over spring break, we went to the Miró exhibit in Florence. His stuff is very whimsical, and I like that, because I don't think life should be all seriousness all of the time. ■

1 "Will Work for Chocolate" sign

I eat some chocolate every day. It's part of who I am. And I was thrilled when doctors started saying that it's OK to have a couple of squares of dark chocolate a day. I also have a bowl of chocolates in my office, and that's an intentional thing. People will stop by during the day and say, "Oh, I just needed a chocolate!"

2 Road race photo

That's my husband Karl and me at the finish line of the Falmouth Road Race on Cape Cod. We've done that race every August for probably 20 years. We also go to southern Illinois with a team to run a relay race from the Mississippi to the Ohio River. Running is a good form of meditation for me.

3 Magic wand

When I first became a dean at the University of Illinois, my friends gave me this, so that when people come to me with problems, I can wave my magic wand and make everything better. Wouldn't it be nice if it really worked that way?

4 Miniature rug from Qatar

A colleague brought this back from Qatar when we first opened the



PHOTOS: ROB HART