

Anne Sinnott MUNPA Tribute Award - 2022



Anne Sinnott retired from the position of Administrative Assistant in the Biochemistry Department of Memorial University in July 2016 after 32 years. Post retirement Anne has stayed connected to the university. This included going back to the Chemistry Department when a staff member was on leave and most notably mentoring Cathy Perry who replaced Anne as the Biochemistry's departmental administrator. Cathy commented "Anne assisted me in my new role immensely and her contribution to the university in this role of mentor and continued assistance to the department, studies and staff was a significant contribution of time and effort on her behalf with no monetary reward,"

It is also worth mentioning that she is known for staying calm in spite of the myriad of obligations that have been heaped upon her and she seems to have an indefatigable sense of calm, clear thinking, and patient problem-solving. She was enormously respected by the faculty and they depended on her to keep the Biochemistry department running efficiently. She was the strong central presence that created a unifying atmosphere in the office and preserved an enduring positive karma in that faculty. She was a very strong support to successive department heads.

Since retirement it is evident that this calmness and composure have continued with the many activities that she has been involved with, and there are many.

Anne was a member of the MUNPA's Board of Directors from 2016 to 2020 and played a major role in the programme committee, which she chaired from 2017 to 2020. It is worth mentioning that during that time, she "transformed the running of the social committee" ensuring effective communications on upcoming activities, enjoyable events, effective accounting and organization of the AGM. While on the board she also lead three major events; a tea for the principal beneficiaries of retirees; the opening celebrations for the Signal Hill Campus and a special event for MUNPA members to introduce them to this campus so they could see what we could do there. Her continued involvement with the programme committee was particularly challenging when the pandemic hit, but her leadership and drive allowed for a smooth transition to a hybrid model for events and facilitation of safe access to facilities adhering to the ever changing COVID – 19 rules.

Another area where Anne has been involved is with the Campus Food Bank. While volunteering with this group, Anne realized that the needs had changed with the main clients now being international students. She guided the Food Bank through a transition enabling it to serve everyone's needs. Anne "transformed the Food Bank to a finely tuned and financially secure organization serving more than two hundred students". Anne was able to do this because she knew

“how to attract the right people” and “had a great group of people working with her.”

Although Anne was quite busy with all of this, she still found time to volunteer with other events of interest to her. She was a key figure in the organization of the Biochemistry Department's 50th Anniversary Celebration, her Holy Heart of Mary 40th reunion (and is busy organizing its 45th) as well as being part of the committee raising funds to prevent St. Theresa's Roman Catholic church from being sold for other uses.

Anne is known for her energy, organizational skills and willingness to go the extra mile, and this has been evident in everything she has been involved with. Anne continues to volunteer and work tirelessly with many activities since retirement and in recognition to this we are pleased to present her with the MUNPA Tribute Award.