THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

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

Laura Lein, Ph.D., Katherine Reebel Collegiate Professor of Social Work and professor of social work in the School of Social Work and professor of anthropology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2019.

Professor Lein received her B.A. (1969) degree from Swarthmore College and her M.A. (1970) and Ph.D. (1973) degrees from Harvard University. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor in 2009 and served as dean of the School of Social Work from 2009-16. She was named the Katherine Reebel Collegiate Professor of Social Work in 2010.

Professor Lein’s work concentrated on the interface between families in poverty and the institutions that serve them. She directed an interdisciplinary project on work, family interaction, and child development at the Center for the Study of Public Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts from 1973-77. Professor Lein then moved to the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women as a research associate, and later served as director from 1981-85. At the University of Texas at Austin, she served as a professor of social work and anthropology from 1985-2008 as well as director of the Women’s Studies Program from 1987-91. She was the principal investigator on multiple grants on poverty, family and women’s issues, and impoverished populations. She served on the boards of many organizations, including the United Way of Texas Child Care Working Group and the National Academy of Sciences Research Council Committee on Child Development Research and Public Policy. Professor Lein authored or co-authored numerous journal articles, several book chapters, and nine books on welfare, health care, children, and families, including Making Ends Meet (1997) with Kathryn Edin; Poor Families in America’s Health Care Crisis (2006) with Ronald Angel and Jane Henrici; and Community Lost (2012) with Ronald Angel, Holly Bell, and Julie Beausoleil.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming Laura Lein, Dean Emerita of the School of Social Work, Katherine Reebel Collegiate Professor Emerita of Social Work, professor emerita of social work, and professor emerita of anthropology.

Requested by:

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

May 2019