



AMIA the association of moving image archivists

2005 Dan & Kathy Leab Award Winner:

Todd Van Dusen

Todd Van Dusen has literally worked his way up the Archives, beginning in the 1970s when he worked in the shipping and receiving department. He then became the resident operator of their new telecine equipment in the 1980s, and for over 20 years worked transferring archival footage for in-house preservation and reference projects as well as outside documentary projects. Despite his breadth of work (having transferred countless hours of materials for the archive and even playing a lead role in the planning design and acquisition of new a digital scanning suite) Todd remains unsung to the larger archival community, and even to his own institution. He is heavily relied on, but rarely recognized, finding it sometimes even difficult to get funding to attend the annual AMIA conference.

In November of last year, Todd was one of only a few staff members who were hand selected to be part of a high-security tour of the Gatineau Preservation Centre for US President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush. This wasn't a typical tour, but it was entirely typical that Todd was selected. A recent evaluation described Todd in these words - "Virtually all of the work performed by Mr. Van Dusen is scrutinized by clients of the LAC. Mr. Van Dusen transcends all of the aspects of competencies in personal integrity, reliability, judgement, leadership and effective interpersonal skills that are required in his unique position."