

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Richard D. Cureton, Ph.D., associate professor of English language and literature in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2013.


Professor Cureton received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1973, 1976, and 1980, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1985 and was promoted to associate professor in 1991.

Professor Cureton's research focused on the temporal and linguistic rhythmic hierarchies of poetry, integrating and systematizing the work of contemporary musicology and linguistics. Against the received view of meter as a linguistic regularization of stress prominences and tone units, he argued that, like time in music, meter is essentially gestural—a non-linguistic rhythmic pattern upon which a linguistic hierarchy of phonological, lexical, syntactic, and thematic rhythms is arranged to produce poetic form. Professor Cureton explicated his theory of poetics in *Rhythmic Phrasing in English Verse* (1992), and he variously applied, elaborated, and expanded this theory in numerous book entries, articles, reviews, responses, and conference papers.

Professor Cureton taught undergraduate courses in English language, poetics, and poetry, many of these on individual authors. He mentored independent study at the undergraduate and graduate levels, served on a number of departmental committees, and participated in the ongoing intellectual work of several national and international associations. He has been a constant advocate for the use of poetic texts in language instruction and for the development of coherent theoretical models of poetic form.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Richard D. Cureton associate professor emeritus of English language and literature.**

Requested by:



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

May 2013