

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the
Regents
December 18, 2014

ACTION REQUEST

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

Thomas C. Foster, Ph.D., professor of English in the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Michigan-Flint, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2014.

Professor Foster received his A.B. degree from Dartmouth College in 1974, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University in 1977 and 1981, respectively. Professor Foster joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as an assistant professor in 1987, and was promoted to associate professor in 1992, and professor in 2001.

Professor Foster is a leading scholar of twentieth-century English, Irish, and American literature; contemporary Irish poetry; modernism and postmodernism; literary analysis for general readers; and critical theory. His teaching and research critically examined the works of Flann O'Brien, Henry Green, Seamus Heaney, and James Joyce. He authored numerous books including *Form and Society in Modern Literature* (1988), *How to Read Literature like a Professor* (2003), and *Twenty-five Books that Shaped America* (2011). Professor Foster taught a wide array of popular courses that ranged from introductory courses in classical literature and literary genres to graduate classes on modern and contemporary British literature. He played an instrumental role in the establishment of the English Department's Master of English Language and Literature Program. He served as the program's first director from 2005-12. Professor Foster was a frequent invited speaker at high schools across the state of Michigan where he shared his enthusiasm for great literature and inspired a generation.

The Regents now salute this distinguished literature educator for his dedicated service by naming **Thomas C. Foster professor emeritus of English**.

Requested by:



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

December 2014