THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Regents Communication  

ACTION REQUEST  

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement  
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir  

Janice C. Paul, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, professor of art, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, and professor of social work, School of Social Work, retired from active faculty status on December 30, 2016.

Professor Paul received her B.A. (1969) degree from Bennington College, her M.A. (1974) degree from Hunter College, and her Ph.D. (1982) degree from New York University. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an adjunct assistant professor in 1995, and was appointed lecturer in 1996. Professor Paul was promoted to assistant professor in 2003, associate professor in 2007, and professor in 2012. She was named an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in 2013.

Professor Paul is an exceptionally gifted creative practitioner whose research explored two interrelated domains. As a studio artist, she developed methods of combining painting, printmaking, and drawing to explore luminous and deeply felt dimensions of landscape and childhood. Her work has been awarded numerous solo exhibitions in galleries in New York, Michigan, and New England, and is in collections such as Brown University’s John Hay Library, Harvard University’s Fogg Museum, and the University of Michigan Museum of Art. Another equally vigorous segment of her creative practice was in the area of publicly engaged artwork and scholarship. Professor Paul’s early Ph.D. research formed the basis of her innovative pedagogy, public presentations, writing, and video work that sought to create access to the imaginative experience in marginalized communities with limited access to the arts. She played an instrumental leadership role in the development of a number of nationally recognized endeavors, including the Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners, the Detroit Connections program, and the Prison Creative Arts Project. A dedicated and innovative teacher, Professor Paul’s methodology was rooted in inquiry, self-discovery, and the belief that critical learning opportunities can emerge through community service and engagement. She received the College of Literature, Science and the Arts’ Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015.

The Regents now salute this distinguished artist and educator for her dedicated service by naming Janice C. Paul, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emerita, professor emerita of art, and professor emerita of social work.

Requested by:

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

March 2017