



Alicia Giralt

June 12, 1958 - June 1, 2018

Dr. Alicia Giralt, Professor of Spanish and Coordinator of the Latin America Studies Program at Weber State University, passed away on June 1, 2018. Her enormous heart, positivity, and humor will be missed by her family and many friends.

Alicia was born on June 12, 1958 in Barcelona, Spain to Joan Giralt Ortola and María Sánchez Peña. In 1978, she began her move to the United States, where she earned a B.A. in Print Journalism and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Spanish and Spanish-American Literature, all from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI.

She is survived by her husband of nearly 20 years, Tom Briggs of Ogden, Utah; her four sons: Ryan, John, Larry, and Jordi; two daughters, Sachiko and Madison; one granddaughter, María; and her two sisters, Lourdes Giralt and Dr. Nuria Giralt.

For almost two decades, she taught at Weber State University in the Department of Foreign Languages. Fifteen years into her tenure, she began directing the Women & Gender Studies Program in order to uplift the underserved in her community. She received many teaching and community involvement awards, including the Higher Education Teacher-of-the-Year by the Utah Foreign Language Association, Outstanding Mentor Award, and Excellence in Teaching.

She defined herself as a communicator in need to share what inspired and motivated her. This culminated in her life's story, *Blooming Out Of Darkness: A Memoir About Cancer, Spirits, And Joy*, which she completed just two months ago.

Alicia was passionate about education, having been the first in her family to not only go to college, but also receive a Ph.D. Her passion and commitment to service will live on through the Alicia Giralt Scholarship Fund, which will support low-income Spanish majors at Weber State University. In lieu of flowers, her family asks contributions be made to her Scholarship Fund at any Wells Fargo Bank.

Comments



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Hello,

A little late, but I just learned of Profe Alicia Giralt's passing. I send my condolences and positive vibes to the family during this difficult time. Profe Giralt was one of my Spanish professors at WSU. I went on a study abroad trip to Tarragona that she led in 2001. I have fond memories of that trip! She was a phenomenal professor. Greatly respected. I thought she didn't like me (I was young and naive), but in reality she was pushing me and setting the bar high because she believed in me and wanted me to improve. She also set me straight a couple of times (again, I was immature) when I was out of line. She will be missed, but her influence and impact carries on. May you find peace in the beautiful memories.

-Rebecca Macias

Rebecca Macias - June 11, 2018 at 12:13 AM



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Thank you!

Nuria - June 19, 2018 at 02:32 AM