

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## *Regents Communication*

Approved by the Regents

June 16, 2006

### ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**John R. Knott, Jr., Ph.D.** professor of English in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2006.

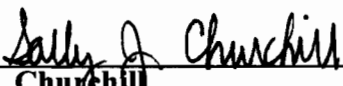
Professor Knott received his B.A. degree from Yale University in 1959 and his Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1965. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1967 and was promoted to associate professor in 1971 and professor in 1976.

Much of Professor Knott's work has centered on nonconformist literature in sixteenth and seventeenth-century England, with particular focus on such literary and religious figures as Milton, Bunyan, and Browne, as well as the discourses of Protestant martyrdom. He published three scholarly monographs in this field and co-edited two books. In the 1990s, spurred on by time spent in the Canadian shield landscape of Ontario and the Noatak watershed area of Alaska, Professor Knott began to concentrate on the history of American nature writing and American natural places, and he established a popular undergraduate course on wilderness literature. In 2000, he co-edited a book, *The Huron River: Voices from the Watershed* (2000) and in 2001 he co-edited a special issue of the *Michigan Quarterly Review*, "Reimagining Place." In 2002, he published a major scholarly monograph which makes a claim for the special status of wilderness as not merely a construct of human culture but an essential entity.

In addition to his scholarly and teaching activities, Professor Knott has an extensive record of administrative service, including appointments as associate dean (1977-80) and acting dean (1980-81) of the College of LS&A, and chair of the Department of English Language and Literature (1982-87), during which period he established the M.F.A. program in creative writing. He was a member of the organizing committee for the Institute for the Humanities and was interim director in its startup year (1987-88). More recently, he chaired the organizing and implementation committees for the Program in the Environment and served as its interim director from 2001-02. Professor Knott's honors include the Bredvold Prize, two Excellence in Education Awards, and an award from the Office of the Vice President for Research.

The Regents salute this distinguished scholar by naming **John R. Knott, Jr., professor emeritus of English.**

**Requested by:**

  
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Sally J. Churchill  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

**June 2006**