

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Michael W. Udow, D.M.A., professor of music (percussion) in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2011.

Professor Udow received his B.M., M.M. and D.M.A. degrees from the University of Illinois in 1971, 1975, and 1978, respectively. After serving on the faculty of the University of Missouri (1978-80) and The Pennsylvania State University (1981-82), he joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1982, and was promoted to professor in 1990.

Within the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, Professor Udow created one of the finest and most comprehensive percussion programs in the country. As a dedicated pedagogue, he brought the entire world of percussion repertory to his students, including symphonic music, opera, solo pieces, and chamber works in both western and world traditions. His program was founded on his experiences studying with a “who’s who” of the great teachers of percussion, including Doc Meyer, Bob Lee, F. Michael Combs, Jack McKenzie and Michael Ranta at Interlochen, Thomas Siwe and Frederick Fairchild at the University of Illinois, and the legendary Alan Abel of the Philadelphia Orchestra. He brought to his students an understanding and respect for the structure of music that only a fully informed composer/performer could illuminate. His countless students occupy positions of note across the U.S. and abroad.

As a soloist and collaborative performer, Professor Udow is known and respected throughout the world of percussion performance. His work as a member of the Santa Fe Opera for more than thirty-five years could have been considered a career in itself, but he has also performed with Summit Brass, the Blackearth Percussion Group, the Tone Road Ramblers, and with a host of celebrated soloists. In addition to teaching, performing, and composing, he assisted in the design and manufacture of percussion instruments and in the management of his recording studio, Equilibrium. Professor Udow’s career at Michigan was crowned during the 2009-2010 season when he performed his new concerto for solo percussion and symphony band, *Moon Shadows*, under the direction of the work’s dedicatee, Professor Michael Haithcock.

The Regents now salute this talented percussionist, composer, and teacher by naming **Michael W. Udow professor emeritus of music (percussion)**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2011