

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir


Patrice Speeter Beddor, Ph.D., John C. Catford Collegiate Professor of Linguistics and professor of linguistics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2025.

Professor Beddor received her B.S. (1974) in French (with high distinction), and her M.A. (1976) and Ph.D. (1982) in linguistics from the University of Minnesota. She was a NIH postdoctoral fellow and a scientific investigator at Haskins Laboratories, and on the faculty at Yale University until joining the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in 1987. She was promoted to associate professor in 1993 and professor in 2001. Professor Beddor was named the John C. Catford Collegiate Professor of Linguistics in 2011. She was the chair of the Department of Linguistics from 2004 to 2010. She also served as chair of all the department's standing faculty committees for many years, as associate chair/director for five years, and as acting/interim chair for three additional years, contributing more than half of her time in the active faculty to leadership roles in the department.

Professor Patrice (Pam) Beddor is a world-renowned linguist and phonetician whose research has transformed both the theory and practice of phonetics. Her career exhibits distinction across-the-board as a researcher, academic leader, teacher, and mentor, and as a citizen of the university and the discipline of linguistics. She was elected fellow of the Acoustical Society of America in 1996, and of the Linguistic Society of America in 2018. Professor Beddor was one of the primary faculty responsible for giving the University of Michigan a prominent role in U.S. linguistics after the linguistics department was reestablished in 2000. Her service to the university also goes beyond linguistics, including service in the College of LSA's Divisional Evaluation Committee, and in the Rackham MORE Faculty Committee on Mentoring since 2017 (as chair 2020–22). She was a member of the Cognitive Science Task Force whose work led to the creation of the undergraduate cognitive science major, paving the way for the establishment of the Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science. She then served on the Executive Committee of the institute for ten years, since its founding in 2014. Professor Pam Beddor (as she is known to her students) has been a dedicated mentor to students, chairing twenty Ph.D. dissertations in linguistics at the University of Michigan. She has also served as an official or unofficial mentor to many faculty in linguistics. She received two College of LSA Excellence in Education and in Research Awards, the Rackham School of Graduate Studies John D'Arms Award for Graduate Mentoring in the Humanities (2002) and the Acoustical Society of America Student Council David T. Blackstock Mentor Award (2019). She served very successfully as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Phonetics*, the preeminent journal in her area of research. She has been a regular member of review panels for the NIH, the NSF, and of external review committees for linguistics departments at other universities. Professor Beddor has transformed the linguistics department through her leadership and has had a lasting impact in the field through her rigorous, insightful research and mentorship.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Patrice Speeter Beddor, John C. Catford Collegiate Professor Emerita of Linguistics and professor emerita of linguistics.**

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2025