

## In Memoriam: Anita Unruh

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on behalf of

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## In Memoriam: Anita Unruh

The Faculty of Health extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Anita Unruh (1952-2017). "It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing of our colleague and friend," says Alice Aiken, professor and dean, Faculty of Health.

Dr. Unruh graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a BSc in occupational therapy (1975), and a master's of social work from Carleton University (1984), and was one of the earliest graduates of the Interdisciplinary PhD program of Dalhousie University (1996). Prior to joining the Dalhousie University School of Occupational Therapy in 1989, Dr. Unruh was employed in occupational therapy and social work roles in clinical sites in Ontario, including; the Oxford Regional Center in Woodstock, Ontario, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Ottawa and the Ottawa Children's Treatment Center.

As a faculty member, Dr. Unruh made leading contributions to the fields of pain in children and adult populations as well as conducting research earlier in her career in the areas of spirituality, gardening, and caregivers. Dr. Unruh built an enviable publication and presentation record. In addition, she has always been highly engaged in professional activities and community service. As an educator Dr. Unruh excelled in sharing her expertise and knowledge and worked tirelessly to support her students, her faculty colleagues, and her professional peers. Dr. Unruh held many prestigious honours and awards and was the recipient of the International Pain Education award from the Canadian Pain Society in 2009, and she was frequently invited to speak as a keynote at international conferences. In 1987, she was awarded the Book of the Year award by the American Journal of Nursing for *Pain in Children and Adolescents* (co-authored with Dr. Patrick McGrath).

Dr. Unruh was a strong supporter of the Faculty of Health and served as a valued faculty member in the Schools of Occupational Therapy and Health and Human Performance. She also took on the role of acting director of the School of Health and Human Performance, Occupational Therapy and the School of Health Administration. More recently she was the associate dean, Research and Academic, and the academic integrity officer, Faculty of Health.

Dr. Unruh was a devotee of excellence in all that she did, particularly in research, but also in her exemplary teaching, with sound contributions to the professional and research community at large. Dr. Unruh was highly respected as a leader. To those who knew Dr. Unruh it was impossible not to be touched by her calm, insightful, and generous spirit.

"We feel the loss of Dr. Unruh deeply," says Dr. Aiken. Many faculty and staff were fortunate enough to call her not only a colleague but a friend. "In the coming days, there will be

opportunities to remember her many contributions and to celebrate her exemplary life.”

The full obituary for Dr. Unruh may be read [here](#).