

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Death
Action Requested: Adoption of Memorial Statement

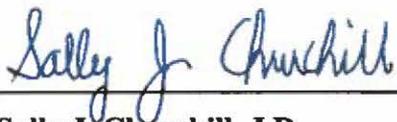
The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death of **Vanessa Prygoski, M.I.L.S.**, senior associate librarian in the University of Michigan-Flint Frances Willson Thompson Library. Ms. Prygoski died on February 13, 2018.

Ms. Prygoski received her B.S. degree from Central Michigan University in 1987 and her M.I.L.S. degree from the University of Michigan in 1990. She served as a circulation supervisor at Thomas M. Cooley Law School (1990-94), a reference librarian at Baker College of Owosso (1994-96), and a reference librarian at Baker College of Jackson (1996-2000). She joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as an assistant librarian in 2000, and was promoted to associate librarian in 2004, and senior associate librarian in 2011.

Ms. Prygoski was a dedicated employee and strived to help all members of the University of Michigan-Flint community. She regularly assisted students with their research and provided information literacy classes for her liaison departments, including Africana studies, social work, music, and women's and gender studies. She also served as a member of the Faculty Council and represented UM-Flint as a member of the Faculty Senate. She was proud to be a part of the efforts that led to the addition of gender identity and gender expression to the university-wide, non-discrimination policy. Ms. Prygoski was not only an exceptional librarian but was also fiercely committed to the causes of equality and rights for marginalized people. Her recent presentation at the Michigan Academic Library Association titled "Queering the Academic Library: Supporting LGBTQ+ Patrons and Allies" (2017) and her work with the UM-Flint's Ellen Bommarito LGBTQ Center, the Women's and Gender Studies Program, and the Women's Commission reflect this commitment. She had a great love of sports, particularly women's sports. Ms. Prygoski played softball in the Metro Detroit LGBT Softball League, and was a blogger for the Flint City Riveters, a women's football team. Ms. Prygoski also wrote a book on the Detroit Shock titled *Worst to First: Or a 'Shock'ing Tale of Women's Basketball in Motown* (2006). She also had a deep love of music, especially for the Grateful Dead and the Indigo Girls. Her love of music led to a number of scholarly accomplishments, including two articles published in the *Journal of Popular Music and Society*.

As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we also extend our heartfelt condolences to her mother, Shirley, her sister, Allyson Hanna, her brother, Scott Prygoski, and her many loving relatives and friends.

Requested by:



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

June 2018