

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

MaryCarol Rossiter Hunter, Ph.D., associate professor of environment and sustainability in the School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS), retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2020.

Professor Hunter received her B.A. (1970) degree in communications from the University of Detroit, her second B.A. (1976) degree in zoology from the University of California, Berkeley, her Ph.D. (1981) degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and her M.L.A. (1999) degree from the University of Georgia. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 2006, and was promoted to associate professor in 2012. She has been a licensed landscape architect since 2003.

Professor Hunter spent a lifetime working at the interface between fields of study, publishing innovative work that often included novel methodological solutions for hypothesis testing. She worked for 15 years as a research scientist focusing on time-lagged negative impacts of poor environmental conditions on fitness, behavior, and population ecology (epigenetics). Alarmed by her research outcomes, she retrained in landscape architecture in order to be a first responder to environmental threats by better design of the built environment. After four years in professional practice, she returned to academia to accelerate the training of new sustainability professionals.

For 15 years at UM, she worked at the evolving nexus of ecology, psychology, and aesthetics. She was recognized internationally in two areas: translating ecological processes for the design of resilient urban green space under climate change and designing urban spaces for effective and equitable delivery of psychological ecosystem services. Recently, Professor Hunter et al. (2019) on the “Nature Pill” got widespread traction among researchers, professionals, and the public with over 80 citations to date, from researchers in a diversity of fields, media attention across 144 outlets, and in the top 5% of all research outputs. In teaching, Professor Hunter regularly engaged design studios in outreach work for public and non-profit organizations. She continues to serve as an advisor and provides educational materials for the new Piet Oudolf Public Garden on Detroit’s Belle Isle.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **MaryCarol Rossiter Hunter, associate professor emerita of environment and sustainability**.

Requested by:



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

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