RESOLUTION
On The Retirement Of
Professor Elizabeth Teresa Howe

The members of the Department of Romance Languages and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Tufts University hereby record our warm appreciation for our retiring colleague, Professor Teresa Howe. Tufts University has benefited from Teresa Howe’s loyal contributions for the past 36 years. She leaves a remarkable legacy of academic leadership and advising, a distinguished body of scholarly work and extraordinary contributions to the university community as a whole.

Elizabeth Teresa Howe was born in Los Angeles, California, the second youngest child in a family of six, which included four brothers and a sister, Maggie, whom many of you know and who is with us today. Professor Howe has always been "Teresa" and not "Elizabeth," named Teresa not after Saint Teresa of Avila, whom she would go on to study, but after a somewhat more secular figure, Teresa Wright, the film star, whom her mother admired.
Teresa Howe would go on to be a star on a different sort of stage. She received her B.A. from Notre Dame College of St. Louis in 1966, and, moving back to her native state, took her master's degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1973. She must have enjoyed her time there, since she and Maggie are now preparing to move back there to celebrate their retirements. (What reason could there possibly be to move to Santa Barbara other than to relive the golden years of graduate school, after all?) After completing her M.A., Teresa took a Fulbright year to Spain, a year that cemented her commitment to pursue her training as a Hispanist and an early modernist.

Upon returning from Spain she entered the Ph.D. program at Duke and took her degree in what now seems like the miraculously short time of three years. After a brief stint at Virginia Tech, Teresa moved to Tufts as an assistant professor in the Department of Romance Languages, and the rest is history. She was tenured in what once again seems like lightening speed four years later, and promoted to full professor in 1996. In 1986, she was named Chair of the Romance Languages Department, the first women ever to hold that position – a
fact of which she is deservedly proud. Her service to the Department was unstinting. Of the sixteen years between 1986 and 2002, Teresa was chair or deputy chair for twelve. In performing this yoemanly service, she never paid attention to the boundaries within the Department; she thought of the Department as a whole rather than as an agglomeration of little language fiefdoms. Her service to the Department went well beyond her chairship, and it cannot be overestimated. She served on every Department committee and on numerous Department searches. Nor did her service stop at the departmental border. Like many of you, I suspect, I got to know Teresa from sitting with her on committees and from her strong presence at faculty meetings, where she was an unwavering voice for our educational mission, never failing to think about what would serve our students best. She sat on every major school-wide committee, including the most tasking ones, always serving with good cheer and never complaining of the overload. Those who worked with her all admired her dedication to the task at hand and her strong sense of collegiality.
Retirement will take Teresa out of the classroom and the committee room, but I do not believe it will slow her down as a scholar. Her third book, *Autobiographical Writing by Early Modern Hispanic Women*, is nearing completion, and she has a fourth, *The Romancero of San Juan de la Cruz*, well under way. Her dozens of articles and book chapters in both Spanish and English have certain recurrent themes – women writers and mysticism, for instance – but they cover an astounding range of authors, genres and subjects, from Sor Juana to Lope de Vega, from Saint John of the Cross to Hollywood treatments of the Don Juan figure. She has also produced two scholarly editions and scores of invited talks and papers, many in recent years. She has, as we say in evaluating tenure candidates, "good trajectory," and I expect to see that production only increase when she is freed from the teaching and service that she gave herself to so selflessly.

I asked History Professor Howard Malchow, a long-time friend of Teresa's, to share some recollections about Teresa, and he was kind enough to do so. I'd like to read part of his response:

I suppose family and friends outside the department call her Tess. I did not know her well until her sister, Maggie, came to work for the History department back
in the 80s, and hence I came to know her through Maggie as Tess. Anecdotes are a little difficult since Tess is a rather down-to-earth, no-nonsense person not given to random acts of amusing caprice. And embarrassing episodes are rare. Though here is one.

Some years ago we (Tess, Maggie, myself and a friend) travelled to the Galicia region where we took a cab out to an ancient lighthouse. To get back to the city, Tess (being the one with the language fluency) hailed another cab, and instructed him with characteristic bossy bluntness exactly where and how he should go. At this, she received from the cabbie, to her embarrassment, a little lecture on the politeness and verbal pleasantries expected of his passengers, about how Gallegans did not speak in such tones to one another.

My own friendship with Teresa commenced upon discovering that, somewhat surprisingly to me at least, she possessed a large collection of war movies. This fact intrigued me, and as I began peeling back the onion that is Teresa, I found out that she also has been a life-long collector of military insignia and uniforms – clearly a scholar from the cradle. She is a member of the American Society of Military Insignia Collections and the Military Collections Club of Canada – neither of these memberships is on her CV. She owns more than two hundred women's military uniforms and around fifty men's, and she has displayed her collection twice, once at Duke and once here.
at Tufts. Her family has a history of military service, and in the early 1970s Teresa volunteered and was eventually accepted to serve in the armed forces, but she chose instead to make the not quite ultimate sacrifice of attending graduate school.

I also discovered that she has a passion for athletics, and that when she arrived at Tufts her real entrée into college society came when she was invited to join a faculty-staff softball group that regularly played against student teams. Teresa reports that she made many of her longest lasting friendships with faculty in those games, while they were being "crushed by the students." For many years afterwards she continued to ump softball games.

In her long career at Tufts, Teresa Howe has played many roles, all with great dedication and superb skill: teacher, scholar, administrator, citizen of the university, second base. We say good-bye to her with sadness but with heart-felt best wishes. On behalf of the Department of Romance Languages, the School of Arts and Sciences, and the University, I ask that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the faculty and that a copy of it be presented to Professor Howe.
Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Dunn
Vice Provost