THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Regents Communication  

ACTION REQUEST  

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement  
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir  

Alison Cornish, Ph.D., professor of Italian in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2018.

Professor Cornish received her B.A. (1984) degree from the University of California, Berkeley, her M.A. (1987) degree from Cornell University, and her Ph.D. (1990) degree from Stanford University. She served on the faculty of Yale University from 1991-95. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1995, and was promoted to associate professor in 2000, and professor in 2011.

Professor Cornish taught undergraduate courses and graduate seminars in Italian Medieval studies, particularly on Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, Machiavelli, Ariosto, and Italian through Opera. She published two monographs: Vernacular Translation in Dante’s Italy: Illiterate Literature (2011) and Reading Dante’s Stars (2000). She authored the introduction, notes, and headnotes of Stanley Lombardo’s 2017 translation of Dante Alighieri’s Paradiso. She co-edited Sparks and Seeds: Medieval Italian Literature and Its Afterlife: Essays in Honor of John Freccero (2000). Professor Cornish was a dedicated teacher with high standards who inspired superior performance and promoted a culture of cooperative learning in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. She received the Excellence in Education Award from the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts in 1996.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming Alison Cornish, professor emerita of Italian.

Requested by:

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

May 2018