

## 1998 Board of Trustees' Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Scholarship Recipient

**Professor Kent P. Ljungquist**

Kent P. Ljungquist is one of the world's leading authorities on the life and writings of Edgar Allan Poe. His groundbreaking book about Poe's landscape aesthetics was instrumental in the reassessment of America's master short-story writer, demonstrating that Poe was no mere spinner of tales of the grotesque but a pioneer literary theorist and artist. Besides his influential critical analyses of Poe's writings, he has made stunning archival discoveries that have made it possible to attribute previously unknown works to Poe. These and his critical commentaries on Poe studies in the annual *American Literary Scholarship* and other books are indispensable to all other Poe scholars.



Professor Ljungquist is renowned not only as a literary critic but also as a bibliographer and textual editor. His painstaking scholarship has produced definitive guides to nineteenth-century American novelists, comprehensive literary biographies of antebellum writers in New York and the South, and the standard critical edition of James Fenimore Cooper's *The Deerslayer*. Meanwhile, he has contributed important essays on Emerson, Longfellow, Melville, Thoreau, and Whitman, and has opened new vistas on a variety of Worcester writers.

Kent Ljungquist has helped put not just Worcester but also WPI on the literary map. He has served an unprecedented two terms as editor of publications for the Poe Studies Association, which recently named him a Lifetime Member, and he has been elected a Fellow of the American Antiquarian Society.

In recognition of these scholarly achievements and of his intellectual leadership, the 1998 Board of Trustees' Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Scholarship is presented to Kent P. Ljungquist.