

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the
Regents
May 15, 2014

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Charles F. (OyamO) Gordon, M.F.A., professor of theatre and drama in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2014.

Professor Gordon received his B.A. degree from the College of New Rochelle in 1979 and his M.F.A. degree from Yale University in 1981. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an adjunct associate professor in 1989, and was promoted to associate professor in 1990, and professor in 2009. He held additional appointments in the Department of English Language and Literature from 1989-2009.

Professor Gordon is a gifted playwright, accomplished teacher, and dedicated mentor. His plays have been performed at celebrated theatres across the country including the Yale Repertory Theatre, the Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center, the Arena Stage Theatre, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He penned numerous notable plays including *Famous Orpheus*, *Boundless Grace*, *Let Me Live*, and *In Living Colors*. Professor Gordon drew inspiration from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* (1879) and John Milton's *Paradise Lost* (1667) for his plays *Selfish Sacrifice* and *Paradise Re-Lost*, respectively. More recently, he wrote *City in a Strait*, on the civil rights movement in Detroit, and *Sing Jubilee*, on the Fisk Jubilee Singers, for the Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit. Professor Gordon is the recipient of numerous honors including a Rockefeller Foundation Playwright in Residence Grant (1972), a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (1973), a McKnight Foundation Fellowship (1984), a Barrilla Kerr Foundation Award (1997), a Faculty Fellowship at the Kennedy Center's American Theatre College Festival (2010), and the University's Shirley Verrett Award (2014).

The Regents now salute this gifted playwright and teacher for his years of service and dedication by naming **Charles F. (OyamO) Gordon professor emeritus of theatre and drama.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2014