

Dr. Cynthia Osowiec Ruoff is a distinguished educator and a pillar of the international community in our area. A 1973 graduate from Western Michigan University with an M.A. degree in French, and later a recipient of a Ph.D. in French Language and Literature from Michigan State University, she has been an instructor in the Department of Foreign Languages since 1980, honoring the department with her teaching expertise, sense of logic, and wit. Dr. Ruoff's activities preceding her work with Western Michigan University gave her a basis in English literature as well as French. She received her B. A. in English, with minors in French and Secondary Education from Mundelein College of Loyola University in Chicago. After moving to Kalamazoo with her husband, Dr. Gary Ruoff, she taught Honors British Literature, French, and Reading at Loy Norrix High School for several years. During the following years she taught in the English program for international students (CELCIS) and Continuing Education as well as the language department. Dr. Ruoff was a French instructor for Upjohn Company employees and served as a teacher-counselor for students at the Université de Nice through the American Leadership Study Groups. As a doctoral student and in the years since, she has pursued research in her area of specialty—French literature and theatre of the 17th-18th centuries—as well as contemporary French literature, presenting papers and publishing her work nationally and internationally. She has researched modern performance of classical plays, for example interviewing actors and directors of the French national theatre company, the Comédie française. In the community, Dr. Ruoff has served as a leader of several international organizations, including the Alliance Française of Kalamazoo, of which she is currently president, and Colleagues International. In both organizations she has been active not only locally but on the national level. Currently, in addition to teaching French and pursuing her organizational activities, she is learning Polish, the language of her heritage in Chicago, traveling to Europe and the Caribbean, and delighting her three grandchildren.