

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

Adopted by the  
Regents  
June 18, 2015

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir


**Claude F. Jacobs, Ph.D.**, associate professor of behavioral sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn, will retire from active faculty status on June 30, 2015.

Professor Jacobs received his B.A. degree from Albion College in 1964, his M.A. degree from Western Reserve University in 1965, and his Ph.D. degree from Tulane University in 1980. He served on the faculty of Wayne State University from 1981-88. He joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn faculty as an adjunct lecturer in 1991, and was promoted to the King-Chavez-Parks Visiting Professor in 1993, assistant professor in 1994, and associate professor in 2001.

Professor Jacobs' research focused on African American culture, anthropology of religion, cultural pluralism, ethnicity and race, ethnohistory, and Latin America. He co-authored, with Andrew J. Kaslow, a landmark book entitled *The Spiritual Churches of New Orleans: Origins, Beliefs, and Rituals of an African-American Religion* in 1991. In addition to his studies on African American religion, Professor Jacobs worked extensively in the area of religious pluralism in metropolitan Detroit and organized the critically acclaimed photographic exhibition *World Religions in Metropolitan Detroit*. He held several key leadership positions including director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society, the Religious Studies Program, and the Pluralism Project. A gifted teacher and dedicated mentor, Professor Jacobs served as the anthropology discipline coordinator, a founder of the African and African American Studies Program, and co-founder of the Worldviews Seminar, a University affiliated community program that promoted interreligious dialogue and understanding. He received the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2000.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member for his service to the University of Michigan-Dearborn by naming **Claude F. Jacobs, associate professor emeritus of behavioral sciences**.

**Requested by:**



**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**June 2015**