

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Linda Gregerson, Ph.D.**, Caroline Walker Bynum Distinguished University Professor of English Language and Literature and professor of English language and literature in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2025.

Professor Linda Gregerson received a B.A. degree from Oberlin College (1971) and an M.A. in English from Northwestern University (1972). She earned an M.F.A. in creative writing from Iowa Writers Workshop (1977) and a Ph.D. in English from Stanford University (1987). Professor Gregerson joined the University of Michigan faculty as assistant professor in 1987, was promoted to associate professor in 1994, and to professor in 2001.

Professor Gregerson is one of the most distinguished and admired scholars of early modern literature in her generation. Her first scholarly monograph, *The Reformation of the Subject: Spenser, Milton, and the English Protestant Epic* (Cambridge, 1995), is a careful study of the cultural contradictions that produced the conditions leading to the English Protestant epic. Connecting religious iconoclasm with political awareness, the book offers a compelling contribution to our understanding of the ways in which literary subjectivities are historically produced. Professor Gregerson extended her careful reading of poetic form into the present in the monograph *Negative Capability: Contemporary American Poetry* (Michigan, 2001). She co-edited a volume of interdisciplinary essays with Susan Juster, *Empires of God: Religious Encounters in the Early Modern Atlantic World* (Pennsylvania, 2011). She has published seven books of poetry and was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2014. Professor Gregerson won the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature, the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, and numerous Pushcart prizes for poetry. She has held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Study, the National Humanities Center, the Michigan Society of Fellows, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Professor Gregerson served for ten years as director of the Helen Zell MFA Writing Program in the Department of English. Before receiving her Distinguished University Professorship in 2008, she was the Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor in the College of LSA. She was also elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets in 2015. Her poetry is characterized by formal resourcefulness and moral integrity—marked by its scrupulous arrangement of thought, its adroit and elegant work with syntax, line breaks, and a variety of verse forms.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Linda Gregerson, Caroline Walker Bynum Distinguished University Professor Emerita of English Language and Literature and professor emerita of English language and literature.**

**Requested by:**



**Jon Kinsey**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2025