

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Janet Gerson, Ph.D.**, Senior Lecturer and lecturer IV in economics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 30, 2016.

Dr. Gerson received her B.A. (1975) degree from the University of Missouri and her M.A. (1978) and Ph.D. (1981) degrees from the University of Michigan. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as a lecturer in 1983, and was promoted through the ranks to lecturer IV in 2005. In recognition of her superlative teaching and contributions to curricular development she was appointed Senior Lecturer in 2003.

During her years at the University of Michigan, Dr. Gerson provided exemplary teaching, advising, mentoring, and university service. Although she taught most of the courses in the core undergraduate curriculum, she specialized in microeconomic theory and regularly gave students their first exposure to economics in the Principles of Microeconomics course. Her curricular innovations included the conception, development, and teaching of companion courses that enriched the content of standard principles courses and improved student engagement. For example, Dr. Gerson advocated for and developed Economics at Work, a class featuring presentations by and discussions with alumni guests. The class gave students the opportunity not only to discover the inspirational career paths of successful alumni but also to develop insights into the role economics might play in their own careers.

Always a champion for undergraduate students, Dr. Gerson was honored with an LSA Excellence in Concentration Advising Award and nine LSA Excellence in Education Awards. Undergraduate students regularly reported that Dr. Gerson was by far the best teacher they'd had at the university, noting her enthusiasm for the material, her fun attitude, her use of real world examples they could relate to, her dedication to helping students learn, and her respect for them as learners. They credited her with helping them find their own passion and for making the learning of economics something they could enjoy.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Janet Gerson, lecturer IV emerita in economics**.

**Requested by:**



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

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**April 2017**