

2016

Honorary Degree Award Citation for Patricia Vilches

Lawrence University

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Patricia Vilches

PATRICIA VILCHES, your contributions to Lawrence have been outstanding. You are loved and respected by your students in Spanish, Italian and *Freshman Studies*. Your ability to engage and mentor students, your insights into everything from the intricacies of language learning to the meaning of complex literature, and your generous willingness to spend time with students have made you one of our most popular teachers. Your dedication to the organization VIVA, your creation of an Italian program and your commitment to shaping a collegial and dynamic Spanish program have earned you universal affection and respect. You have taught courses on the self, on the nature of international politics, on Latin American literature and culture, on the Spanish Golden Age and on Italian Renaissance Prose. In each of these your work has been superb. Your scholarly and creative work show a great breadth of interest and expertise. You have published a book on grammar, edited a volume on Niccolo Machiavelli and have engaged in creative writing that includes the

novels *Karma From the Sea* and *Let's Dance When it is Ten*. Your numerous articles and presentations demonstrate your great powers of analysis and intellectual versatility. One has the intriguing subtitle "Machiavelli Outsmarts the Devil."

Your career at Lawrence showed rapid progress from the moment you arrived in 2000 after earning a Ph.D. in romance languages and literatures from the University of Chicago and having an award-winning faculty appointment at the University of Evansville. You earned tenure very quickly and became a full professor in 2014. You now retire with the admiration of all who have known you.

In recognition of your many contributions to Lawrence and its students, I am pleased to award you the degree of Master of Arts, *ad eundem*, on the occasion of your retirement from the faculty.

June 12, 2016