

January 20, 2006

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Howard Shevrin, Ph.D., professor of psychology in the Medical School and in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2005.

Professor Shevrin received his B.S. degree from the City College of New York in 1948 and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University in 1951 and 1954, respectively. He received postdoctoral training at the Menninger Foundation and completed psychoanalytic training at the Topeka Institute for Psychoanalysis. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1973 as a professor and chief clinical psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry in the Medical School, and received a joint appointment as professor of psychology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts in 1975.

For more than 50 years, Professor Shevrin has pushed the boundaries between neuroscience and psychoanalysis, finding evidence that psychoanalytic concepts could be documented through physical measures of brain activity. In 1968, he published the first report of brain responses to unconscious visual stimuli, thus providing strong, objective evidence for the existence of the unconscious at a time when most scientists were skeptical. He also showed that--consistent with Freud's views--unconscious perceptions are processed differently from conscious perceptions. Recently, Professor Shevrin's research has suggested a link between repressive personality traits and a longer-than-average delay between the application of a stimulus and the conscious awareness of that stimulus. He and colleagues have also found brain markers for the role of unconscious emotional conflict in producing social phobias. These and other studies have helped form the foundation for the new field of neuropsychology.

Professor Shevrin is the author of over 150 publications, including an award-winning psychoanalytic novel in verse form, *The Dream Interpreters*. In 2003, he received the prestigious Mary S. Sigourney Award in recognition of his outstanding achievements in psychoanalytic research.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member for his dedicated service by naming **Howard Shevrin professor emeritus of psychology**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

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