

**Memorial Resolution – Sandra Arfa**  
**October 24, 1942 – May 5, 2022**

It is with great sadness that we offer this memorial resolution for Sandra Marion Arfa, known to everyone as Sandy, who passed away on May 5, 2022. While we mourn her passing and dearly miss her presence in our lives as a friend and colleague, it is gratifying to have the opportunity to commemorate her many contributions to the UW-Madison community. Sandy began teaching in the ESL Program in 1980 and also served as its Assistant Director for many years until assuming the position of Director, which she carried out with great skill until her retirement in 2021.

Sandy earned her undergraduate degree here at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and pursued graduate studies at UCLA and Harvard University. She is survived by her husband, David Arfa, with whom she traveled the world extensively, and their two children and their families.

Under Sandy's leadership, the ESL program grew in size and scope to serve the entire university, providing English language instruction for undergraduate and graduate students and training for future English language teachers through the TESOL Certificate and the master's program in Applied English Linguistics. In addition to leading the core mission of the ESL program, Sandy oversaw and built many successful collaborations with foreign universities and international organizations. She played an integral role in the University's collaboration with Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan, helped build an English language preparatory school program for Antalya International University in Turkey, and designed a large-scale teacher training project with the Gyeonggi-do Institute for Foreign Language Education in South Korea. She created and oversaw teacher training and English language programs around the world, directing or participating in programs in Italy, China, Thailand, Bolivia, and Uruguay. Here at home, the Program had a 13-year relationship with the National African Languages Resource Center helping to train teachers of African languages in the NALRC's annual teacher training workshop. Her leadership and service to the University of Wisconsin-Madison were recognized with the Judith Craig Distinguished Service Award in 2013-14.

We can think of no greater praise than to say that working for and with Sandy was an absolute joy and privilege. Her visible excitement and delight in the mission of the ESL Program and the University of Wisconsin were contagious, making the program a site of continuous challenge and growth, a hub of educational excitement and innovation. Thanks to her leadership, the educational and cultural needs of thousands of international students were met and they in turn were better able to enrich the university even as they thrived. She trained English language teachers who today are teaching and training other new teachers throughout the globe. Today we honor her achievements and the profound legacy Sandy Arfa left us all of the Wisconsin Idea made real: reaching across campus and beyond to every corner of the world. We recognize the debt of gratitude owed to Sandy, teacher nonpareil, fearless visionary leader, and a proud member of the UW community.

*Respectfully submitted by Steven Timm and Joseph Nosek, Teaching Faculty, UW-Madison Program in English as a Second Language.*