Dr. Rangira Béa Gallimore began teaching in the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures in 1990, specializing in African Francophone Studies. But her focus broadened in 1994 when the Rwanda genocide took the lives of millions of people, including four members of her immediate family.

Dr. Gallimore refocused her research and teaching on genocide testimonial writing. She published several articles about gender and genocide and women and conflict. She co-edited a book of articles on the Rwandan genocide, and she is currently completing another book on the testimonies of female genocide survivors.

Building on this expertise, Dr. Gallimore created new courses about testimonial writings. She also developed a summer study abroad program in Interdisciplinary Genocide Studies.

Over the years, she has given many formal and informal talks on campus about her research and brought several well-known international writers and artists to the MU campus. To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide in 2004, she organized a weeklong series of activities.

Dr. Gallimore also founded the Step Up! American Association for Rwandan Women, which trains Rwandans in trauma counseling. In 2009, she helped establish Step Up! Mizzou, which assists refugees and immigrants relocated to Columbia in learning English through one-on-one tutoring.

One nominator wrote, “Her activities, be they in teaching, research or service, underscore her commitment to cross-cultural initiatives, and the impact those have on the MU community.”