

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR SARAH ELIZABETH BUCHER BLACK

Sarah Elizabeth (Betty) Bucher Black, age 59, passed away on April 12, 2002, after a 21-year battle with cancer. She was truly a successful fighter and a winner against this disease.

Betty was born in Mobile, Alabama, on June 17, 1942, the daughter of William and Ruth Fountain Bucher. Betty's first job was working in the Allen Memorial Home, a Roman Catholic orphanage. Her first calling was to be a Sister of Loretto.

Betty focused on music early in her academic career, earning a bachelor's degree in music education in 1965 from Webster College in Webster Groves, Missouri, and a master's degree in music theory in 1970 from the Eastman Music Conservatory in Rochester, New York. She later completed a master's degree (1982) and a doctorate (1986) in early childhood education at the University of Texas while also solo parenting a child and commencing her struggle with cancer.

Betty joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty in 1986 as an assistant professor in the School of Human Ecology's Department of Human Development and Family Studies. She was promoted to full professor in 1997.

When Betty arrived at Wisconsin, she took over the directorship of the UW Preschool Laboratory, a research, teaching, and outreach unit of the university with a history dating to the 1920s. Under her leadership, the Preschool Lab became the first university-affiliated child care program in the country to receive the highest level of national accreditation. It also developed from a part-day to a full-day program, initiated a summer program for school-aged children, and expanded to a second, off-campus site that included infant care for the first time.

Betty also worked to support the ongoing development of the UW Preschool Lab as a research site for scholars in the departments of psychology, nursing, nutrition, education, and human development and family studies. Betty's research focused on young children's communication styles and social development, including influential studies of how young children interact with their peers and their parents. She conducted this research at the UW Preschool Lab using videotaped naturalistic observations of popular, shy, and rejected children's social skills. She also examined the impact of television viewing on the creativity of children's free play. Many of Betty's graduate student advisees also conducted their research in the Preschool Lab, including a number of international students who have since become professors in their native countries of Taiwan and Korea.

Throughout her tenure as director, the UW Lab Preschool served as the field placement site for hundreds of interns who were preparing to become early childhood teachers. Every year Betty taught some of the core, required courses in the UW early childhood education program. She was deeply committed to student teachers' development as the caregivers and educators of the next generation.

Betty was a very devoted teacher and mentor who continued to teach undergraduates and serve as a supportive advisor and mentor to numerous undergraduate and graduate students until the last few weeks before her death.

Betty served on the University Child Care Committee for many years and contributed to the design of the UW-Madison White Paper on Child Care. She was a tireless advocate for children and quality child care.
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Through these efforts she exerted a significant influence on Wisconsin child care policy. She worked passionately throughout her years at UW to increase access to child care for employed parents in the campus community.

Professor Black will be remembered for her stories, her friendliness, her honesty, her unfailing enthusiasm, her belief in others, her encouragement, and her strength in the face of impossible challenges. She will also be remembered as an ally, and her spirit will continue as a powerful force in the lives of many students, colleagues, and friends, as well as in the life of her beloved son, David, and other surviving members of her family.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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