

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## *Regents Communication*

**Adopted by the  
Regents  
May 21, 2015**

### ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

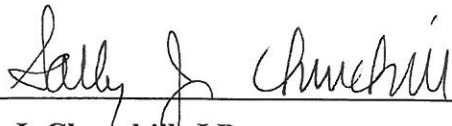
**Martha J. Sheil, B.M.**, associate professor of music (voice) in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2015.

Professor Sheil received her B.M. degree (1973), her Artistic Certificate in Voice (1974), and her Artistic Certificate in Opera (1976) from the Curtis Institute of Music. She served on the faculty of the University of Iowa from 1977-80. Professor Sheil joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1985, and was promoted to associate professor in 1989.

Professor Sheil enchanted audiences, disarmed critics, and inspired a generation of students with her incandescent voice, powerful stage presence, and remarkable artistry. She began her extraordinary career with the New York City Opera, made her professional debut under Julius Rudel as La Contessa in the eternal masterpiece *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and sang 15 major roles during her six years with the company. Specializing in the heroines of Mozart, Puccini, and Verdi, Professor Sheil's performances have taken her to Atlanta, Cleveland, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. Her European debut was at the Stadttheater in Luzern, Switzerland, and she also performed at the Heidelberg Schloss-spiele. A gifted voice teacher, Professor Sheil excelled at adroitly identifying areas in need of improvement, generously sharing her technical knowledge, and effectively delivering constructive feedback with clarity, imagination, and warmth. Many of her former students have gone on to launch successful careers with the Metropolitan Opera, the Washington National Opera, the New York City Opera, and European opera houses in Bern and Prague. Professor Sheil received the School of Music, Theatre & Dance's Harold Haugh Teaching Award in 2014.

The Regents now salute this superb teacher, vocal artist, and devoted faculty member by naming **Martha J. Sheil, associate professor emerita of music (voice)**.

**Requested by:**



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

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**May 2015**