

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Olga Gallego Smith, Ph.D.**, Collegiate Lecturer and lecturer IV in Romance languages and literatures and director of the Elementary Spanish Program in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2021.

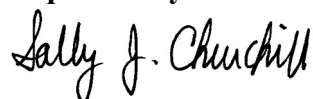
Dr. Gallego Smith received her Master's in Spanish degree from The Pennsylvania State University in 1998 and her Ph.D. degree in Spanish applied linguistics from The Pennsylvania State University in 1993. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as a lecturer and coordinator of the Elementary Spanish Program in 1994 and was appointed director of the Elementary Spanish Program in 1995.

Dr. Gallego Smith's teaching and service in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures have been exemplary. She has taught all courses in the elementary and intermediate Spanish sequence, as well as language and linguistics courses in the upper level. Her courses on Advanced Translation, and Applied Phonetics were extremely popular among our majors and minors, who praised her in their evaluations for her exceptional teaching skills and the significant impact she had as a teacher in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. In recognition of her excellence in teaching and her innovations in the Spanish curriculum, she was honored with the Collegiate Lecturer Award in 2016.

Dr. Gallego Smith was the director of the Elementary Spanish Program for 10 years. In her role as director, she supervised a team of six course coordinators and oversaw the professional development of lecturers and graduate students as foreign language teachers. Her most significant contribution as the director of the Elementary Spanish Program was the implementation of a content-based approach at the novice and intermediate levels of the ELP sequence, an approach that shifted the focus of instruction from learning the foreign language just for communication to, in addition, learning historical and cultural subject-matter by reading, listening, speaking and writing the foreign language. Dr. Gallego Smith co-authored the intermediate Spanish textbook *Más Allá de las Palabras* (2004), a textbook designed under the communicative and content-based approaches to foreign language teaching. The book has three editions and was widely adopted by many elementary Spanish programs nationwide.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Olga Gallego Smith, Collegiate Lecturer Emerita and lecturer IV emerita in Romance languages and literatures.**

Requested by:



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**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

October 2022