Dr. Bill Redden retired from the position of Director, School of Human Kinetics and Recreation in 1997, after 29 years of service to Memorial University. Retirement didn’t slow things down for Bill, however. After taking a few months away from everything following his retirement, he directed his energies towards a number of different agencies and causes.

In 1998, he played a pivotal role as the Coordinator of the Tournament Operating Committee in the launch and development of the Memorial University Scholarship Golf Tournament. Now in its 14th year, this annual event has grown to be one of Memorial’s significant undergraduate scholarship projects, having provided support to over 50 second and third year undergraduate students in the aggregate amount of over $70,000. The fund currently has an Endowment of over $250,000. When Bill stepped back from the coordinator’s position in 2008, his role changed to that of an advisor and mentor to help ensure a smooth hand-over of the position.

Another organization which has benefitted considerably from Bill’s post-retirement efforts has been the Quidi Vidi Rennies River Development Foundation. As a Board member with that organization from 1998 to 2006, Bill worked with the Development Committee, chairing the annual Rennies River Duck Race Committee for a number of years and helping with the organization of the annual “River Dance” sponsored by the Foundation. Since 1999 to the present he has led selling teams of his friends and family who have raised an accumulative total of over $50,000 through the Duck Race ticket sales. In addition, Bill was involved with the Foundation in a number of administrative roles that included recruitment of staff and goal setting facilitation. For his contribution to the Board and to the Fluvarium, Bill was accorded the honour of being appointed as an honorary member of the Board of Directors in June, 2006.

Bill was also the founder of the Nita Chambers (Sutton) Awards Fund that was established in 2000 in memory of Nita, a former varsity basketball student athlete in the late 1970s at Memorial who passed away in 1999. Through various basketball related projects, the Committee responsible for this fund has provided over $20,000 to date to 15 members of the men’s and women’s Sea Hawks varsity basketball teams. This endowment fund currently stands at over $62,000.

Bill has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Janeway’s Children Hospital Foundation for two terms from 2001 to 2006. In that capacity, he served on Board committees and assisted during the annual Janeway Teleton.

In 2006, Bill was appointed by Memorial to a Committee of three with Gail Roberts and Keith Taylor to develop a report on Varsity Athletics. An extensive report entitled “The Time is Now” provided the University and The School of Human Kinetics and Recreation with direction for its Division of Varsity Athletics and many of the Committee’s recommendations have been implemented as part of the development process for Memorial’s Varsity Athletics program. Also in the sports arena is Bill’s work with the Newfoundland and Labrador Basketball Association (NLBA), where he chaired Committees that prepared two Basketball Officials Manuals designed to aid in the development of basketball officials in the Province. In addition he has been part of the delivery team for a number of clinics for officials and players conducted by the NLBA and its affiliates. He was also a volunteer Assistant Coach with the Memorial Sea-Hawks Men’s Varsity Basketball Program for several of the early years of his retirement. For his years of work in basketball in general but specifically for his time spent with development, Bill was appointed Honorary Chair of the Subway 2011 Atlantic University Sport (AUS) Women’s Basketball Championships held in St. John’s last February.

For his leadership and outstanding contributions to the University and to the community, particularly in the areas of student support, sports and recreation, and the environment, MUNPA is pleased to recognize Dr. Bill Redden with a MUNPA Tribute Award.