

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

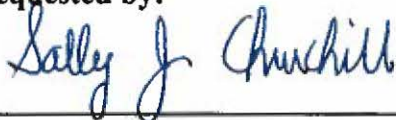
Peter Sparling, B.F.A., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Rudolf Arnheim Distinguished University Professor of Dance, and professor of dance in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2018.

Professor Sparling received his B.F.A. degree from the Juilliard School in 1973. He began his professional career as a performer and soon became a choreographer as well. He was a member of the José Limón Dance Company (1971-73) and the principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company (1973-87). He had extensive experience as the artistic director of the Peter Sparling Dance Company in New York City as well as in Ann Arbor. He served on the faculty of the Martha Graham Center for Contemporary Dance, the Juilliard School Dance Division, and the London Contemporary Dance Theatre. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1984, and was promoted to associate professor in 1988, and professor in 1995.

As an artist, Professor Sparling performed and staged Martha Graham's works all over the world and on PBS's *Dance in America*. He had extensive experience as an artistic director, choreographer, performer, lecturer, video artist, writer, dance/arts consultant, and teacher. His videodance *Babel* was selected for the 2007 New York Dance on Camera Festival, the 2008 American Dance Festival Dance Film & Video Festival, and has toured the world. His made-for-TV work *Climbing Sainte-Victoire* was broadcast on Michigan Television in April 2009, and his screendance *The Snowy Owl* was featured at the Short Film Corner of the 2015 Cannes Film Festival. He presented at the Society of Dance History Scholars, the Southeastern College Art Conference, and co-chaired *Meanings and Makings of Queer Dance* at the University of Michigan in 2012. Professor Sparling's commitment to excellence in arts education and his artistry led to an impressive number of artistic achievements. He represented the ideal dancer, choreographer, teacher, and mentor. His brilliant international career and his devotion to the University of Michigan will ensure a lasting legacy of teaching distinction, creativity, and inspiration in the field of dance.

The Regents now salute this eminent artist and extraordinary teacher by naming **Peter Sparling, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus, Rudolf Arnheim Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Dance, and professor emeritus of dance.**

Requested by:



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

May 2018