

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

### *Regents Communication*

### ACTION REQUEST

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

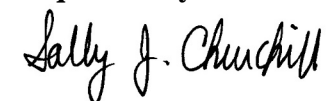
**Ernest N. Emenyonu, Ph.D.**, professor of Africana studies in the University of Michigan-Flint College of Arts and Sciences, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2020.

Professor Emenyonu received his B.A. (1966) degree from the University of Nigeria, his M.A. (1967) degree from Columbia University, and his Ph.D. (1972) degree from the University of Wisconsin. He joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as a professor and chair of the Department of Africana Studies in 2002.

Professor Emenyonu published extensively in the field of African Literature, including: *The Literary History of the Igbo Novel: African Literature in African Languages* (2020), *Approaches to Nigerian Literature: Selected Essays* (2020), *A Companion to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie* (2017), *Princess Mmaeyen and Other Stories* (2015), *Remembering A Legend: Chinua Achebe* (2014), *Uzoechi: A Story of African Childhood* (2012), *Emerging Perspectives on Nawal El Saadawi* (2010-translated into Arabic, 2017), *Emerging Perspectives on Chinua Achebe* Volume 1 and Volume 2 (2004), and *A Good Shepherd: A Biography of the Most Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Nwankiti* (2003). Appointed editor of *African Literature Today* in 2000, Professor Emenyonu has edited 14 volumes since 2002. Furthermore, he has led study abroad trips for students, faculty, staff, and the Flint community to Africa (2006, 2009, 2015) and to Jamaica (2018). Professor Emenyonu was a dedicated mentor to his students, an inspiring influence to his colleagues, and displayed an unflinching commitment to the mission of the University of Michigan-Flint in particular, and the University of Michigan in general. His reputation as a prolific author, inspiring teacher, and visionary administrator was well known on both sides of the Atlantic in colleges and universities in Nigeria and the United States. In the past 18 years, he designed and taught numerous courses in African and African American literatures as well as a seminal general education course titled "Sites and Sounds of Africa." As chair of the department (2002-08, 2014-17), he introduced and organized the renowned 'African Writers Visit Series,' which brought world-class writers to Flint for interactions with faculty, students, and staff, and the Flint community and beyond. He was a fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters, the Nigerian Academy of Education, and the Literary Society of Nigeria.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Ernest N. Emenyonu, professor emeritus of Africana studies**.

**Requested by:**



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**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

**May 2020**