

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Marva J. Furman, Ph.D., professor of English in the University of Michigan-Flint College of Arts and Sciences, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2020.

Professor Furman received her B.A. degree from the Tuskegee Institute in 1970, her M.A. degree from Bucknell University in 1972, and her Ph.D. degree from Florida State University in 1979. From 1972-76, she served as an instructor at Florida A & M University. After serving as an adjunct professor, she joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as assistant professor in 1988, and was promoted to associate professor in 1996, and professor in 2004.

For forty years, Professor Furman was a popular, influential instructor for a wide array of courses for undergraduate and graduate students. Her courses ranged from introductory courses in humanism, the environment, and literary analysis to upper-level and graduate classes on early and modern American literature. Thousands of students owe at least part of their understanding of the greatest and most important American writers to Professor Furman. A pillar on the UM-Flint campus, she served on myriad department, college, and university committees. She also directed the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program from 2007-20. Aside from her fine work as a teacher and an administrator, Professor Furman was a steady researcher and writer. She was the author of numerous academic articles and four books, most notably *Toni Morrison's Fiction: Revised and Expanded Edition* in 2014. She also received numerous honors, including the Alvin D. Loving Junior Faculty Initiative Award in 1994 and the Lucinda Hinsdale Stone Senior Faculty Award in 2006.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Marva J. Furman, professor emerita of English**.

Requested by:



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

May 2020