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University of Dayton

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LONGTIME DAYTON EDUCATOR, JOSEPH F. ROGUS, DIES

DAYTON, Ohio — Joseph F. Rogus, 59, Kuntz professor of education and associate dean of the School of Education at the University of Dayton, died at home in Dayton Wednesday, Sept. 16. He was nationally known and respected for his expertise in Catholic education.

"Joe brought to the University a real sensitivity to issues surrounding Catholic schools, especially practices in the classroom," said Thomas J. Lasley, dean of the School of Education at UD. "His gift was that he could look at practical problems in a theoretical way. He could bring research to bear when he thought about a problem."

Rogus started his career in 1959 as a teacher with Dayton Public Schools. He then served as an expediter for federal programs, consultant, principal and assistant superintendent for the school district before leaving in 1972 for a post as associate professor at Cleveland State University. He came to UD in 1981, serving as Kuntz professor of education (1981 to present), director of the educational services office (1981-85), associate editor of the *Journal of Teacher Education* (1985-89), associate dean for graduate studies and research (1988-97) and associate dean for teaching, research and service (1997 to present).

He, along with former dean of education Ellis Joseph and William R. Drury, professor emeritus of educational administration, developed and implemented in 1990 the educational leadership doctoral program at UD.

A graduate of UD, Rogus received a bachelor of science degree in 1960. He earned a master's of education degree from Miami University in 1961 and a doctorate from Ohio University in 1968.

He published extensively about education issues in private and public schools, particularly in Catholic education. During the past 15 years, he edited or co-edited two journals that served a national education audience, and he published professional articles on educational policy and practice.

He also presented programs at workshops and convocations throughout the United States, including sessions on leadership, staff development, collaboration, building effective schools and adapting to change for audiences in Catholic dioceses from Brooklyn to San Francisco and public schools throughout the Miami Valley and Ohio.

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"Everywhere I go in the country, I hear, 'Dr. Rogus presented at our school,'" said John O. Geiger, UD provost. "They remember this bouncy, energetic guy who brought a level of commitment and intellectual precision that came through in his presentations, whether it was for thousands of people as a keynote speaker for the National Catholic Educational Association or for 150 people at a school. He could bridge the gap between the theoretical and practical, and that's what was so powerful about his presentations.

"He brought tremendous energy, commitment and professionalism to so many things he got involved in. He had a strong sense of religious faith and faith in the people he worked with," Geiger said.

Rogus was a member of Phi Delta Kappa, the Ohio Elementary School Administrators Association, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and National Congress for Catholic Schools for the 21st Century. He served on the editorial board of the journal Momentum and on the planning board for Education in Catholic Schools for the National Catholic Educational Association.

His colleagues remember his personal traits as well as his professional accomplishments. "When you were talking with him, Joe had the marvelous capacity to treat you as if you were the only person in the world who mattered," said Lasley. "His death is a really big loss for us."

Born Dec. 31, 1938, in New York, N.Y., he is survived by his wife, Grace; his mother, Magdalana Rogus of Dayton; his daughter and son-in-law, Susan M. and John Minoughan of Kettering; five sons and daughters-in-law, Kevin T. and Leanne of Cincinnati, Christopher J. and Kacy of Evansville, Ind., Peter V. and Paula of Chicago, Timothy E. and Claire of Crescent Springs, Ky., and Daniel S. and Holly of Evansville, Ind.; his sister, Monica Blue of Centerville; and four grandchildren.

Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, at Baker Hazel Funeral Home, 5555 Philadelphia Drive. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at noon Saturday, Sept. 19, at St. Rita Catholic Church, 5401 N. Main St.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the University of Dayton School of Education, 300 College Park, Dayton, Ohio, 45469-1681.

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