It’s with broken hearts that we announce the passing of our dearly loved Heather Grace Carnahan. Heather is beloved as a mother, sister, partner, friend, aunt, sister-in-law, mentor, and teacher and will be deeply missed by so many. Heather passed away on September 18th surrounded in person and in spirit by her loved ones. This list is so very long, and includes her loving children Chester, Lily, and Viktor, her sister Kim, brother-in-law Chuck, and Derek, her loving partner who was a profound source of joy in her life. Heather was also deeply loved by Abby, Leah, Zak, Arden, Lochlan, and Aaron. There are no words to adequately describe what each of these people meant to Heather and it is equally impossible to express how deeply they will all miss her.

Heather was born and spent her early years in London, Ontario. She was talented and passionate excelling both academically and athletically. Her academic successes culminated in an undergraduate degree in Physical Education from McMaster University, a PhD in Kinesiology from the University of Waterloo, and a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Psychology from Western University.

Most recently, Heather was a professor and the Lockheed Martin Chair in Marine Simulation and Learning at the School of Maritime Studies at the Marine Institute leading the Institute’s Ocean Safety Research Unit (ORSU) examining the human factors impacting marine safety and survival.

Prior to this Heather was Dean of the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation at Memorial University, Interim Vice-President of Education at Women’s College Hospital, and Inaugural Director of the Centre for Ambulatory Care Education in the Faculty of Medicine at University of Toronto. Heather also held the BMO Chair in Health Professions Education Research at the Wilson Centre while at the University of Toronto.

The list of Heather’s professional accomplishments is long and impressive, but really, her heart and her world revolved around her family. Heather was an amazing mother and role model who felt her greatest achievement was her children who she loved fiercely.

Donations may be made to the memorial fund at Memorial University being established to honour Heather’s academic legacy which will be designated to graduate student support within the Marine Institute School of Maritime Studies. Please contact the Marine Institute at 709-778-0370 to discuss giving or donate online via www.mi.mun.ca/givetomi. When donating online, please indicate Gift in memory of Dr. Heather Carnahan in the information field.