

Memorial Resolution – Allison Rose Murray
November 29, 1984 – July 18, 2021

On behalf of the School of Human Ecology (SoHE), I submit this memorial resolution in honor of our friend, colleague, and fellow Human Ecologist – Allison Murray.

Allison was a core member of the SoHE community for nearly two decades. She graduated from our Consumer Science program in 2007 and spent her entire 14-year professional career in the school. She served as a Department Administrator, Academic Advisor, and most recently, as Associate Director of Undergraduate Academic Programs, until her death in 2021. Allison loved UW-Madison and the School of Human Ecology and described her SoHE colleagues as her family.

Allison has touched the hearts of innumerable students, staff, and faculty with her compassion, tireless work ethic, and great sense of humor. Whether she was assisting a student with course selection, working with faculty to coordinate the schedule of classes, or analyzing data for academic planning, Allison approached each task with energy and enthusiasm. She could always be counted on to keep team meetings fun with a quick, witty comment or joke.

Allison was the glue that kept our academic programs running and the spirit that kept us smiling, laughing, and singing. She was our compassionate moral compass – always there to offer support and to keep us grounded in how our decisions and actions impacted students. She was also fiery and fierce, never afraid to speak her mind while adding a lot of spice to our lives.

As one of her former students described, “At a university like UW you can feel like a number in a sea of students...[but] every time I walked into Allison’s office she greeted me by name, with a smile, and made me feel known and valued. She believed in each and every one of her students.”

Allison remained committed to her students and colleagues, continuing to work throughout her cancer treatment, right up until the time of her passing. She was a great role model for how to fight hard but also accept the circumstances we cannot change with grace and humility.

The School of Human Ecology will continue to be impacted by her legacy for many years to come. We love and miss you, Allison.

Respectfully submitted by Annette McDaniel, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and Innovation, School of Human Ecology