

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

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

Eileen Pollack, M.F.A., professor of English language and literature in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2019.

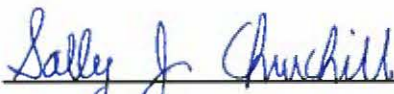
Professor Pollack received her B.S. degree from Yale University in 1978. Following college, Pollack studied for one year at the University of East Anglia under the auspices of a Marshall Fellowship. She received her M.F.A. degree in creative writing from the University of Iowa in 1983. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as a lecturer in 1994, and was promoted to assistant professor in 1999, associate professor in 2004, and professor in 2010.

Professor Pollack taught graduate and undergraduate classes in fiction writing, creative nonfiction, and contemporary literature. She also supervised M.F.A. theses and read admission files. From 2006-07, Professor Pollack co-directed the University of Michigan's M.F.A. Program in Creative Writing, now known as the Helen Zell Writers' Program. She was named director of this program in 2007 and served in this role until 2011.

Professor Pollack was also an acclaimed author of six works of fiction, two works of nonfiction, a children's book, and a creative nonfiction textbook and anthology. She also co-wrote another textbook and anthology with two former students. In addition to these publications, Professor Pollack authored twenty-three short stories, forty-nine essays and articles, and two poems. She has had stories anthologized in *The Best American Short Stories* and essays in *The Best American Essays*. Her awards and honors are voluminous and include an Honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Massachusetts, a Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award from the University of Michigan, the Grub Street National Book Prize for *Breaking and Entering* (2012), two Pushcart Prizes for fiction, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. Her memoir *The Only Woman in the Room: Why Science is Still a Boys' Club* (2015), excerpts of which appeared in the *Sunday New York Times Magazine*, contributed in meaningful ways to an international conversation about gender inequality in the sciences, and led to Professor Pollack giving talks on the subject around the world.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and writer by naming **Eileen Pollack, professor emerita of English language and literature.**

Requested by:



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

May 2019