

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Charles C. Bright, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, professor of history, and professor of the Residential College in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2016.

Professor Bright received his B.A. (1965) from Washington and Lee University and his M.A. (1968) and Ph.D. (1971) from Yale University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1971. Professor Bright served for many years as a lecturer in the Residential College prior to being appointed professor of history and professor of the Residential College in 2001. He served as interim director (2001-02 and 2014-15) and director (2005-11) of the Residential College.

An exceptional historian, instructor, and mentor, Professor Bright has taught and written extensively on American political history, prison history, and the history of Detroit. His groundbreaking work, *The Powers that Punish: Prison and Politics in the Era of the 'Big House', 1920-1955* (1996), critically examined Michigan's Jackson State Penitentiary within the broader context of state political dynamics, theories of punishment, and the history of prisons in the United States. Professor Bright created unique experiential learning opportunities that harnessed the power of community engagement to inspire and change the lives of his students. As part of the Semester in Detroit program, which he co-founded, students participated in internships with Detroit organizations to work on projects such as developing sustainable urban gardening and creating dramatic productions based on historical research. His passion for connecting students to the community has informed his work with the curriculum as well, leading him to create several new undergraduate courses and two new undergraduate minors in the areas of crime and justice and global transformation. In his classes, ranging from global themes such as "Empires" to local historical topics such as "The Central Michigan RR Station and the Community of Southwest Detroit", Professor Bright highlighted the importance of civic engagement and transformed students' worldviews. He was named an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor for his outstanding contributions to undergraduate education in 2009.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and scholar by naming **Charles C. Bright, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus, professor emeritus of history, and professor emeritus of the Residential College.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2016