

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

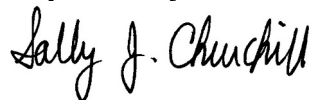
**Karla Taylor, Ph.D.**, associate professor of English language and literature in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2022.

Professor Taylor received Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Germanic languages and literatures from Indiana University in 1975. She pursued postgraduate work in Germanic philology at the Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven, Belgium, before attending Stanford University where she earned her doctorate in 1983. Professor Taylor was appointed assistant professor at Yale University in 1983 and joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as an associate professor in 1989. She served as director of the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies from 2004-09.

Professor Taylor is the author of *Chaucer Reads the "Divine Comedy"* (Stanford University Press, 1989), a book that established her as a leading scholar of the influence of Dante on medieval English literature. Her scholarship on sociolinguistic approaches to medieval English literature, the poetry of Geoffrey Chaucer and John Gower, and translation and allusion in the formation of literary tradition appears in journals including *Speculum*, *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*, and the *Chaucer Review*, and as chapters in many field-defining volumes of essays. She is co-editor of a forthcoming special issue of *Chaucer Review*, and her study of the formation of an English vernacular literary language and audience in the late fourteenth- and early fifteenth-centuries, *Changing Languages*, is under contract with Fordham University Press. An inspiring and dedicated teacher and mentor, Professor Taylor has twice received LSA Excellence in Education Awards, among other recognition for her contributions to undergraduate and graduate education. As director of the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Professor Taylor worked to expand the program's geographical and cultural scope.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher for her dedicated service by naming **Karla Taylor, associate professor emerita of English language and literature**.

**Requested by:**



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

**May 2022**