2010 Marie LoPresti Faculty Award for Community Service

The Marie LoPresti Faculty Award for Community Service, given in memory of one of our most supportive alumnae, is awarded to a member of our full-time faculty who during her or his career has performed distinguished volunteer service.

This year, the LoPresti Award is given in memory of an outstanding individual, Dr. Virginia Marion, Professor of Education, who passed away earlier this year. Dr. Marion was with the College for twenty-one years, and just this past Spring she was honored by her peers and the Ursuline administration with promotion to full Professor, the highest academic rank. Tragically, she would not live to enjoy the fruits of her promotion, but she left all of us with a legacy of grace, faith, love, and friendship.

As a seasoned classroom teacher, Ginny through her years here mentored innumerable students as they prepared to enter the teaching profession. Her ability to do so successfully was influenced by her expertise in science education, which likewise was enhanced through her active service on behalf of the Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE).

She was a member of many of ASTE’s Committees, such as the Committee for Inclusive Science Education; the Equity Committee; and the Conference Coordination Committee. She was a member of several Planning and Review teams for ASTE’s national conferences, held across the U.S. She also served as a reviewer for the Journal of Elementary Science Education. Not surprisingly, in light of the level of her contributions, she was the recipient of the ASTE President’s Citation for Outstanding Service.

Additional voluntary science education work included serving as a working member on the Teacher Standard Team of the Ohio Department of Education project entitled, Implementing Ohio’s Standards for Teachers and Administrators.

We honor her memory with the LoPresti Award because in addition to her work within her profession and within her Ursuline College classrooms, her dedication to her students was also demonstrated through her attendance at the athletic events on campus in which her advisees were participants.

Over the years since athletics has become a fixture on our campus, there are many stories about Ginny and her best friend, Professor Mary Jo Cherry, stories that will always be a part of the athletic department history! Faithful does not begin to describe Ginny’s support of athletics at Ursuline, unwavering comes close, and perhaps exalted comes closer yet. We mourn the loss of her brilliant smiles and lusty cheers from her perch in the stands, but we treasure every moment of her life as a great blessing for all of us who were privileged to have known her.

As part of this year’s LoPresti Award Ursuline College will be making a donation to the Education Department’s Virginia Marion Book Award, which ensures that Ginny’s legacy of support for our students will continue into perpetuity.