

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Kathryn W. Tosney, Ph.D., professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2005, after a distinguished career as a teacher and researcher.

Professor Tosney received her B.S. degree from the University of Oregon in 1975 and her Ph.D. degree from Stanford University in 1980. After completing her postdoctoral studies, she joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1984 and was promoted to associate professor in 1989 and professor in 1995.

Professor Tosney is an internationally recognized leader in developmental neurobiology. Her research has focused on studying the cellular mechanisms that allow the axons of motor neurons to find their way out of the spinal cord and then connect to the proper set of target muscle cells in the developing limb. Her experiments are notable for their elegant approach and clear results, with some requiring her to conduct delicate microsurgery on developing chick embryos, and others calling for innovative cell culture approaches. A superb teacher, Professor Tosney developed novel approaches to help students grasp difficult concepts in developmental biology. For example, she created an origami model of the embryo to illustrate the complex cell movements that occur during the critically important process of gastrulation. During lectures, she also made extensive use of images of developing embryos in whole mount and conventional histological sections that she collected from her research.

Professor Tosney was associate department chair from 1991-95 and served on the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Executive Committee and the LS&A and Rackham divisional boards. She was a member of many federal grant review panels, served on the editorial boards of two journals, and was a board member and treasurer of the Society for Developmental Biology.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar for her dedicated service by naming **Kathryn W. Tosney professor emerita of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

January 2006