



Marjorie M. Devine

May 19, 1934 – January 19, 2017

Professor Emerita Marjorie M. Devine, of the Division of Nutritional Sciences died on January 19, 2017 in Dover-Foxcroft Maine. She was born on May 19, 1934 in East Machias, Maine and attended local schools and was a member of the last graduating class of the Foxcroft Academy. She graduated from the University of Maine at Orono in 1956 with a B.S. degree in Home Economics Education. Professor Devine taught Home Economics at East Windsor High School in Connecticut and Bangor High School in Bangor, Maine from 1958 to 1962. She returned to the University of Maine at Orono for a M.S. degree in Home Economics Education in 1962, and served as an Instructor there from 1962 to 1964. She received a Ph.D. degree in Nutrition at Cornell University in 1967, working on aspects of Vitamin C metabolism in guinea pigs. In that same year, she joined the faculty of the Department of Food and Nutrition of the New York State College of Home Economics as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 1973 and Professor in 1978. With the merger of the Department Human Nutrition and Food with the School of Nutrition in 1974, she became a faculty member in the Division of Nutritional Sciences.

Professor Devine was a dedicated teacher. She taught a popular introductory course in Nutrition, “The Ecology of Food and Nutrition” nearly every semester from 1967 until she retired in 1989. This course provided an introduction to human nutrition for students across the campus and had an enrollment of 200 to 300 students each term. She worked to make this large lecture course a more intimate experience for undergraduate students. Her former students from this course commented that she was a “fabulous mentor” and “a wonderful teacher.” Professor Devine was recognized for her teaching skills. She received a State University of New York Chancellors Award for Teaching in 1977. She was named a Danforth Associate in 1980, and received a Distinguished Teaching Award from the College of Human Ecology and the Omicron Nu Honor

Society in 1982. In 1987, she received a Presidential Scholar award and in 1989 a Gamma Sigma Delta Innovating Teaching Award.

When the Division of Nutritional Sciences was formed in 1974, Dr. Devine was named Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs, and later, Associate Director of Academic Affairs, a position she held until her retirement in 1989. She created an ongoing program to work with faculty members to assist them in providing more effective advising for the large number of undergraduate students with majors in the Division. Professor Devine established a Learning Center in the Division to provide students an opportunity to access multimedia educational materials before students had access to personal computers. She also led a seminar course for training graduate students to be more effective teaching assistants in courses offered by the Division of Nutritional Sciences. Such training became part of all the Division's graduate students' educational experience.

In her academic career, Dr. Devine was advisor to several graduate students who continued her interest in vitamin C metabolism using guinea pigs as an experimental model.

Professor Devine was an active member of the Society for Nutrition Education (SNE), and its Division of Higher Education which she chaired in 1978. She represented SNE on the National Nutrition Consortium from 1978 to 1981, and chaired the Consortium in 1980-81. This was a consortium of nutrition-related professional societies that aimed to coordinate nutrition advice provided by its organizational members to the general public.

With Marsha Pimentel, she wrote Dimensions of Food: An Introductory Laboratory Manual (Harper and Row, 1975 and AVI Pub. Co., 1985). This text book was widely used across the US, including at Cornell, in introductory foods laboratory courses. It has been subsequently revised by a new author and is still in use today.

After she retired, along with her colleague and friend Jerry Rivers, she ran a Christmas tree farm near Ithaca for 10 years. She was also a member of the Catatunk Wood Carvers during that time. Marge was a skilled woodcarver of native birds and mammals of the northeastern region of the US. She later returned to her Maine roots where she lived for several years before her death.

Written by Christine Olson, David Levitsky and Malden Nesheim