

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

Approved by the Regents
April 19, 2007

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Barbra Morris, D.A., senior lecturer in English, Residential College, and senior lecturer in English, Sweetland Writing Center, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on October 31, 2006.


Dr. Morris received a B.A. degree from the University of Delaware in 1956, and M.A. and D.A. degrees from the University of Michigan in 1970 and 1974, respectively. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as a teaching assistant in 1973 and was promoted to lecturer in 1974, lecturer II in 1994, lecturer III in 1997, and lecturer IV in 2003.

Dr. Morris taught in the Department of English Language and Literature and the Residential College for thirty-two years. She was among the founding faculty of the English Composition Board and helped to build programs in writing across the curriculum as the English Composition Board became the Sweetland Writing Center. She served as associate chair of the English Composition Board from 1978-81. Dr. Morris was the longest-serving instructor in the Residential College's First Year Writing Seminar and led the development of a second-semester intensive writing course for students experiencing difficulties with prose in their first year. She also taught courses in her field of specialization, the analysis of television news, in the Department of Communication and the Residential College. She was an exemplary classroom teacher who received consistently high evaluations, and was much beloved by her students. Dr. Morris was the recipient of the LSA Excellence in Education Award (1994) and the Matthews Underclass Teaching Award (1999), and in 2002, in recognition of her superlative teaching and other contributions, she was awarded a Senior Lectureship by the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

An active scholar, Dr. Morris' books include a study of disciplinary perspectives on thinking and writing and a handbook for teaching writing in the disciplines. She has published forty articles, mainly on the analysis of television news, and has presented over eighty conference papers on four continents. She was a fellow at the East/West Center of the University of Hawaii and directed the University of Michigan's Study Abroad Program in Dublin. She has lectured widely in the United States and at universities in England, Germany, Ireland, France, Ghana, and Hong Kong. She was a Fulbright Scholar from 1992-93, and worked for many years with English teachers at Mackenzie High School in Detroit helping to develop writing programs.

The Regents salute this distinguished teacher and scholar by naming **Barbra Morris senior lecturer emerita in English**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

April 2007