

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

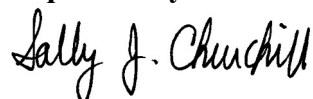
Janet Hegman Shier, M.A., lecturer IV in the Residential College in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active status on May 31, 2020.

Ms. Shier received her B.A. (1977) degree from Michigan State University and her M.A. (1983) degree from the University of Michigan. Ms. Shier was hired in 1980 as a lecturer at the Residential College (RC) and went on to serve two years (1986-88) as the associate program head of the RC German Program. In 1988, Ms. Shier was promoted to program head, as well as lecturer IV, positions she held until 2020.

Ms. Shier was a dedicated, multidisciplinary teacher of the German language, incorporating film and theater productions into her teaching, early in her teaching career. She founded in 1985, and oversaw through her retirement, the *RC Deutsches Theater*, a company of undergraduate students at the University of Michigan performing multi-media contemporary German language plays. Many featured Ms. Shier's original music and films and projected subtitles of her own translations. She hosted a number of performance artist residencies enriching the scholarship of her students and the RC at large. Ms. Shier published articles on topics ranging from German documentary film to integrating arts with language teaching. She gave over 50 talks, keynote addresses, and workshops in both the United States and Germany. Ms. Shier served regularly on the RC Executive Committee, the RC Curriculum Planning Committee, and the Board on Academic Standing. She was an RC academic advisor for over 30 years, counseling many students about language learning, study abroad, and career planning. She received multiple teaching excellence awards over her career along with grants for interdisciplinary work and for short-term immersion study trips. Ms. Shier designed and led 19 theater and arts study trips to Germany. She was a co-recipient of the Interdisciplinary Faculty Associates Award (2000), the Ruth Sinclair Excellence in Advising Award (2003), and the UM Global Educator Award (2013). The RC named one of its annual student awards after her (the "Janet" for excellence in foreign language study).

The Regents now salute this distinguished educator in German language by naming **Janet Hegman Shier, lecturer IV emerita in the Residential College**.

Requested by:



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

May 2021