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

Gillian Feeley-Harnik, Ph.D., Kathleen Gough Collegiate Professor of Anthropology and professor of anthropology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2012.

Professor Feeley-Harnik received her A.B. degree from Radcliffe College in 1961, and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from New York University in 1969 and 1976, respectively. From 1983-98, she was a faculty member at The Johns Hopkins University. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor in 1998, and was appointed the Kathleen Gough Collegiate Professor of Anthropology in 2003.

Professor Feeley-Harnik’s research and writing focused on religion, ritual, and the Bible; politics and economic development; and cultural ecology. Two of her books have become anthropological classics. The first, The Lord’s Table: Eucharist and Passover in Early Christianity (1981), is an anthropological study of both food and religion. The second, A Green Estate: Restoring Independence in Madagascar (1991), focused on the pre-colonial forms of social relations, labor, and relations to land. More recently, her work explored the influence of 19th-century paradigms of science, religion, and descent on the evolutionary writings of Charles Darwin and Lewis Henry Morgan. Professor Feeley-Harnik has published more than 40 articles and book chapters, and presented at scores of national international professional meetings. She taught undergraduate and graduate anthropology courses and participated in numerous dissertation committees. A beloved advisor and mentor of students and junior colleagues, she received the John H. D’Arms Award for Distinguished Graduate Mentoring in the Humanities in 2007.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming Gillian Feeley-Harnik professor emerita of anthropology.

Requested by:

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

December 2012