

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
*Regents Communication*

Adopted by the Regents  
July 17, 2008

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Georgette M. Zirbes, M.A.**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of art in the School of Art and Design, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2008.

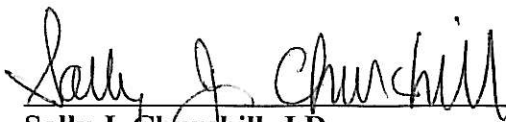
Professor Zirbes received her B. A. degree from DePauw University in 1962, and her M.A. degree from The Ohio State University in 1964. From 1968-72, she was a lecturer at Washtenaw Community College, the University of Michigan's Residential College, and Eastern Michigan University. She joined the faculty of the School of Art and Design as an assistant professor in 1972, and was promoted to associate professor in 1977 and professor in 1983.

Professor Zirbes has maintained a distinguished career as a ceramics artist with a lengthy record of national and international exhibitions. Her works can be found in the permanent public collections of museums and institutions in the United States, Germany, China, the Czech Republic, Russia, Latvia, and Hungary. She is the recipient of two Fulbright Fellowships and an Individual Artist Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Her contributions to the field have been recognized by her election to the International Academy of Ceramics in Geneva. In 2005, she was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award for Creative and Performing Arts from DePauw University.

Professor Zirbes is indisputably one of the best professional ceramics educators in the country, and her career evidences a passionate commitment to undergraduate education. She has spearheaded initiatives to build a more inclusive and innovative curriculum in the School of Art and Design, has organized professional and educational conferences around the globe, and has actively promoted international exchange in higher education. In 2006, she was named an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in recognition of her dedication to teaching.

The Regents now salute this distinguished artist and educator for her dedicated service by naming **Georgette M. Zirbes Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emerita and professor emerita of art.**

**Requested by:**



**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**July 2008**