



ESL MiniConference

A Passion for Life and Learning Krishna Chawla Leaves a Lasting Impression

A woman who had taught ESL in Kansas since the mid 1980s was killed instantly when a young driver hit her husband and her during an early morning walk in their residential Wichita neighborhood, on Monday, August 21st. Krishna Chawla was 67 years old, and had emigrated to the United States from India, with her husband and family, to provide opportunities to their two sons, who both practice medicine today. The husband, Mohinder "Paul" Chawla, is recovering from severe injuries suffered in the accident.

Krishna Chawla was a long-time member of both the Kansas Adult Education Association ([KAEA](#)), and the Kansas Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages ([KATESOL/BE](#)). From 1995 to 1997, Krishna Chawla served on the KATESOL Executive Board.

On the Kansas Adult Basic Education (Kansas ABE) listserv during the days following this teacher's death, there were a number of statements by colleagues from Wichita and from adult education and ESL programs across the state of Kansas, honoring the memory of Krishna Chawla.

Krishna Chawla "was an ESL teacher in the Wichita Area Technical College ABE program," wrote her WATC colleague, Lorry Shoniber. "Previously she taught and directed an ESL program with Catholic Charities in Wichita." Shoniber added that "the staff at WATC is still in shock at the sudden loss of Krishna, a leader in our program."

Services for Krishna Chawla were scheduled for Thursday, August 24th, at Downing & Lahey Mortuary's East Chapel, and on Saturday, at the Hindu Temple of Greater Wichita.

The outpouring of emotional remembrances from friends, relatives, students, and fellow teachers, on a [Legacy.com](#) page linked to Kansas.com (The Wichita Eagle and Beacon Online), continued steadily throughout the week following Krishna Chawla's untimely death. Here are some of the words and phrases used to describe her life and the effects of her teaching.

Krishna was a wonderful lady, soft spoken, never said anything negative

Autumn 2006

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to anybody.

Krishna's passion and dedication to adult education in Kansas made a huge impact and we will miss her deeply.

I will miss her smile, her guidance, and simply knowing she was down the hall should anyone have a question.

She was a wonderful and great teacher to every student.

In my mind, she will always be a woman dancing with the light of love and joy radiating from her face.

...she served as a quiet leader...

...she laughed at herself and made fun of herself...

She was a dear woman who approached every facet of her life with great passion.

There will be more than a smile and wave hello missing.

She really knew how to inspire the students to learn a new language and also be proud of their culture.

Her strength, wisdom, and dedication...

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2006 ESL MiniConference Online



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