

Archives recipients of final Team Irish Award

By Carol C. Bradley

“Our collections hold the corporate memory of the University,” says Wendy Clauson Schlereth, director of the University Archives. The 11-member staff of the Archives will be presented with this year’s seventh and final Presidential Team Irish Award during a TV timeout of the Duke game, Nov. 17.

The first reaction to news of the award was surprise, says Charles Lamb, assistant director. “We were surprised and honored.” For Lamb, the most important part of the award is that the department is being recognized as a group. “We really do work together as a team and call on each other for expertise,” he says.

The Archives, headquartered on the sixth floor of the Hesburgh Library, holds 32,000 linear feet of collections, stored both on and off campus, including all University administrative records deemed historically valuable, photographs, films and tapes, digital files and artifacts.

One of the most popular collections is that of Notre Dame sports memorabilia, which includes a football signed by the 1929 National Championship team, game films, and photographs of teams, players and coaches. Other items of interest include bricks from the old Athletic Fieldhouse, objects salvaged from St. Edward’s Hall after the 1981 fire, and an overcoat once worn by William Tecumseh Sherman, whose children attended Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s during the Civil War.

In addition to preserving the history of Notre Dame, the Archives is also a scholarly research repository for an extensive and growing collection of manuscripts documenting the American Catholic experience from the late 16th century to the present—including the recently acquired records of the Generalate of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

The Congregation’s small staff in Rome didn’t have the resources to preserve the records, or the staff to make them available to researchers, Schlereth

notes. “They (the C.S.C.) do a great deal for Notre Dame,” she says. “Putting the expertise at Notre Dame to the service of the community is a small way of giving back.” For an organization or congregation to place their records with the Archives, Schlereth adds, “is the highest compliment we can receive. They’re trusting us with their history.”

The dedicated staff of the Archives, Schlereth says, “works every day to collect and preserve the history of the University of Notre Dame and the Church, which grounds our mission.” More than half the Archives staff have held their positions for more than 25 years, Schlereth notes. Schlereth, herself, joined the staff of the Archives in 1973, and has been director since 1978. “To get this recognition after all these years is even nicer.”



Members of the University Archives staff will be honored at the final football game of the season as winners of a Presidential Team Irish Award. They are, front left in front, Laura Edgar and Wendy Clauson Schlereth; from left in the second row, Peter Lysy, Margaret Spradlin and Sharon Sumpter; from left in the third row, William Kevin Cawley, Angie Kindig, Charles Lamb and Elizabeth Hogan, in the back row from left, Matt Wilken, Erik Dix. **Photo by Matt Cashore.**