

Proposition 16-14/15

Sponsor: Pat Morandi (A&S)

Proposed Committee Assignment: Emergency Legislation

Title: A Memorial in Honor of Maribeth Olberding

Proposition:

Maribeth Olberding, a College Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, passed away on 28 May 2014. Maribeth was only 44 when she passed away after a battle with breast cancer, leaving two young daughters and her husband.

Maribeth taught a range of classes in mathematics, but her main influence came from teaching the courses for pre-service elementary teachers. Her background (a Bachelors' Degree in Math Education and a Master of Arts in Teaching Mathematics) and love of teaching and learning was ideal for helping these students gain the background they needed to become productive classroom teachers.

Maribeth was also active in maintaining and improving a friendly atmosphere in the department. She was the center of many social activities, including organizing monthly happy hours to encourage people to get out of their offices and socialize with their fellow department members.

Maribeth was respected and loved by her fellow faculty, students, and staff at NMSU. As former students have learned about her passing, they have written to the department to express their appreciation for the education they received from Maribeth. They have also kept up a memorial outside her faculty office.

While dedicated to her students and colleagues, Maribeth especially shined as an active mother to her two daughters. She was constantly keeping them engaged in a wide variety of activities, and she volunteered regularly at their schools, enriching them and their fellow students with interesting mathematical activities.

All who knew her will sorely miss Maribeth Olberding. The NMSU Faculty Senate extends its deepest condolences and sympathies to the family, friends, students, and all who knew this vibrant and friendly lady. It also expresses its gratitude for the contributions of Maribeth to NMSU, its students, and others outside the NMSU community.