

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Elisha P. Renne, Ph.D., professor of anthropology and professor of Afroamerican and African studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2017.

Professor Renne received her B.A. (1970) degree from New College, her M.A. (1985) degree from the University of Minnesota, and her M.Phil. (1987) and Ph.D. (1990) degrees from New York University. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1998, and was promoted to associate professor in 2002, and professor in 2010.

Professor Renne's research topics included the social life of cloth, the relationship of fertility and development, and the polio eradication initiative, which are reflected in her first three books. In *Cloth That Does Not Die: The Meaning of Cloth in Bunu Social Life* (1995), she considered the importance of cloth in constituting social identities. In *Population and Progress in a Yoruba Town* (2003), she discussed the contradictions between high fertility and local development. In *The Politics of Polio in Northern Nigeria* (2007), she examined parental concerns with the global polio eradication campaign. Her most recent manuscript, *Veils, Turbans, and Moral Imagination in Northern Nigeria* (in press), focuses on Islamic dress and reform movements in Nigeria. Her work emphasizes the perspectives of Nigerians and reflects extensive annual fieldwork conducted in Nigeria from 1994-2016. Her research has also resulted in numerous journal articles, edited volume chapters, and presentations at national and international meetings. Professor Renne taught undergraduate and graduate courses in medical anthropology and African studies. She served on a number of departmental, dissertation, and undergraduate honors theses committees. She also led several study-abroad groups, with faculty from the School of Public Health, focused on the consequences of small-scale gold mining in Ghana. She was named a Graham Sustainability Institute's Distinguished Faculty Fellow of Sustainability from 2013-15.

The Regents now salute this distinguished researcher and teacher by naming **Elisha P. Renne, professor emerita of anthropology and professor emerita of Afroamerican and African studies**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2017