

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

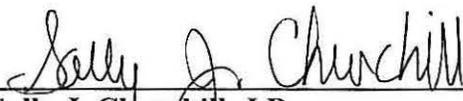
Catherine Lord, Ph.D., professor of psychology and Urie Bronfenbrenner Collegiate Professor of Psychology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, professor of psychiatry, Medical School, research professor, Center for Human Growth and Development, and director, Autism and Communication Disorders Center, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2011.

Professor Lord received her B.A. degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1971 and her Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1976, and completed a clinical child psychology internship at the University of North Carolina in 1977. She served on the faculties of the University of Minnesota (1977-81), the University of Alberta School of Medicine (1982-89), the University of North Carolina (1990-93), and the University of Chicago (1993-2001) prior to joining the University of Michigan faculty as professor of psychology and director of the University of Michigan Autism and Communication Disorders Center in 2001. She received an additional appointment as professor of psychiatry in 2002, and was appointed Urie Bronfenbrenner Collegiate Professor of Psychology in 2010.

It is difficult to overstate the importance of Professor Lord's pioneering research on the identification and treatment of individuals with autism. She developed the first widely accepted diagnostic tools of social behavior and communication: the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) and the Autism Diagnostic Interview (ADI). Today, these instruments are known as the gold standard for reliable and accurate diagnosis of autism, and are used widely by researchers and clinicians. Following her groundbreaking work on diagnostics, she collaborated with other investigators in their efforts to better understand and treat autism from many different perspectives, including genetics, brain imaging, and interventions. In recognition of her substantial contributions, Professor Lord has received numerous awards, including the American Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Contribution to Applied Research in 2010. She was named "Michiganiaan of the Year" by the *Detroit News* in 2008.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Catherine Lord professor emerita of psychology, professor emerita of psychiatry, and research professor emerita.**

Requested by:



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

September 2011