



Dear Colleagues,

We want to let you know that Professor Sharmila Vishwasrao of the Department of Economics passed away on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, following a struggle with cancer. We cannot express the sadness we feel at this time as we extend our sympathy to Sharmila's husband, Bill Bosshardt, who is also a Professor of the Department of Economics, and their sons Nikhil and Avik.

Sharmila served the FAU community for more than 25 years as a researcher, teacher and mentor to her students, a representative of the faculty, and a dear friend. We remember Sharmila as a wonderful colleague who was always so full of energy and who had a positive impact on so many. She will be greatly missed.

In recent days, Bill wrote to the College of Business faculty saying that many had reached out and asked if there was a cause that Sharmila supported. "As many of you may know, economics is a subject that few young women pursue. I know that Sharmila has inspired many of her female students to study economics. So, I along with the help of Eric Chiang, have established the Dr. Sharmila Vishwasrao Scholarship for

Women in Economics (<https://fauf.fau.edu/business/economics>). The scholarship will be given to promising young women with an interest in pursuing economics. I'm sure that is a cause Sharmila would have believed in."

Bill and his sons will be visiting Sharmila's family in India during the first couple of weeks in September. The Department of Economics will be hosting a memorial for Sharmila on Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the atrium of the Schmidt Faculty Complex. In the coming weeks we will be sending a reminder and a request to RSVP. We invite all of you who can join us in remembering the contributions of our beloved colleague.

Sincerely,

Monica Escaleras, Chair, Department of Economics

Dan Gropper, Dean, College of Business

*This message was distributed on behalf of the College of Business.*