

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Gary Decker, M.A., assistant professor of theatre and drama in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active faculty status on April 30, 2021.

Professor Decker received his B.A. (1972) degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and his M.A. (1980) degree from Eastern Michigan University. Professor Decker joined the University of Michigan faculty as a technical director and lecturer in 1984, and was promoted to assistant professor in 1988. As a scenery and lighting designer, he taught classes in theatre production, the history of décor, and the history of theatre architecture and theatre design. He was a visiting faculty member at the University of the Arts London: Central Saint Martins in London, England and a faculty member and designer for the Classic Theatre Institute in Athens, Greece.

Over the past 45 years, Professor Decker designed scenery and lighting for over 200 professional and university theatre and opera productions, including 75 at the University of Michigan. His scenic design for *Fully Committed* at the Century Theatre earned him *The Detroit Free Press*' Theatre Design Excellence Award in 2002. Professor Decker was twice named Theatre Designer of the Year by *The Detroit News* in 1986 and 1991 and has received two International Illumination Design Awards both in 1994 from the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America. Additionally, he designed scenery and exhibition displays for many Fortune 500 corporations, including AT&T, Lincoln-Mercury, Buick, Oldsmobile, Little Caesar's, and B.F. Goodrich.

Professor Decker was a consultant on numerous theatre construction and restoration projects. He designed interiors and lighting for a number of commercial projects, including On Stage – A Restaurant and the Elwood Grill in Detroit, the Fashion Cafe in Rockefeller Center, and the Arndale Centre in Manchester, UK.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Gary Decker, assistant professor emeritus of theatre and drama.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

June 2021