

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## *Regents Communication*

### ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Mary J. Schleppegrell, Ph.D.**, professor of education in the Marsal Family School of Education, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2023.

Professor Schleppegrell received her B.A. degree in German from the University of Minnesota in 1972, her M.A. degree in teaching English as a foreign language from the American University in Cairo, Egypt in 1982, and her Ph.D. degree in linguistics from Georgetown University in 1989. She served as an education specialist for the Peace Corps in Washington D.C. from 1989-1992, then was appointed as an assistant professor of linguistics at the University of California, Davis. She was promoted to associate professor (1998) and professor (2004) and served as director of English as a second language (1992-2003). In 2005, she joined the University of Michigan Marsal Family School of Education as a professor. She served as chair of Educational Studies from 2012-2015 and has provided exemplary service by serving frequently on school-level committees.

Professor Schleppegrell is a leader in applied linguistics whose research explores the relationship between language and learning with a focus on students for whom English is a second language. Her research and praxis are based on the principles of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), a theory derived from the work of social semiotic linguist Michael Halliday. Professor Schleppegrell is known for the SFL-based literacy practices she has continuously helped to develop for multilingual and English language learners throughout her career. She is author of *The Language of Schooling: A Functional Linguistics Perspective* (2004, Erlbaum), which has been influential in shaping the ways researchers and teachers think about language and learning, and co-author of four additional books. Her research has been funded by the Institute for Educational Sciences and, with collaborator Chauncey Monte-Sano, the Library of Congress and James S. McDonnell Foundation.

She has held a number of prominent national service roles. She served as editor of the *Language Learning Monograph Series*, as chair of the editorial board of *Language Learning*, and as a member of numerous editorial boards for journals focused on education, language, and linguistics. She has also served on several committees of the American Association of Applied Linguistics.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Mary J. Schleppegrell, professor emerita of education.**

**Requested by:**



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**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**  
**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**July 2023**