

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

**Judith Omans Becker, Ph.D.**, professor of music in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2009.

Professor Becker received her B.Mus., A.M., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan in 1954, 1968, and 1972, respectively. She joined the faculty in 1972 as an assistant professor of music, and was promoted to associate professor in 1975 and professor in 1985. From 2000-08 she was also the Glenn McGeoch Collegiate Professor of Music (musicology).

Recognized as a leading authority in ethnomusicology, Professor Becker has made significant scholarly contributions to the field of Southeast Asian studies, particularly in the areas of music and cultural practices of the Javanese gamelan, and has published numerous articles in leading musicology publications. More recently, her scholarly focus has shifted to the examination of music and emotion; her groundbreaking book, *Deep Listeners: Music, Emotion, and Trancing*, was awarded the Alan Merriam Prize by the Society for Ethnomusicology in 2004. She has received awards from the Society for Ethnomusicology, National Endowment for the Humanities, Smithsonian Institution, Rockefeller Foundation, and the Fulbright Program. In 1995, she received the University's first John D'Arms Distinguished Graduate Mentoring in the Humanities Award.

Professor Becker co-founded and served as founding director of the Center for World Performance Studies and was director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies from 1998-2005. She has mentored numerous musicology graduate students who are now leading ethnomusicologists. She has served on the School of Music Executive Committee, the musicology graduate committee, the ethnomusicology examination committee, and as interim chair of the Department of Musicology.

The Regents now salute this gifted scholar and teacher for her dedicated service by naming **Judith Omans Becker professor emerita of music**.

**Requested by:**

  
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Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

July 2009