

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
Kimberly L. Geeslin
(1971-2023)

Our beloved colleague, mentor, and friend, Kimberly L. Geeslin, professor of Spanish and Portuguese and vice provost of faculty and academic affairs, passed away in January at the age of 51. Born in Stanford, California, Kim grew up in New Hampshire, and completed her bachelor's degree at the University of New Hampshire, followed by master's and doctoral degrees in Hispanic Linguistics at the University of Arizona (1999). Kim joined the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Indiana University in the fall of 1999, where she served as the director of the Hispanic Linguistics program, associate chair, and interim chair. She was also an adjunct faculty member in the departments of second language studies and cognitive science. Before her untimely death, Kim recently took on the role of vice provost for faculty and academic affairs, after serving as associate vice provost for five years.

Kim was a world-renowned scholar, specializing in research at the intersection of second language acquisition and sociolinguistics. In the brief time she had, Kim wrote nine books and over 85 article-length publications, gave dozens of keynote lectures and plenaries, and wrote seminal state-of-the-field reviews that are and will remain canon for those researching Hispanic linguistics, sociolinguistics, and second language acquisition. Her articles appeared in top-tier journals including *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*; *Journal of Applied Linguistics*, *International Journal of Applied Linguistics*; *Language Learning*, *Linguistics: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the Language Sciences*; *Revista Española de la Lingüística Aplicada*, *Spanish in Context*; *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*; and *Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics*; among others. Her books include *The Routledge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition and Sociolinguistics* (Routledge, 2022), *The Second Language Acquisition of Spanish* (with former mentees Avizia Long and Megan Solon, Routledge, 2021); *The Cambridge Handbook of Spanish Linguistics* (Cambridge, 2018); *Lengua en contexto: Introducción y aplicación de la lingüística hispánica* (with Spanish & Portuguese colleagues Manuel Díaz-Campos and Laura Gurzynski-Weiss, Wiley-Blackwell, 2018); *Sociolinguistics and second language acquisition: Learning to use language in context* (with Avizia Long, Routledge, 2014); *The Handbook of Spanish Second Language Acquisition* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2014). Kim guided the field with her work on the editorial boards of several journals and book series including the *Vigo International Journal of Applied Linguistics* (since 2008) and the *Cambridge Elements in Second Language Acquisition* book series (since 2018). She was associate editor of the journals *Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics* (since 2006) and *Studies of Second Language Acquisition* (since 2014). She was also the co-editor of the *Issues in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics* book series (John Benjamins, since 2016) and of the *Second Language Acquisition Research* books series (Routledge, since 2020). Her impactful scholarly production is widely cited throughout the U.S. and internationally.

Kim was equally exceptional in her teaching and administrative pursuits. She taught undergraduate and graduate courses on Hispanic Linguistics, second language acquisition, sociolinguistics, and linguistic variation. Kim's teaching and mentorship was recognized by many

awards, including the Trustee's Teaching Award (2001-2002, 2007-2008, 2011-2012), the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Student Action Committee Outstanding Mentor Award (2006, 2012), the David and Cheryl Morley Career Distinguished Teaching Award (2019), and, just this past year, the Carol Hostetter Lifetime Teaching Career Award, awarded by the Faculty Academy of Excellence in Teaching (FACET, 2022). During her career, she directed more than 20 dissertations and served on 40 additional dissertation committees. With her students, she was generous, open-hearted, understanding, and motivating. She devoted time to foster well-crafted and original ideas for her mentees. She was rigorous and wholly supportive, willing to help each person who reached out for guidance, and her mentorship continued well after graduation.

Having recently stepped into the role as vice provost for faculty and academic affairs, Kim's title reflected what she had tirelessly worked on for decades: supporting colleagues on campus. She was particularly dedicated to ensuring minority colleagues and women faculty had more equitable paths to leadership, and she advocated to ensure that all faculty were included, regardless of track. Before her role as vice provost, Kim served as an associate vice provost and worked as a campus liaison for the Departmental Executive Officers program. In her role as associate vice provost, she touched the lives of so many colleagues on campus. Her advocacy and guidance were essential and transformed careers for the better at the university level. She was also the director of the Initiative for the Advancement of Women Faculty, where she coordinated the Women in Leadership series and worked on initiatives to support mid-career faculty. Her leadership style was warm, inclusive, and unfailingly kind. She saw possible paths forward when others could not, identified needs and fiercely advocated for meaningful support systems, and demystified the labyrinth that academia can be, creating a joyful and inspiring space to work.

Kim was, for so many, the person you called when you had a seemingly unsolvable problem and didn't know where to start; she knew how to approach any issue and resolved conflicts with grace and incomparable skill for having every person involved feel better afterwards. Kim readily celebrated others' victories, and generously shared encouragement and kindness. Her joy was genuine, her laugh contagious. Each interaction with Kim was a masterclass on how to be human—she validated your experience, asked about your life, and was always willing to brainstorm with you about how to make something better. Kim modeled leadership where one can advance and lead an institution and also have a rich and joyful life outside of work. She showed up fully in all arenas of her life—cheering on her children at violin, track and field, dances, and hockey games, spent summer vacations on group trips with family, built homes each year for Habitat for Humanity's Women + Build, ran regularly and was dedicated to health. She gave love unconditionally to family, friends, and colleagues. Whatever Kim was involved in, you knew the task at hand would be exceptional, and more than that, you knew everyone involved would be a better person from having had the opportunity to work with and learn from her.

It is impossible to put into words how much Kim meant to us personally and professionally in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. She was the heartbeat of the department, the

voice of reason, a human peace treaty, and the friend you knew would always show up for you. She was the voice in our head, and often why we kept going when academic bureaucracy made things seem impossible; you knew better things were coming with her in charge. While it is inconceivable to think of this world without Kim in it, we will honor her life and legacy by striving to make others feel the way she made us feel—seen, heard, inspired, and advocated for. Kim, your kindness and your impact will live on in all those who had the privilege to know and learn from you.

Kim is survived by her husband of 30 years, Sean McGuire, her teenage children, Logan and Hayden, her mother, Eileen, her sister, Melissa, and her mother-in-law, Patty.

We request that this memorial tribute to Kim be presented to the members of the Bloomington Faculty Council, and that it be preserved in its minutes and archive.

Laura Gurzynski-Weiss
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