

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Lynn M. Walter, Ph.D., professor of geological sciences in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2011.


Professor Walter received her B.A. degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 1975, her M.S. degree from Louisiana State University in 1978, and her Ph.D. degree from the University of Miami in 1983. From 1984-89 she served on the faculty of Washington University in St. Louis. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1989, and was promoted to professor in 1995.

Professor Walter's research in aqueous geochemistry of sedimentary systems had applications to hydrocarbon and groundwater pollution and resources, climate change, and human impacts on forested watersheds. Her work clarified the effect of mineral weathering and carbon cycling in forested watersheds of the mid-continent, with significant implications for understanding the dynamics of atmospheric CO₂ uptake into high-latitude groundwater. She unraveled the geochemistry of unconventional biogenic gas deposits in Devonian shales of the Michigan and Illinois basins and showed that microbial activity formed these natural gas deposits. She received a Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation in 1987 and was elected a Fellow of the Geochemical Society in 2005.

Professor Walter taught undergraduate courses on water and the environment and graduate courses on the geochemistry of natural waters. She has advised more than 20 masters and doctoral students, and in 2006 she received the Rackham Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award. She served on the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Executive Committee (1999-2003) and the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies Executive Board (1998-2002). Professor Walter was editor of both the *Geological Society of America Bulletin* (1995-99) and *Chemical Geology* (2001-07). She has been a role model and mentor for women in science, not only for her postdocs and students, but also for her women faculty colleagues.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Lynn M. Walter professor emerita of geological sciences**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2011