

**RETIREMENT OF BARBETTE STANLEY SPAETH  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL STUDIES**

Barbette Stanley Spaeth completed her B.A. and M.A. at Northwestern University and her Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University. She worked as Assistant and Associate Professor for 14 years at Tulane University before coming to William & Mary in 2001.

Professor Spaeth is an expert on ancient Greek and Roman religion. Her monograph on the Roman goddess Ceres surveyed the history of the cult of the goddess in Rome over the breadth of classical antiquity. Twenty-five years after its publication, the book is still cited as an authoritative source on the subject. She next tackled the topic of magic and witchcraft in antiquity, for which she received significant grants from the Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies and the Loeb Classical Library Foundation. Aside from publications on the topic, this line of inquiry resulted in some great courses for William & Mary's curriculum which were extremely popular among students. More recently, Professor Spaeth edited a collection of essays on Ancient Mediterranean Religions published by Cambridge University Press. She also was a founding member of the Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions.

As a teacher, Professor Spaeth offered courses that were both challenging and interesting, attracting some of William & Mary's best students. As a pioneer in implementing instructional technology in the Humanities, she received over \$700K in grants, an impressive amount for a scholar in her field. While at William & Mary, with the help of a Rich Media Grant from Swem Library and Information Technology, she digitized a large number of video clips from popular films and documentaries about ancient Rome as instructional tools for her large lecture course in Roman civilization. She also valued hands-on experiences for her students, an appreciation gained during her time in Greece as a member of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. She conceived of and designed the immensely popular study abroad program in Rome and Pompeii. Professor Spaeth taught almost every course in the Classics department, and her versatility and willingness to serve the teaching needs of her department will be greatly missed.

Professor Spaeth's role in the governance of William & Mary is well known. She has served on numerous committees, most notably as department chair for five years, on the Faculty Affairs Committee, Faculty Assembly, and as a Center for Liberal Arts Fellow, to name a few. For her many contributions to faculty leadership, Professor Spaeth was the recipient of the William & Mary Faculty Governance Award in 2011.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of Barbette Spaeth; expresses its deep appreciation for her 22 years of service; and approves a change in status from Professor of Classical Studies to Professor of Classical Studies, Emerita.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board and a copy delivered to Professor Spaeth with best wishes from a grateful Board for her years of dedicated service to William & Mary.