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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Item for Information

Subject: Henry Russel Lecturer for 2017

I am pleased to inform you that the Henry Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Carol A. Fierke, met recently and selected Linda K. Gregerson, Caroline Walker Bynum Distinguished University Professor of English and professor of English language and literature as the Henry Russel Lecturer for 2017. The Russel Lecture will be delivered by Professor Gregerman in the Winter Term of 2017.

The Henry Russel Lectureship is the highest honor that the University bestows upon a senior member of its faculty. A description of the contributions of this extraordinary faculty member is attached.

Respectfully submitted:



Mark S. Schlissel
President

Attachment

May 2016

Linda K. Gregerson

Linda K. Gregerson is an internationally-acclaimed poet and scholar of Renaissance literature. She has published six lauded collections of poetry, and her work appears regularly in leading literary publications, including *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Paris Review*, *Granta*, *Poetry*, and many more. She won the prestigious Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award in 2003 for her collection, *Waterborne*, and in 2007 was a finalist for the National Book Award in Poetry for *Magnetic North*. In 1997, with the publication of her collection, *The Woman Who Died in Her Sleep*, she was a finalist for the Lenore Marshall Prize and The Poets' Prize, which recognize the best book of poetry published in the United States during the previous year. She has won the Pushcart Prize for poetry four times from the most honored literary publication in the United States. She has received many awards for her scholarship on John Milton and Edmund Spenser, including the Isabel MacCaffrey Award for the best article in Spenser studies. She contributed to a prize-winning collection of critical studies of Milton. Professor Gregerson's excellence as a poet and scholar has been recognized by numerous other honors and awards. Among these, she has received a Mellon Fellowship at the National Humanities Center, a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship in recognition of her exceptional capacity for productive scholarship and outstanding creative ability in the arts. She has been a visiting member at the Institute for Advanced Study in the School of Social Science at Princeton and received a Creative Arts Residency at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center in Italy. In 2002 she received an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and in 2014 she was elected member of the American Academy. In 2016, she was named as Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, an honorary position that has been held by some of the most distinguished poets in the United States.

Professor Gregerson earned her B.A. (1971) from Oberlin College, followed by an M.A. (1972) in English from Northwestern University and an M.F.A. (1977) from the University of Iowa Writers Workshop. She earned her Ph.D. (1987) in English from Stanford University. Before joining the University of Michigan in 1987 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Literature, she was a member of Herbert Blau's experimental theater group, KRAKEN, poetry editor at *The Atlantic Monthly*, and instructor in literature at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She was promoted to Professor in 2001 and in 2003 was appointed the Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor of English. In 2008, in recognition of her accomplishments and contributions to the University, Professor Gregerson was appointed as the Caroline Walker Bynum Distinguished University Professor of English.

Professor Gregerson's contributions as a teacher are extraordinary. Her contributions to her department have been incalculable. She has been instrumental in making the Creative Writing M.F.A. program one of the best in the world. As a teacher and mentor, her impact on her students has been profound. Her students prize her as an inspirational role model and an extraordinarily supportive mentor who is brilliantly engaging, rigorous and intellectually galvanizing. Her commitment to education and the arts is recognized by the countless invitations to lecture and to participate in the faculties of leading writers conferences around the world.

As a leading American poet, distinguished scholar, exceptional teacher and outstanding mentor, Professor Gregerson brings distinction to the University of Michigan and the Department of English Language and Literature, and is an exceptionally worthy selection as the 2017 Henry Russel Lecturer.