

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

BONNIE L. AMIM

Bonnie Lee (Chadwick) Amim was born in Hazel Green, Wisconsin on May 12, 1945. She was killed at her own apartment on February 11, 1990. She is survived by her greatly loved children, William Dalton and Katharine Reid, by her mother, Edith Chadwick, and by her sisters Nancy Becker and Delpha Toney.

Bonnie began her UW-Madison employment at the Wisconsin Center for Educational Research in 1972 as a computer operator and data processing coordinator. By 1976 she had been promoted to program assistant and was managing essentially all aspects of the budget. This was what she was still doing in January of 1983 when she declared a major in Sociology.

Joann Elder, the undergraduate advisor in Sociology, recalls from their first meeting that there was something special about Bonnie. She seemed confident that she would complete the degree but at the same time was extremely modest about her ability. Bonnie wondered whether a returning adult student could succeed. Joann just kidded her about people getting smarter as they got older.

Bonnie completed her degree the following year, graduating with distinction. At the time, she wanted to pursue a graduate degree and was admitted into the graduate program in Sociology. Because her husband did not support her in her decision to do graduate work and because she felt the pressure to earn a living, she went to work instead for Professor Erik Wright as a data archivist and administrative coordinator of an 11-nation international project on Comparative Class Structure. Later she took on a second position with Professor Irwin Garfinkel at the Poverty Research Center as the data manager and archivist for a program evaluating Wisconsin's new child support reforms.

Erik Wright recalls that Bonnie launched herself enthusiastically into the tasks of assembling the data from the various nations into a coherent comparative dataset and preparing the documentation in such a way that someone unfamiliar with the project could still easily use the data. She accomplished these tasks with enormous care and proficiency so that everyone who has used the data has remarked on how incredibly clear and well organized all the codebooks and other documentation are. In recognition of this excellence, the members of the project have formally dedicated the ten-volume codebook, soon to be published, to Bonnie.

In the fall of 1988, Bonnie came to the Department of Psychology in the position of Assistant to the Chair. During the time she was in the department, she came to be the master not only of the routine business of the department involving timetables, teaching assistants, budget, the merit process, and so forth, but also handled the interpersonal aspects of the job with such grace that no one, whether faculty, staff or student, ever felt slighted or uncared for even when time and resources were in short supply. As Bonnie put it when she was hired, she wanted to be a member of a team, not the administrator of a unit. The measure of her administrative skill was that she succeeded personally in building a team of which any department might be proud.

But Bonnie was much more than simply a highly skilled employee. What struck everyone who came in contact with her was her kindness, her generosity of spirit, and her concern for others. She never complained about the often chaotic state of tasks she confronted, or about the occasional irresponsibility of some of the people with whom she had to deal. She always gave people the benefit of the doubt as she patiently prodded them to do what needed to be done.

In her last months, Bonnie talked with many of her friends about her hopes for the future. Above all things, Bonnie loved her children and was proud of them, both wonderful human beings. But they were now adults. Although Bonnie resisted putting her own interest ahead of another's, she realized that it was time for her to have, at long last, a life of her own on her own. In the last days before she died, Bonnie was happy and at peace with her decision to live alone. We, who knew and loved her, must grieve that she was not able to enjoy this choice for longer than she did, but we also must never forget the great satisfaction she took in her own personal growth and in knowing that her professional talents were warmly appreciated here at the University.

Memorial Committee

Joann F. Elder
Lola L. Lopes (Chair)
Erik O. Wright