CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Marie Dence Recognized for 25 Years of Service

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Table of Contents

Marie Dence Recognized for 25 Years of Service .............................................................3
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When Marie Dence started working for NERDC in 1973, she was still a graduate student, and dumb terminals were the height of computer technology. Twenty-five years later, dumb terminals are on their way out but Dence is still here for us as NERDC’s Associate Director.

Dence was honored for her 25 years at NERDC at a January NERDC Policy Board meeting. UF Provost Betty Capaldi presented Dence with a diamond-studded pin. Dence worked her way up starting as an editorial assistant, to editor, to assistant director, and at last, in 1983, associate director. And she did get her graduate degree -- two of them: a Master of Arts in Journalism and a Master of Arts in English.

"I started as the editorial assistant. I was the sum total of our Information Services staff. I took the job temporarily while working on my graduate degree," Dence said. "My supervisor at the grad school said NERDC was looking for someone who both knew what a terminal was and could write a complete sentence. They had been looking for a while."

"When I came here I was young and had no gray hair. It's been a real adventure so far. One of the nice things about working at NERDC is that there's been very little turnover. It's been really interesting to share a career with people who also started young and with dark hair. PS, I'll be funding my retirement by selling negatives of early pictures," Dence said.

Dence has a bright outlook about the past quarter-century of technological revolutions: "It's an adventure because the job changes as the technology changes. In terms of publishing and being able to help people with consulting, technology advancements have made that easier. More and more people are using computers; we have a different target now."

Your Comments are Welcome

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