

# 2012-2013 OCUFA TEACHING AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS

CITATION FOR WINNER DR. SUSAN VAJOCZKI

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

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## **CITATION FOR DR. SUSAN VAJOCZKI (posthumous)**

**Prepared and read by Judy Bornais, University of Windsor**

On behalf of the Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee, I am honoured to recognize the late Dr. Susan Vajoczki as the 2012-2013 teaching award recipient for her commitment and dedication to teaching and learning.

Dr. Vajoczki was a faculty member at McMaster University and the Director of McMaster's Centre for Leadership and Learning (CLL) from 2010 until her passing in 2012.

Dr. Vajoczki distinguished herself through her exceptional classroom instruction, research on university teaching, numerous publications, as well as her mentoring of others.

Colleagues state that Dr. Vajoczki's promotion to Full Professor (teaching stream) was "trail-blazing" and noted that she was one of the first faculty members appointed to a teaching stream faculty position. She also "possessed the ability and the desire to make learning interesting and fun" and that "her enthusiasm for teaching" was evident in her classroom. One colleague wrote that, "Sue created an atmosphere where students felt confident asking questions within and outside of the classroom." In large earth science classes, many with over 400 students and some classes with enrollments close to 800, Dr. Vajoczki's teaching scores were consistently in the 8 and 9's – truly exemplary. But her infectious love of teaching and dedication to student learning went beyond the classroom. Dr. Vajoczki was dedicated to enhancing the quality of teaching and learning not only at McMaster University but also internationally. Her CV stated, "My research interests in higher education include evaluating the role of scholarship of teaching



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and learning on undergraduate student learning, evaluating the effectiveness of teaching evaluation practices, and measuring the effectiveness of teaching & learning methodologies”. An educator with great depth and dedication, Vajoczki published 16 peer-reviewed journal articles mostly on teaching practice, 5 book chapters and over 100 conference papers. She also hosted and co-organized the ISSOTL, 2012 conference as the director of McMaster University’s Centre for Leadership in Learning.

Her dedication to teaching and learning did not stop with her students; she was also considered a mentor to many colleagues. As one professor wrote, “Sue had the time and patience to mentor all instructors to become the best they could be... and she had a humanity that embraced us all and made us more than we were when we first met her”. Another colleague wrote, “her passion and enthusiasm rubbed off on me, igniting an interest in me for pedagogy”.

Dr. Vajoczki’s contributions to teaching and learning have been recognized through several nominations and awards including the 3M National Teaching Fellowship in 2012. But perhaps her greatest accomplishments can be summed up in the words of one of her colleagues, most important “was her ability to touch the lives of her students and colleagues in meaningful and lasting ways. This I believe is her greatest gift and legacy”.

In recognition of the Dr. Vajoczki’s remarkable legacy of achievement in the area of teaching and learning she is posthumously awarded the prestigious OCUFA Teaching Award.