



Sandra Denise Anderson

March 25, 1961 - September 13, 2018

Sandra Denise Anderson, lived to the age of 57, and was a resident of Monona, Wisconsin, at the time of her death. She died on Wednesday, September 13, 2018, in West Palm Beach, Florida. She was born March 25, 1961, to Arnold & Betty Anderson of Midwest City, Oklahoma and has an older sister, Diane Earnest. Sandra had her daughter, Alissa Ashford, in October of 1992.

Sandra was very passionate about her education and work as an engineer. She earned her Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Oklahoma, during which time she received the Amelia Earhart Fellowship from Zonta International. Sandra was extremely talented in her field, earning many awards and being a part of several societies. She spent a large amount of her career as a technical specialist for the Ford Motor Company and recently as the Director of Master of Engineering in Engine Systems at the University of Wisconsin.

Sandra grew up in Midwest City, Oklahoma, and lived in Dearborn, Michigan, & Monona, Wisconsin throughout her life.

Sandra loved to spend time with her daughter, Alissa, riding her bike around the lake, water skiing, yoga and walking her dog, Gidget. You could often find Sandra spending much of her time outdoors. Her favorite place was spending time at the lake. Sandra was extremely adventurous throughout her life, traveling all over the world, she just returned from a trip to China a few months ago.

She is survived by her daughter, Alissa Ashford, her mother, Betty Anderson of Midwest City, and her sister, Diane Earnest of Choctaw, Oklahoma, and her dog, Gidget.

Sandra is predeceased by her father, Arnold Anderson, of Midwest City (April 2004)

Cemetery

Arlington Memory Gardens
3400 N. Midwest Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK, 73141

Events

SEP
19

Funeral

10:00AM

Candlewood Chapel
315 S. Sooner Rd., Midwest City, OK, US, 73110

Comments



“ My condolences to Sandra’s family. I have got to know Sandra through MEES program. I was twice teaching assistant in the program. Sandra was such a nice person and always offered her help. She kindly provided several reference letters for me while I was looking for a job and provided a lot advices when I just started my first job. Sandra will be missed. -Yu Shi, Chief Engineer at Phillips 66 R&D.

Yu Shi - January 31 at 09:12 PM



“ It is with deep sorrow that I learned of Sandra's death. She was a spirit undaunted. I met Sandra at Garrett, and am blessed to have called her friend since. Please accept my deepest condolences to you and yours. -Trish Gainer



Trish Gainer - December 01, 2018 at 04:59 PM



“ I am very sorry to hear of Sandra's passing. I know her from my time as a student in MEES, where she was very dedicated and enthusiastic as program director. I am sure the loss and pain is great, but I hope her family and friends take some comfort in knowing she made a difference for many people.

Joe Roth - October 05, 2018 at 09:51 PM



“ Alan T. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Sandra Denise Anderson.

Alan T. - September 23, 2018 at 05:29 PM



“ I am so grateful to have known Sandra. She was an amazing teacher and a friend. She was very sincere in what she did and I am happy to have gotten a chance to have known her. It makes me sad to think she is not with us, but I wish the very best for Sandra's family. Prayers to her family.

Deepak Pillai - September 22, 2018 at 04:30 PM



“ Dear Friends and family of Sandra,

The Zonta Club of Madison will have a moment of silence to honor the life and service of our Zonta sister, Sandra Anderson at our September 19, 2018 monthly meeting. I remember the last time I saw Sandra was at our July 28th Zonta Day at the Beach, when we left all our cares and woes behind as we passed through the “green tunnel” on the way to Marge’s lake house. Little did we know that within 6 weeks of when this photo was taken, Sandra, would succumb to the ravages of breast cancer. She was a member of the Zonta Club of Madison for the past five years and served as the Chair of the membership committee and worked with me last spring on the Nomination Committee. Her warm smile and giving nature will be sorely missed. She truly was an example of how one person could empower many others through her service and advocacy.

Our time on earth is all too short, but the love and service we share lasts forever!

Kathi Vos, President, Zonta Club of Madison



Kathi Vos - September 19, 2018 at 12:41 PM



“ I will miss Sandra’s enthusiasm for teaching students and the knowledge she shared with all of us at the UW. She is a beautiful person that has left a big hole here, I can only imagine how difficult it is for her family. I will keep her and her family in my prayers.

Michael Andrie,
ERC/EPD @ UW-MADISON

Michael Andrie - September 19, 2018 at 12:34 PM



“ I am so grateful I got to know Sandra better over the last few years. All my cousins live so far away, but any time I see them we all feel the family bond. She was an inspiration to me in furthering my education and pushing career boundaries. I will miss you.

