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BROTHER RAYMOND FITZ, S.M., RECEIVES AWARD FOR IMPROVING CAMPUS CLIMATE FOR WOMEN

DAYTON, Ohio — Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president of the University of Dayton, has received UD's 1998 Miryam Award for his contributions to improving the climate for and supporting the advancement of women at the University of Dayton.

Fitz has directed the $500 award to be used to provide textbooks for women employees enrolled in UD classes. Last year’s winner, Mary Neacy, retired executive assistant to the president, started the Agnes Keller Book Fund with her Miryam Award donation.

“Brother Ray has made a significant contribution to changing the historic bias against women we have inherited,” said Sister Nancy Bramlage, S.C., director of the Center for Social Concern, the primary sponsor of the award.

During the 1990-91 academic year, Fitz held open meetings on campus, inviting faculty and staff members to meet with him to identify ways to enhance the role of women at UD. Since then the Advisory Committee on Women’s Issues, the Professional Office Personnel group and the Association for Women Faculty, Professionals and Administrators have formed to offer professional support and forums for discussion, and the University has hired a woman dean and a woman vice president. Other initiatives have focused on the experiences of women students at UD and general safety issues.

“A University is a network of rich conversations that matter,” said Fitz in accepting the award. “One of our conversations is to empower and bring forth the gifts of women on campus, and that needs to be explicit. We need to be able to raise uncomfortable questions and look closely at our behavior and performance.”

The inaugural Miryam Award, presented in 1996, was given to Betty Ann Perkins, Doris Drees and Elaine Dreidame as three women who helped establish women as campus leaders.

The annual award, named with the Hebrew form of Mary, was presented to Fitz at a campus reception on Wednesday, March 25. An award plaque honoring recipients is displayed in the Barrett dining room in Kennedy Union on campus.

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