

1997 Foik Award

At this year's Presidential Dinner on May 20, 1997, the Rev. Paul J. Foik, C.S.C., Award was presented to Dwight B. King Jr. of the Kresge Law Library. The award is given annually in recognition of significant contributions by a library faculty member to library service, to the Notre Dame community or to the library profession through personal scholarship or involvement in professional associations. The citation reads:

This dedicated and resourceful research librarian has provided exceptional service to the Notre Dame community since arriving here 11 years ago. A superb teacher in both the classroom and the library, he exemplifies the finest qualities of professionalism. His deep commitment to service continually impresses all who seek his expert assistance. He has served as a mentor to countless students and is nationally recognized for his diligent efforts to attract minority students to the field of law librarianship. A winning rapport with faculty and students, thoughtful manner, and friendly wit identify the 1997 winner of the Paul J. Foik Award.

From 1967 to 1979 Joe headed the Collection Management Department, with responsibility for circulation and related functions. In 1979 he began the phase of his career for which he will be best remembered. In that year he was appointed fine arts bibliographer and assistant head of Collection Development; soon afterward our then meager collections in music, art and theatre began to improve. Although money was far from plentiful, Joe established the strong working relationships with departmental faculty that led to systematic collection building. His knowledge of the literature was strengthened by his personal enthusiasm for music and theatre. In addition, he was ever vigilant in matching faculty interests with new and antiquarian publications. Many teaching and research faculty members praised his presentations to their classes and the annotated bibliographies he produced on subjects as diverse as Ingmar Bergman, Shakespeare in performance, African-American audio-video materials, Italian cinema, and sports as literature. Joe's cultural interests also found expression in his scholarly pursuits such as his published indexes to the *Ballet Review* or articles contributed to *Fanfares*, the magazine of the Stratford Festival. Joe's devotion to Canada's Stratford Festival was well known, especially as manifested in his comprehensive knowledge of the staging and costuming of Stratford plays throughout the festival's history.

Joe took on broader responsibility for the Libraries' collection development program when he became head of the Collection Development Department in 1992. His colleagues among the subject librarians and liaisons testify to the many ways in which Joe assisted them in their collection development duties -- orientation, ongoing mentorship, organizational support, regular communication and the production of a comprehensive collection development manual. He was relied on to further the work of the Libraries even beyond the Collection Development Department. His excellent organization, reliability and commitment to results made him a valued committee member and a likely candidate for special assignments. He offered his services to the Libraries and the University whenever he saw an opportunity, be it by arranging a marvelous poetry reading by local poets for the Friends of the Library at Notre Dame, or by volunteering as the first University Libraries' special services liaison to students with disabilities, or by coordinating lectors for the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Basilica.

In 1993 Joe was honored by the University with the Reverend Paul J. Foik Award to an outstanding librarian. Part of his citation read "Knowledge, attention to detail, and personal helpfulness are the hallmarks of tonight's winner of the Paul J. Foik award." No Notre Dame librarian has been more universally respected and appreciated by his colleagues and co-workers. Those of us who have worked with Joe over the years have been particularly impressed by his willingness, up to the very day he left the Libraries, to take on new tasks, learn new things, and continue to grow. That attitude, we are sure, will make his retirement a time of discovery and personal growth.



Dwight King with wife Mary Hendriksen accepting Foik Award from Father Malloy