

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents

December 13, 2007

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Richard W. Bailey, Ph.D., professor of English language and literature in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2007.


Professor Bailey received his A.B. degree from Dartmouth College in 1961, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Connecticut in 1963 and 1965, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1965, and was promoted to associate professor in 1971 and professor in 1976. In 2002-2007 he held an appointment as the Fred Newton Scott Collegiate Professor of English.

As one of the most distinguished and respected scholars in English language studies, Professor Bailey is a pre-eminent cultural historian of the English language, one of the leading experts on the use of English around the world, and a highly accomplished scholar of lexicography. He has been deeply committed to developing effective language arts curricula at all levels and fostering equal educational access and opportunities for speakers of English no matter what their educational background. In a world where the power of standard English is not always questioned and the history of English not well understood, Professor Bailey has been a strong advocate for the recognition of "other Englishes," the acceptance of multilingualism and language change, and the critical importance of linguistic tolerance.

Professor Bailey is the author of three scholarly monographs and more than 170 articles and reviews. He has edited more than ten books, including a ground-breaking hypertext edition of a Renaissance diary. As a teacher and mentor, he encouraged students to explore the language they see and hear around them, to pursue innovative research using new technologies, and to apply their understanding of language variation and change to the social, political, and educational questions of their generation. Within the University, he received the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award in 1988 and the John D'Arms Award for Distinguished Graduate Mentoring in the Humanities in 2002. He has served as president of the American Dialect Society, president of the Dictionary Society of North America, and editor of the journal, *Dictionaries*.

The Regents salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Richard W. Bailey professor emeritus of English language and literature**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

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