

**Memorial Resolution – Taissa (Tess) Hauser
February 14, 1942 – January 10, 2014**

Tess Hauser, longtime administrative director of the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS) which operated out of the Department of Sociology, died on January 10, 2014 at the age of 71, after a long battle with cancer. Tess directed the WLS for 40 years, along the way nourishing the careers of scores of undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, staff, and faculty.

Tess is survived by her husband of almost 50 years, Prof. Emeritus Robert Hauser; her two sons Seth and Joshua Hauser, their wives and children, and her brothers Joel and Michael (Mickey) Silvers and their families. Memorial services for Tess were held in Madison on February 16, 2014 and in Chevy Chase, Maryland on February 23, 2014. Hundreds of past colleagues, students, friends and family members attended the two celebrations of her life.

Tess joined the Academic Staff at UW-Madison in 1970, accompanying her husband as he began his tenure-track position at UW-Madison. Trained with a master's degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Michigan, she had the skills to administer a grand undertaking—locate and survey approximately 10,000 people who graduated from Wisconsin high schools in 1957. Tess was a master at locating people. She developed new and innovative methods for both locating people and tracking them over time, leading to a 98% success rate for respondent contact—an unheard of achievement for a longitudinal study.

A longitudinal study as large and all-encompassing as the WLS is done by a large team of individuals. Graduate students, especially, used this survey as a training ground and Tess was a mentor as they cleaned data, wrote reports, helped obtain grant funding, or assisted in question-writing. In 2003, Tess was awarded the Judith S. Craig Distinguished Service Award in the College of Letters & Sciences for her extraordinary career accomplishments. In a letter signed by 22 Sociology professionals who had worked with Tess during their graduate careers at UW-Madison, they wrote, "Tess's unparalleled leadership and service contributions transcend the boundaries of the College of Letters and Sciences and the University of Wisconsin. She has had a powerful impact on American Sociology and public policy, and on the lives of many sociologists throughout the United States and Asia."

Of special importance to this body, Tess Hauser also contributed her many talents to promoting pay equity among the academic staff. In 1989, she and her husband Bob conducted a research study on the compensation of academic staff. They found both gender and racial bias in the pay received by academic staff at the time. Their study attributed the pay gaps to bias in the assignment of titles and the pay structures that accompanied those titles. Their work, and Tess's continued involvement in the project via a member of the Committee of Experts that implemented the new recommendations, led to the removal of gender and race bias in our current academic staff titles.

Tess Hauser epitomized what talented and accomplished academic staff members can bring to our university community. Her work changed the discipline of Sociology, the UW-Madison Sociology department, and faculty, staff and students within the department in important and profound ways. Those of us who were privileged to work with and be mentored by her will never stop missing her kindness, wit, and wisdom.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Sheridan, Associate Scientist, Executive & Research Director, Women in Science & Engineering Leadership Institute (WISELI)