

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Approved by the Regents

January 18, 2007

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

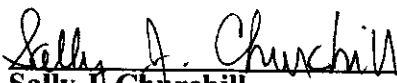
Ruth S. Simmons, Ph.D., professor of health behavior and health education in the School of Public Health, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2006.

Professor Simmons received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley in 1964, 1966, and 1971, respectively. She joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1970 as a lecturer in political science, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. In 1970, she became a research assistant in the Center for Population Planning, School of Public Health. She was promoted to research associate in 1971 and received an additional appointment as a lecturer in the Residential College in 1972, a position she retained until 1995. In 1974, her research associate title was changed to assistant research scientist. She was promoted to assistant professor of health planning and administration in 1979, associate professor in 1985, and professor in 1995.

Professor Simmons' career has been devoted to the improvement of public sector health systems in developing countries through teaching, research, and policy and program development in family planning and related aspects of reproductive health. Her early studies on India pioneered institutional and organizational approaches to the analysis of family planning programs. This work expanded to Bangladesh, demonstrating the impact of these programs on fertility and women's lives. Professor Simmons played a leading role in the development and implementation of the WHO-sponsored "Strategic Approach to Strengthening Reproductive Health Policies and Programs," now used in 25 countries. In recent years she has broken new ground in advancing the science and practice of scaling up in an effort to ensure that health and development initiatives progress beyond the limited impact of pilot, demonstration or experimental projects. This endeavor has resulted in major publications as well as the creation of the learning community "ExpandNet," and initiatives in Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Kyrgyzstan. Professor Simmons and her colleagues have also collaborated with the Chinese government and research institutions to introduce quality of care and a reproductive rights perspective into the Chinese family planning program.

The Regents now salute this accomplished scholar and teacher for her dedicated service by naming **Ruth S. Simmons professor emerita of health behavior and health education**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

January 2007