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olly Brevent, Administrative Coordinator of the English Department, is known for her fantastic attention to detail, her brilliant strategic imagination, and her profound dedication. She is considered by many to be the most important member of the department.

Holly joined the UVM community in 2004 as an administrative assistant in the Math Department. She first joined the English department in 2007, then worked in the Department of Romance Languages from 2012 to 2014. She returned to the English Department in 2014.

A great problem solver and an inventive thinker, Holly puts that insight to work making our

community more inclusive, productive, and fair. Her innovations—such as an online survey for our vast course scheduling effort that eliminates the need for data entry and captures more detail—make all of our work lighter. As one colleague remarked, “Holly is always coming up with elegant solutions even to seemingly intractable problems.”

Holly also creates a professional and welcoming work space for the other staff members and work-study students, and she is no less dedicated to the English Department faculty: in the past two years she has offered compassionate assistance to faculty experiencing personal difficulties, and to the department as a whole when the team experienced the loss of two beloved colleagues.

Holly has a courageous and savvy response to every crisis, but she especially steps up to protect anyone who is vulnerable. She is motivated not only by generosity, but also by a profound sense of integrity—an unerring ethical compass. As one professor describes it, “Holly promotes a sense of justice among us.” She is steadfast in ensuring that everyone plays by the rules in such matters as office assignments, financial resources, and course scheduling, and she does so graciously.

While everyone benefits from her fierce intelligence and vast knowledge, Holly brings something more personal to the Department community. One faculty member said, “She knows that people are the most important resource at the university, and that the university exists to serve people. Everything Holly does, from the smallest, spontaneous interaction to the organization of a day-long retreat, focuses on creating connections and evoking respect.”

Holly Brevent goes far beyond her job description daily to nurture the quality of life at work and to support and advance UVM’s core values of respect, integrity, innovation, openness, justice, and responsibility.