Resolution in Memoriam
Jill Mattuck Tarule
Professor and Dean Emerita, College of Education and Social Services
1943 – 2019

Presented by Kelly Clark/Keefe
Associate Professor, College of Education and Social Services

Jill Mattuck Tarule, Professor and Dean of the College of Education and Social Services, passed away February 3, 2019, at the UVM Medical Center, following a long and courageous battle with multiple myeloma, her third lifetime cancer. Jill was born in Barre, VT on April 4, 1943, and grew up in Plainfield Village, one of 14 students in the last class to graduate from Plainfield High School in 1960. After several semesters at Bennington College, Jill returned to Plainfield and graduated from Goddard College in 1964. She attended the Harvard School of Education where she earned a Masters of Education in 1969 and a Doctorate in 1978. Jill began her career at the Vermont Department of Education from 1969-1971, and Goddard College, where she served as a faculty member and Dean of the Graduate College until 1978. In 1983, Jill began teaching at Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, eventually becoming Dean of the Counseling and Psychology Division from 1986 to 1989.

In 1992, Jill returned with her family to Vermont, where she served as Dean of the College of Education and Social Services (CESS) from 1992-2005, Associate Provost from 2005-2009, and a faculty member in the Department of Leadership and Developmental Sciences until her retirement in 2013. Jill continued to demonstrate her commitment to UVM and the College through her contributions as a consultant, teacher, and advisor to doctoral students. Her “retirement” also included a return to Goddard College as a trustee, Chair of the Board of Directors, and Chair of Goddard’s recent presidential search committee.

As a scholar, Jill was highly regarded as an intellectual feminist whose works included numerous articles, chapters, and books on adult learners, women as leaders, and leaders' ethical and moral decision-making. She was best known for her co-authorship of Women’s Ways of Knowing: The Development of Self, Voice and Mind, a pivotal book in the field of developmental psychology that continues to inform our understanding of the ways society shapes experiences and gender, and the implications this has for education contexts. Among the many awards Jill received, she was most proud of her Honorary Doctorate from the School for Lifelong Learning at the University of New Hampshire; the Pomeroy Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teacher Education; the Gender Equity Award from the American Association of College Teacher Education; and the Jackie M. Gribbons Leadership Award from the Vermont Women in Higher Education.
Jill will be remembered as someone who epitomized the teacher-scholar model that we value at the University of Vermont. She cherished teaching for the opportunities it presented to explore her own passion and deep knowledge, and to co-create knowledge with her students about the ways that social, familial and other contextual factors shape and influence our lives. Jill was a skilled administrator whose relational approach to leadership left a lasting mark on the College of Education and Social Services and the University of Vermont. She was also a beloved mentor, colleague, friend, wife, mother, and grandmother whose intellectual achievements were central to her career, but also fully integrated with who she was, how she engaged with others, and how she empowered others to explore their own ways of being and knowing. We will remember her for her strength, spirit, and sheer will to create and lead communities of care, respect, and commitment.