THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

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

Sharon C. Herbert, Ph.D., Charles K. Williams, II Distinguished University Professor of Classical Archaeology, professor of classical archaeology and Greek, and research scientist and curator in the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, all within the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2019.

Professor Herbert received her B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University in 1966 and 1972, respectively. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1973, and was promoted to associate professor in 1978, and professor in 1990.

Professor Herbert was best known as a specialist in ancient pottery, and as a field archaeologist who directed important excavations in Israel and Egypt, focusing on the mid- and later first millennium BCE. While classical archaeology has traditionally emphasized the study of cities and sanctuaries, Professor Herbert’s research concentrated on the lives of the inhabitants of rural settlements, especially in the multiethnic borderlands of northern Israel. The subject of her first book (1977) was pottery from the ancient Greek city of Corinth; the excavations she supervised at Tel Anafa in Israel have been published in four separate volumes (1994, 1997, 2012, and 2018); the results of the research she directed at Coptos in Egypt were published in 2003; and the publication of the results of work she directed together with her former student and colleague Andrea Berlin at Tel Kedesh in Israel are in preparation. At the University of Michigan, Professor Herbert served as chair of the Department of Classical Studies (1995-2001) and director of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology (1997-2013). A major achievement of her term as director of the Kelsey Museum was the construction of the William E. Upjohn Exhibit Wing, which provided over 20,000 feet of new study, storage, and display space in a secure, climate-controlled facility. In addition, Professor Herbert served as director of the Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology (1982-91), and she chaired 20 successful dissertation committees, served as a member of an additional 20 committees, and received the John H. D’Arms Award for Distinguished Graduate Mentorship in 2000.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming Sharon C. Herbert, Charles K. Williams, II Distinguished University Professor Emerita of Classical Archaeology, professor emerita of classical archaeology and Greek, and research scientist emerita and curator emerita in the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.

Requested by:

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

May 2019