

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

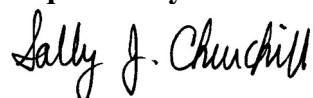
**Charles B. Thomas, Jr., Ph.D.**, associate professor of sociology in the University of Michigan-Flint College of Arts and Sciences, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2020.

Professor Thomas received his B.A. (1970) degree from Cornell University and his M.A. (1973) and Ph.D. (1976) degrees from Harvard University. He worked at several universities as a postdoctoral fellow, research scientist, visiting professor, and assistant professor. He joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as an assistant professor in 1987 and was promoted to associate professor in 1998. Professor Thomas served as chair (1998-2001) and interim chair (2015) of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice.

Professor Thomas' leadership in teaching, research, and service was laudable. Professor Thomas' research on the study of human values has led to scholarly publications and conference presentations that examine the ways values shape patterned interactions among groups of people in different settings, including large corporations, educational institutions and curricula, and deindustrializing cities. His work on racial segregation and gender perceptions highlighted the social justice perspectives that informed his scholarship while his commitment to civically engaged scholarship shaped his teaching, research, and service to his discipline. His primary instructional responsibility was in sociology where he taught a number of courses, including Race and Ethnic Relations, the Black Family, Introduction to Sociology, Social Psychology, and the Sociology of Religion in America, among others. He served as a core faculty member in the Women's and Gender Studies Program and supported the Department of Africana Studies with his teaching service. Professor Thomas received the Campus Compact for Michigan's Faculty/Staff Service Learning Award (2004), the University of Michigan-Flint's Distinguished Service Award (2006), and the University of Michigan-Flint's Olivia P. Maynard and Olaf Karlstrom Award for Civic Engagement (2009). His strong commitment to equity and fairness made him a sought-after member of faculty search committees and a tireless advocate for students and colleagues on campus and beyond.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member for his dedicated service by naming **Charles B. Thomas, Jr., associate professor emeritus of sociology**.

**Requested by:**



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

**May 2020**