

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

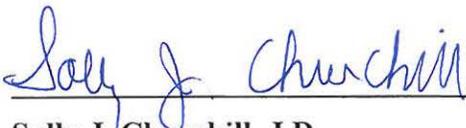
Lorna G. Goodison, Lemuel A. Johnson Collegiate Professor of English and Afroamerican and African Studies, professor of English language and literature, and professor of Afroamerican and African Studies, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2014.

Professor Goodison attended the Jamaican School of Art, Kingston, Jamaica (1967-68) and the School of the Art Students' League in New York (1968-69). At the University of Michigan she was appointed associate professor in 2002, professor in 2008, and the Lemuel A. Johnson Collegiate Professor of English and Afroamerican and African Studies in 2009.

Professor Goodison achieved worldwide fame as a poet whose fourteen books of verse circulated in all English-speaking nations, acquiring awards for their depictions of historical incidents, family and community customs, and the vitality of the Caribbean world, among other topics. She also wrote fiction, memoirs, plays, film and radio scripts, as well as producing graphic artworks. Professor Goodison taught the craft of poetry and the cultural history of the Caribbean islands to undergraduate and graduate classes who praised her command of complex materials and her guidance through the mysteries of artistic creation. In the preface to his selection of her poems for the canon-making *Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry* (2003), Jahan Ramazani calls attention to Professor Goodison's artful explorations of "the parallels between racial and gender oppression," as well as the way she "fearlessly crosses boundaries between languages and cultures" to create hybrid forms of verse that have become increasingly influential in recent decades. She received the University's Henry Russel Award in 2004 and Jamaica's Commander of the Order of Distinction in 2013.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and author by naming **Lorna G. Goodison professor emerita of English language and literature and professor emerita of Afroamerican and African studies.**

Requested by:



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

December 2014