



Dr. 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 Ortolá 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



“ We will miss Alicia in the Academic World. I am trying to get in touch with her husband to continue her legacy. If you see this, please contact me.

Paola Lopez - November 14, 2018 at 01:15 PM



“ Alicia was a warm and genuine woman. She always told it like it was. She was a treasure to her students and the entire university. I hold her in my heart and send my deepest condolences to her family.

Tracy Callahan - June 16, 2018 at 01:22 AM



“ Alicia was and still is the mentor, teacher, confidant, and dear friend who guided me to become the complex woman I am today. Not a day goes by that I don't consider what she would think and say about the decisions I make. I owe her a debt of gratitude that can only be repaid through serving others. We love you Tata Alicia!! You will be dearly missed.

Shannon - June 30, 2018 at 11:49 AM



“ I want to send my condolences to a wonderful profesora and friend. I had the privilege of meeting Alicia when I went with her group to Spain in 2001. It was a wonderful experience and I learned so much and her love for Spain and its culture.

I returned to Spain two years later, just traveling around Spain, and I happened to run into Alicia at the Montserrat Monastery as she was traveling with another group from Weber State. It was an unforgettable experience for the both of us, so much that Alicia always liked to mention it to whomever she was with when I would bump into her in Ogden or at Weber State.

I am sad I was unable to see Alicia one last time at her retirement party, but I was fortunate to see her last year when I gave her some baby gear that she was so excited to use for her beautiful grandbaby, María. Always thinking of others, she found that she couldn't use all of the gear, so she kindly donated it to Family Promise, a program that hosts homeless families in local churches.

I mostly kept in contact with Alicia via FB messenger, so I will always cherish the messages she sent to me. I just want to share one more experience with Alicia... Not long after her granddaughter was born, Alicia sent me a message asking me if my kids had Mongolian spots because her grandbaby had them. I had to chuckle because it was a question no one had ever asked me and because those spots are located in the small of the back right above the buttocks on many Asian children. And yes, my kids had them, but grew out of the spots.

I will miss Alicia and her ability to have joy in everything. Gracias por ser mi profesora y amiga. Gracias por las buenas memorias. Te extrañaré.

Melanie Malan

Melanie Malan - June 12, 2018 at 09:17 PM



“ I had the incredible fortune of going on a study abroad trip to Cataluña with Alícia and it—and she—changed my life. The joy of exploring and embracing new people and cultures, the care and thought she (and Nuria and Vicky) has put into planning the trip, and Alicia’s leading by example —encouraging each student to have their own experience and find their own truth—will always be with me. QEPD QUERIDA ALÍCIA. YA TE HECHO DE MENOS.

Corey Atkins - June 09, 2018 at 06:31 PM



“ I met Alicia at the United Nations in NY in 2012. She was so much fun to have as a roommate as we attended sessions together and crashed at night. We stayed up late eating and talking with me listening to her fascinating stories of her life and work to help women and families worldwide. Over the years Alicia participated on our panels at the UN and always was one of the favored speakers because of not only her expertise but her ability to be authentic. Audience members always wanted to know more about her work. What a privilege I feel to have known and worked with her but most of all to call her my friend. She was a joy to be with and an inspiration. I will never feel the same at the UN without her being there but her good works of teaching and leading will never end.

Jacki Hunlow
President - the Mothers Legacy Project



Jacki Hunlow - June 09, 2018 at 06:23 PM