

Dr. Brenda Robertson

Dr. Brenda Robertson completed a Bachelor of Science (Recreation) (1975) and Master of Science (Recreation) (1983) at Acadia; and a Doctor of Philosophy in Leisure Studies (1993) at the University of Oregon.

During her 30 year tenure with Acadia, she served as Director of the Centre of Leisure Studies/Recreation Resource Centre of Nova Scotia on campus for 14 years, in addition to her professorial duties. Her work at the Centre involved the creation of a large provincial lending library of resource materials related to recreation; development and delivery of a comprehensive system of professional development offerings for practitioners; and provision of a broad range of services for government agencies, professional associations, and community groups related to the delivery of recreation services.

Her academic work focused primarily on the social psychology of leisure behaviour. This involved exploring the motivations and constraints impacting the leisure functioning of specific groups. In particular, her research shed light on such diverse topics such as crime and leisure, the recreation of at risk youth, inside the social circus world, and constraints to female participation in recreation. Her contributions to curriculum development focused mainly on leisure behaviour, sociology of leisure, leisure education, crime/justice and leisure, youth development, and leisure for disenfranchised populations. She was a strong advocate for leisure education and increasing the leisure literacy for all.

Her professional alliances included Recreation Nova Scotia (President), Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (Publications editor), North American Society of Park and Recreation Educators, and the World Leisure and Recreation Association (Program Manager).

Awards recognizing her work include: Associated Alumni of Acadia University Excellence in Teaching Award, Recreation Nova Scotia Lifetime Achievement Award, Canadian Parks and Recreation Award of Merit, Association of Atlantic Universities Anne Marie MacKinnon Instructional Leadership Award, Society of Parks and Recreation Educators Excellence in Teaching Award, and the World Leisure Education Scholar Award.

Dr. Robertson was appointed Professor Emeritus in May 2013.

