THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

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

Henry Greenspan, Ph.D., lecturer IV in the Residential College in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2019.

Dr. Greenspan received his A.B. (1970) and M.Ed. (1973) degrees from Harvard University and his Ph.D. (1985) degree from Brandeis University. He came to the University of Michigan as a junior fellow of the Michigan Society of Fellows (1977-80). He worked as a senior counselor at Counseling Services, now Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) from 1983-88 and joined the Residential College (RC) in 1987. Within the RC, Dr. Greenspan has been an academic advisor, chair of the First-year Seminar and Social Theory and Practice programs.

Since the 1970s, Dr. Greenspan has been interviewing, writing, and teaching about Holocaust survivors. Both editions of his book, On Listening to Holocaust Survivors: Recounting and Life History (1998) and the expanded On Listening to Holocaust Survivors: Beyond Testimony (2010) provide crucial contributions to Holocaust studies and its oral history. Along with his publications and journal articles, Dr. Greenspan wrote the chapter on survivor testimony for the Oxford Handbook of Holocaust Studies (2010). He was an advisor to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum since its opening in 1993 and was selected as the museum’s sixth annual Weinmann Lecturer (2000). He later co-led the annual Jack and Anita Hess Faculty Seminar for professors of holocaust courses (2011). His interview methodology is now the standard for large oral history projects with genocide survivors, particularly in Rwanda and Cambodia. He was the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair at the Centre of Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University in Montreal (2012). Dr. Greenspan mentored, consulted, and presented his research internationally; most recently in Jerusalem (2016), Berlin (2016), New Delhi (2018), London (2018), Toronto (2018), and Montreal (2019). Dr. Greenspan is also a playwright whose work, Remnants, originally produced at WUOM-FM and distributed to National Public Radio (NPR) stations in 1991, later became a stage play performed at more than 300 venues worldwide.

The Regents now salute this esteemed psychologist, oral historian, and playwright by naming Henry Greenspan, lecturer IV emeritus in the Residential College.

Requested by:

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

March 2021