Michelle White - September 19, 2018 at 09:01 AM



“ I met Sandra about 5 1/2 years ago at a Pranic Healing Class and we became instant friends. I was always amazed at her spirit and her energy and how she loved to ride her bike. She was so amazing with all her research and knowledge of the healing arts and juicing. I was always soooo in awe. I am so honored to have been able to talk to her the last few weeks of her too short life. Sandra I will miss you very much. I send my blessings to her family and Blessings to her Soul on its new journey. Good bye dear friend. You were very loved by many!
Sue

Sue Martin - September 18, 2018 at 06:01 PM



“ 57 files added to the album LifeTributes



Ford Funeral Service - September 18, 2018 at 04:07 PM



“ I would like to offer my sincere condolences to Sandra's family. Sandra was a tireless director and instructor in the MEES Masters engine program, and was the link between MEES and the Engine Research Center at UW-Madison. She showed exceptional care for all of the MEES students who appreciated her mentorship highly. She will be sorely missed. Prof. Rolf Reitz, former director UW-Madison Engine Research Center.

Rolf Reitz - September 18, 2018 at 01:57 PM



“ I worked with Sandra since she started at EPD. Our most recent interactions were on the Academic Staff Committee for our department. She always wanted to see fairness reign, and was dedicated to helping her students succeed. So sorry for your family's loss. She was too young to go.

Lauranne - September 18, 2018 at 01:21 PM



“ Eric Fluga purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Sandra Denise Anderson.



Eric Fluga - September 18, 2018 at 12:25 PM



“ Really sad to hear about Sandra's passing. As one of her students I'll always remember her passion for her students and the MEES program. Her impact on our lives, careers, and education will not be soon forgotten. My sincere condolences to the family.

Josh Fleming - September 18, 2018 at 11:01 AM



“ Mark purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Sandra Denise Anderson.



Mark - September 18, 2018 at 09:03 AM



“ I remember Sandra as a beautiful person and human-being. During my commencement visit I stayed at her place. She was most considerate in offering me to stay at her place. Later I worked with her in one of the courses for MEES. She was working to get more students from India and was planning a trip to India. It is shocking news for me to sink-in. I offer prayers for her soul and offer condolences to the bereaved family. May God give them strength to bear this irreparable loss.

Anirudh Gautam MEES Class of 2010

Anirudh Gautam - September 18, 2018 at 07:28 AM



“ I'll never forget Sandra's devotion to each and every MEES student, no matter what the circumstances looked like. She was an inspiration to all of us. Thank you for all your hard work Sandra! You will be missed dearly.

Alberth Franco - September 17, 2018 at 09:54 PM



“ 6 files added to the album New Album Name



Lauranne - September 17, 2018 at 06:30 PM



“ Zonta Club of Madison purchased the Full Heart for the family of Sandra Denise Anderson.



Zonta Club of Madison - September 17, 2018 at 06:20 PM



“ We will miss Sandra and the passion she had for the Master of Engineering in Engine Systems graduate program. She loved her students and would do anything for them. Many of them were successful in their studies because of Sandra's extra efforts.

With deepest sympathies,
Doug Reindl
Chair, EPD University of Wisconsin-Madison

Doug Reindl - September 17, 2018 at 05:48 PM



“ Department of Engineering Professional Development purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Sandra Denise Anderson.



Department of Engineering Professional Development - September 17, 2018 at 05:33 PM



“ Susan Ottmann - Eng Professional Development UW purchased the Grande Gourmet Fruit Basket for the family of Sandra Denise Anderson.



Susan Ottmann - Eng Professional Development UW - September 17, 2018 at 05:05 PM



“ 2 files added to the album University of Wisconsin--Madison



Daryl Harrison - September 17, 2018 at 04:30 PM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Daryl Harrison - September 17, 2018 at 04:29 PM



“ I really appreciated how much Sandra cared about our learning in the MEES program. She was always having help sessions and always available if help was needed. At Residency this past year she kept telling us about her bike riding and had stories about Gidget as well. Thank you Sandra for your help and your guidance. I know I speak for the whole MEES program when I say you will be missed greatly.

"MEES is full of the best people in the world!" - Sandra Anderson

Farewell,

Christopher Chika

Christopher Chika - September 17, 2018 at 04:13 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences go out to Sandra’s family. Sandra was truly a special person who was passionate about her work here at UW-Madison. She would often tell me she loved MEES and her students. Her passion for the students was admirable. She was available all hours of the day and night working with them to be successful while they were here and beyond.

I am deeply saddened for your loss. She will be missed!

Susan R Ottmann

Susan Ottmann - September 17, 2018 at 04:06 PM



“ Love, Emily Book purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Sandra Denise Anderson.



Love, Emily Book - September 17, 2018 at 03:14 PM



“ Sandra and I worked together at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Engineering Professional Development. As Director of The Master of Engineering-Engine Systems Program, Sandra worked diligently in supporting her students to their success. Her contributions to many engineers will be remembered. With Sympathy to her family,
Sandy Krentz, Madison, Wisconsin.

Sandy Krentz - September 17, 2018 at 02:16 PM



“ I had a great feeling for Sandra the first time I met her during a review meeting of the MMES program. She was always come and had her work under full control. She contributed great value to our masters program at EPD. Sad to hear the news. Chuck

Charles Dorgan - September 17, 2018 at 12:51 PM



“ My deepest condolences. Sandra was an amazing, brilliant, intelligent, thoughtful, strong and appreciative woman. I'm glad to have had the pleasure to cross her path. May she rest in peace...

