

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

Adopted by the Regents

November 19, 2009

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Kathryn L. Beam, A.M.L.S.**, librarian in the University Library, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2009.

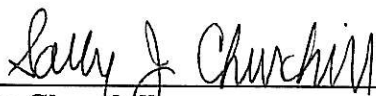
Ms. Beam received her B.M. degree from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in 1965, her B.A. degree from Oberlin College in 1967, her M.A. degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1976, and her A.M.L.S. degree from the University of Michigan in 1983. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate librarian in 1983, and was promoted to senior associate librarian in 1998 and librarian in 2006.

As a rare manuscripts expert and curator of the humanities collections, Ms. Beam worked to promote the University Library's Special Collections to thousands of students, faculty, alumni and visitors. Her outreach efforts focused on integrating the use of rare books and manuscripts into undergraduate education and scholarship, and she shared her knowledge of the history of books with students in a variety of disciplines. She also authored numerous interpretive exhibits designed to highlight the collections for a broad audience, including a popular exhibit on the history of the Bible that attracted thousands of visitors over the years.

With Professor Traianos Gagos, Ms. Beam co-authored *The Evolution of the English Bible: From Papyri to King James*, a CD-ROM that utilized the special collections to explore biblical text and images over the course of sixteen centuries. In 1999, this work became the first electronic publication to receive a University of Michigan Press Book Award. Her professional activities included serving on the editorial board of *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage*, and chairing a taskforce on the core competencies for professionals in the special collections field. Within the University, Ms. Beam served as chair of the Librarian's Forum and member of the Senate Assembly and Academic Affairs Advisory Committee. Her deep knowledge of rare books and manuscripts collections and her enthusiasm for books and their history are greatly appreciated and will be deeply missed.

The Regents now salute this distinguished librarian for her dedicated service by naming **Kathryn L. Beam librarian emerita**.

**Requested by:**

  
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**Sally Churchill**  
Vice-President and Secretary of the University

November 2009