

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Adopted by the Regents
April 16, 2009

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Death

Action Requested: Adoption of Memorial Statement

The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death on March 16, 2009, of **Matthew Hilton-Watson**, associate professor of foreign languages in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Michigan-Flint.

Professor Hilton-Watson was born in Lexington, Kentucky on October 28, 1968. He earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Kentucky in 1991 and 1993, respectively, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan in 2000. He joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as a lecturer in 1999, and was promoted to assistant professor in 2000 and associate professor in 2006. He had been serving as chair of the Foreign Languages Department since July 1, 2008.

An active researcher, Professor Hilton-Watson's primary interests were in the areas of pedagogy and the scholarship of teaching, romance languages and literature, and most recently, French Canada. In addition to teaching French, Professor Hilton-Watson taught in and contributed actively to the Honors Program and the International and Global Studies Program. He was a committed advisor and mentor, and was instrumental in enhancing and expanding study-abroad opportunities for students. In fact, at the time of his death, he had just returned from leading a group of students to Montreal, Canada for an alternative spring break experience. A popular teacher, he was chosen by students to receive the University of Michigan-Flint Professor of the Year Award in 2004.

Professor Hilton-Watson served on the Travel Abroad Insurance Committee, the Channel 28 Community Advisory Board, and the Ross Learning Resource Center Advisory Committee. He was perhaps best known as the director of the International and Global Studies Program from 2006-08, and also served on its advisory committee. He was elected as a member at large in the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters in 2005.

Professor Hilton-Watson's enthusiasm, passion, and love of knowledge were infectious and inspiring, and he had a lasting impact on everyone who knew him. As we mourn the loss of this scholar, teacher, and friend, our condolences go to his wife, Sarah, and their two children, Alexander and Catherine.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

April 2009