

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

ON THE DEATH OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR CATHERINE (KIT) ALLEN

Catherine (Kit) Allen, age 54, passed away on September 8, 2003 after a courageous 11-month battle with acute leukemia.

Kit was born on October 15, 1948 in Antigo, Wisconsin, the daughter of George and Geraldine (Fermanich) Hanke, where she loved spending summers with the family at a lake nearby. A 1967 graduate from Antigo High School, Kit subsequently graduated with distinction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1971 earning a bachelor of arts degree in journalism, in 1975 earning a bachelor of science degree in nursing, in 1982 earning a masters degree in epidemiology, and in 1990 earning a Ph.D. in epidemiology. She was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Theta Tau national honor societies. Kit was an accomplished epidemiologist and a devoted teacher and researcher. She made major contributions to the understanding of diabetes complications and women's health.

In 1971 she married James Allen, a freelance artist and the first art director of Madison Magazine. They built their home together in the town of Verona in 1980, shortly before Jim, who had diabetes, was disabled by a stroke. Thanks to their love, Kit's gift of a kidney to Jim in 1994, and her limitless energy they enjoyed 32 years together. They spent summer vacations in northern Wisconsin with their large extended family, loved raising their Samoyeds, cheered at UW Band concerts, enjoyed going to the theater and photographed flowers together at Olbrich Gardens.

Kit began her professional career in nursing at Madison General (now Meriter) Hospital. In 1976 she became a research nurse coordinator in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Wisconsin Medical School and began her research on type 1 diabetes. She continued to work in the department, supporting the Epidemiology program. Following completion of her Ph.D. degree she accepted a scientist position, and went on to become an assistant professor in the newly named Department of Population Health Sciences in 2000.

Kit was the principal investigator of the Madison site of the Women's Health Initiative, one of 40 national sites investigating how to prevent illnesses in women as they age. Kit brought distinction to the Madison site with her outstanding skills in direction, recruitment and retention of participants. She was the research director of the Center for Women's Health Research and a board member of the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation. Kit developed and taught a course in Women's Health Epidemiology. She also taught the master's seminar in Epidemiology for many years.

Kit led several innovative research studies elucidating the early course of type 1 diabetes mellitus. She was instrumental in obtaining funding from the National Institutes of Health to establish and continue the Wisconsin Diabetes Registry Study cohort from 1987 through her 16 years of leadership on this project. Kit was also principal investigator of two ancillary studies to the registry which sought to investigate the risk of kidney and heart disease associated with type 1 diabetes.

Kit is remembered daily by her colleagues. The Women's Health Initiative staff honored her memory with a brick on the walkway at Olbrich Gardens. The Department of Population Health Sciences established a student poster award in her name to celebrate her dedication to teaching and research.

Kit promoted excellence among her staff, students and colleagues. She also generated much fun and laughter at department and project gatherings. Her actions, which set a standard for friendly

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atmosphere throughout her 27 years in the department, are remembered with great fondness. Kit's generous and kind spirit and wonderful, creative sense of humor are greatly missed by everyone.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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