

The University of Michigan Regents Communication Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Gina Marie Soter, Ph.D., lecturer IV of classical studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 24, 2026.

Dr. Soter received her B.A. degrees in classics and comparative literature from the University of Washington in 1984 and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1993. Prior to joining the University of Michigan faculty in 2000, she served as instructor in the humanities and foreign languages departments at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1991–92) and as assistant professor of classics at Kalamazoo College (1993–2000). Dr. Soter joined the University of Michigan as a lecturer in the Residential College and Department of Classical Studies in 2000 and was promoted to lecturer IV in 2005.

An innovative teacher and dedicated mentor, Dr. Soter transformed the teaching of Latin at the University of Michigan. Adapting modern language pedagogy to the study of an ancient language, she established a distinctive intensive Latin program, she renewed the annual Latin performance of Roman comedy, and led students abroad to Italy to experience the language in situ. Such semi-immersive and performative approaches to the language brought Latin alive. Dr. Soter taught a wide range of courses in Latin, Greek, classical civilization, and literature, earning the admiration of generations of students. Dr. Soter also provided distinguished service through departmental and professional committees, student advising, outreach, and curricular development. She played a vital role in strengthening connections between the university and Latin teachers and students throughout Michigan and beyond, including through her development of Copley Latin Day and involvement in other outreach programs.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Gina Marie Soter, lecturer IV emerita in classical studies**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

July 2026