

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Adopted by the Regents

May 14, 2009

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Vitalij Shevoroshkin, Ph.D., professor of linguistics and professor of Slavic languages and literatures in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2009.

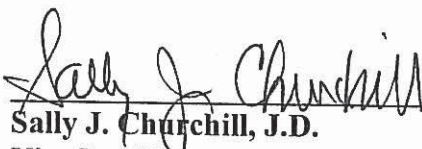
A native of the former Soviet Union, Professor Shevoroshkin earned his B.A. degree from Moscow State University in 1956 and his Dr. of Philological Sciences degree from the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1965. He emigrated to the United States in 1974, and taught at the University of Maryland from 1974-75 and at Yale University from 1975-78. He came to the University of Michigan as a visiting associate professor of linguistics in 1978, and joined the faculty as professor of linguistics and Slavic languages and literatures in 1979.

Professor Shevoroshkin made very significant contributions to the study of world languages, particularly by elucidating the interrelationships between the Indo-European languages and other language groups through such books as *The Lydian Language* and *Sound-chains in the World's Languages*. He authored scores of articles and edited a seminal series of books on the reconstruction of ancient languages, and produced volumes on Nostratic, Dene-Sino-Caucasian, Austric and Amerind languages. He was a member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and has garnered many awards for his work on ancient languages, including a University Faculty Recognition Award. In his honor, the volume *Indo-European, Nostratic, and Beyond: Festschrift for V.V. Shevoroshkin* was published in 1997.

Within the University, Professor Shevoroshkin played a key role in teaching ancient languages and Russian linguistics. In the linguistics program (now Department of Linguistics), he offered courses on Indo-European languages, the indigenous languages of the Americas, and Anatolian languages, and on historical linguistics and the genetic relations among languages. In the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, he taught the core courses in linguistics. His erudition, enthusiasm, and warmth in dealing with colleagues and students enriched the work of the departments in which he taught over a period of thirty years.

The Regents salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Vitalij Shevoroshkin professor emeritus of linguistics and professor emeritus of Slavic languages and literatures.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2009