

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Joan Holland, B.M., clinical associate professor of music in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active faculty status on May 24, 2026.

Professor Holland holds a Bachelor of Music in harp performance (1977) from the Cleveland Institute of Music. She has built an extensive career as a distinguished harp educator, serving as clinical associate professor of music at the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance since 2008 and as an instructor at Interlochen Arts Academy since 1978. She has directed numerous summer harp programs, including the Harp Institute of MPULSE at the University of Michigan (2010-present) and Interlochen Arts Camp programs spanning several decades. Her teaching extends internationally through coaching engagements in Bogotá, Colombia, and Costa Rica, as well as with prestigious youth orchestras. Professor Holland has shared her expertise through master classes at leading institutions nationwide—including the University of North Texas, Southern Methodist University, University of Illinois, San Francisco Conservatory, Cleveland Institute of Music, and Oberlin Conservatory—and has served as a guest clinician for major conferences such as ASTA and the American Harp Society.

In addition to her strong commitment to teaching, Professor Holland maintains an active career in solo, chamber, concerto, and orchestral performances. She is currently principal harpist for the Midland Symphony Orchestra, co-principal of the Traverse Symphony Orchestra, and substitute harpist for numerous Michigan orchestras. Previously, she served as principal harp for the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra and the Cleveland Ballet Orchestra, and has performed as substitute harpist for the Cleveland Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, and Baltimore Symphony.

An avid chamber musician, Professor Holland frequently performs with colleagues at SMTD, Interlochen Chamber Music Concerts, the Lexington Bach Festival, the Manitou Music Festival, and various Michigan university faculty chamber music series. She has participated in recital programs for regional and national American Harp Society conventions, including their June 2008 concert honoring Alice Chalifoux, and performed the Sonata for Viola and Harp by Arnold Bax at both the World Harp Congress and International Viola Congress in Austin, Texas. Professor Holland is in her third term as a board member of the American Harp Society and was instrumental in creating an online educational resource for the study of theory.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Joan Holland, clinical associate professor emerita of music.**

Requested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Kinsey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2026