Casey Breunig - September 17, 2018 at 12:02 PM



“ I send my most sincere condolences to Sandra's family, especially Alissa , Diane, and Sandra's mother.
I had the privilege and honor of working with Sandra for the past eleven years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I had not realized how ill Sandra was before her passing. I was greatly surprised and saddened to hear of Sandra's death.
Sandra was truly passionate in her commitment to serve the students in the graduate program she directed, the Master of Engineering in Engine Systems (MEES). Sandra would go to great lengths to care for her students, who studies online from across the world. Sandra worked tirelessly to understand the needs of her students, and would work to refine curriculum and program format to meet those needs. Sandra graciously and tirelessly opened her life and her home to her students.
May Sandra's family, her current and past students, and her colleagues receive grace and healing as we share memories and appreciation for knowing and working with Sandra.
-Wayne Pferdehirt

Wayne Pferdehirt - September 17, 2018 at 12:01 PM



“ I got my love of garage sales from you. Once when I was little we went to a garage sale and you were bargaining for books for Ali to read. They were listed for a quarter and you bargained them for 20 cents a piece. Your reasoning was you could get one more book for a dollar by asking for it cheaper. You told me there is always a deal to be had, but I had to be willing to ask.



Jamie - September 17, 2018 at 10:45 AM



“ Sandra was a very warm and caring person who always helped the people around her and her students. She was always working to make improvements, no task was beneath her if it would make things better. I very much enjoyed talking with her, she had many insights and laughed at my jokes. I will miss her.

Eric Fluga - September 17, 2018 at 10:13 AM



“ Sandra will be missed by all of those that loved her. All my heart-felt condolences to the family and friends.

The obituary was well-done and all so true. Sandra was an amazingly capable and sweet soul. I knew her as both a highly skilled and intelligent engineer and as a very close friend. What was not stated in the obituary was Sandra's immense capacity for love and her giving spirit. None of us could match it! As one of her friends rightly stated: "Sandra loves hard!". May we all strive for this to be said of us.

She left us quickly and in her own way. What amazed me was how strong and how serene she was when I saw her last. I'm looking forward to the time when I can see her again!

Below is something Sandra shared with me that demonstrates in a small way how deeply she loved and how strong her motherly instincts were. It has been only slightly modified from her own written text. Alissa will appreciate it most.

"I was walking fast, then running. The weather was hot, my professional suit coat was unbuttoned, and I could still feel sweat making its way to my shirt. The matching skirt was restricting the length of my stride, and so I hiked it up exposing more than a bit of thigh. Then suddenly the heel of my navy blue pump hit a crack in the sidewalk, my other foot landed appropriately, then my bare foot hit the concrete. Ouch. I backed up, my foot finding the shoe, and continued running.

The tree lined street was familiar, and I raced past the 3-bedroom house where the woman who would keep my daughter after school lived, and past the other 3 bedroom houses. I could see the school.

I was about 5 houses from the school when I saw her coming toward me. That smile she always had, with teeth too big for her mouth. Her small frame, freckles, un-kept

strawberry blond hair, and a back pack that seemed large on her small body. I never knew I could love anything or anyone this much.

“Mom, what are you doing here?”

A half hour before I had been at my desk, a managers cubical outside of my boss’s office, and busy at work. My boss...was away on business. I had looked at the clock, and it was a few minutes past 3pm. It was the last day of school for my daughter, and not just any school year, the last day of 5th grade. Next week she would go to Oklahoma to spend the summer and the following year would be off to middle school. Her childhood--I had missed too much of it. “If I run now, maybe can make it” I thought as I quickly grabbed my purse not stopping to turn off the computer.

Ever since I was a little girl all I wanted was to be a mom. Every decision I had made, since even before I [was married], was to spend as much time with my children as possible. After financing the company by working two jobs, ...I was in a catch 22 situation. [I feared that now] that my daughter was going to Middle school, my dream [of being a full-time mom] would never happen.

My daughter looked at me, still wondering why I was there. “Because I wanted to walk you home from school.” “Don’t you have to work?” “I left early.” “Why?” “Because it was my last chance to walk you home.” “OK” she answered, still quizzical yet unconcerned. We walked home, and a beautiful walk it was.”

We will miss you, Sandra. You'll forever warm our hearts,

Mark

Mark - September 17, 2018 at 10:01 AM



“ When we were at Lake Eufaula, we would get up early to water ski. After skiing we would ride our bikes to garage sales and buy all kinds of things we couldn’t carry on the bikes. (Couches, more bikes, dishes, and tomatoes)

Debi - September 17, 2018 at 09:33 AM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Mark - September 17, 2018 at 09:18 AM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Mark - September 17, 2018 at 08:51 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Sandra Denise Anderson.



September 16, 2018 at 09:47 PM



“ So sad for our loss of our precious Sandra !!



marian collins - September 16, 2018 at 03:58 PM