

WALTER J. GALLO '58 AWARD

Keith Chevalier

Abbot Matthew Leavy once said that “When Saint Anselm remembers who it is most deeply it is at its best.” But memory, and especially the collective memory of a community, can be tricky. Saint Anselm is blessed to have in its midst an individual of unusual talents who is steadfastly committed to helping it remember how it has become who it is today. As the College's archivist, Keith Chevalier has worked tirelessly to research, organize, preserve, and share the mission, identity, and heritage of Saint Anselm College. An integral part of the College's Geisel Library staff since 2007, Keith has worked meticulously to recover and order textual and physical artifacts of all variety, from official declarations to syllabi to student graffiti. Banners, beanies, and ancient football helmets are all within his purview. At the same time, Keith has helped develop and curate the Geisel Library's four special collections of books and manuscripts: the Franco-American Collections, the O'Rourke Saint Anselm Collection, the New England Collection, and the Rare Book Collection. Of course, many archivists are best left amid the dust of their book-filled basements. Not Keith! His talents as a researcher and preservationist are matched by a contagious enthusiasm that makes him a generous and enlightening teacher. He has delighted innumerable audiences of students, faculty, visitors, and alumni groups, especially during the annual Reunion Weekends each summer. Keith was invaluable in helping the College celebrate its 125th anniversary, as well as other milestones like the 50th anniversary of the Abbey Church and the 70th anniversary of the Abbey Players. In his own short history of twelve years at Saint Anselm, Keith has managed to order and make accessible the 130 years of history from the arrival of Benedictine monks to the hilltop in 1889 to the construction of our most recent buildings. For his tireless dedication to helping Saint Anselm remember who it is most deeply, the Alumni Association is proud to award Mr. Keith Chevalier with the 2019 Academic Achievement Award.