This year’s recipient of the AAUP’s excellence in Faculty Accomplishment Award is no stranger to the role of teacher, scholar and citizen. This faculty member has always focused on the roles of faculty mentor, dedicated scholar, and concerned a concerned citizen of the College and the broader community. Few people can match her energy in the classroom or, for that matter, her rapid stride as she speeds across campus. She is generous, always willing to lend a hand or contribute encouragement with a smile. This year’s winner is a graduate of Regis College in Westin, Mass., and a native of Cranston, Rhode Island. She received her Ph.D. from the University of New Hampshire, and lucky for us, has been at Saint Anselm ever since.

Since joining the faculty here at Saint Anselm in 1990, she has done whatever has been asked of her and more. She has served as both an example and an advisor to young faculty in her department. As a teacher, she is admired by both her students and her colleagues for her careful class preparation and her enthusiasm for her topic. After a particularly enthusiastic class, a student once noted that she “really needs to calm down about this stuff.”

In her scholarship, she reaches across boundaries to work with colleagues in education and criminal justice; she has extended her reach within her own department as well. She is passionately committed to searching for better ways to understand children and families and how they process their world. Her expertise has not only benefitted her colleagues but also multiple students doing research projects in any given year.

As for service, few at Saint Anselm are more visible. She has served nine years as a Faculty Senator. She has been a member of and chaired numerous committees (including working as co-chair of the Inclusivity and Sexual Orientation Task Force, which led to the creation of our Core Council on Inclusiveness). Most recently, she led the nation-wide search for the Colleges’ first Chief Diversity Officer. She has participated in a Service and Solidarity Mission trips to Costa Rica as part of Spring Break Alternative. Her passion and support for the students extends beyond the classroom, whether advisor to the Women’s Ice Hockey team (she rarely misses a game, home or away) or as an ardent fan of the Abbey Players.

Off campus, this year’s recipient is wholly engaged in her local community. She was for many years as the first communion coordinator for her parish and continues as a Eucharistic minister there. When she is not contributing to the lives of others, she is enjoying the company of her husband, Paul, as they celebrate the many accomplishments of their children – Kathleen, Daniel and Daniel’s wife Shannon. She is a proud Nana to her grandchildren Brynn, Colin and Addison (who also share her love of our Women’s Ice Hockey team). She is a much-loved and cherished sister to a very close group of siblings. She has abundant energy, a warmth that people naturally gravitate towards, and strength in her convictions about righting the wrongs in our world. It is my great pleasure to announce that this year’s recipient of the AAUP’s excellence in Faculty Accomplishment is Associate Professor of psychology, Dr. Maria W. McKenna.