

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Susan Pratt Walton, Ph.D., lecturer IV in the Residential College in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and lecturer IV in music in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active status on May 31, 2020.

Dr. Walton received her B.A. (1969, Music), M.A. (1974, Southeast Asian Studies), and Ph.D. (1996, Musicology) degrees from the University of Michigan. She was hired as a lecturer in the Residential College (RC) in 1996 and acquired a fractional appointment in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance in 2003. In 2005, Dr. Walton was promoted to lecturer IV in both units. Within the RC, she briefly headed the Arts and Ideas in the Humanities concentration, and taught courses in that program, as well as in the freshman seminar program and the music program. She developed many courses on the arts and cultures of South and Southeast Asia, all of which were cross-listed in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. As director of the University of Michigan Gamelan since 2003 through her retirement, she taught the gamelan courses every year, received internal grants to bring gamelan scholars and performers to the University of Michigan and produced many performances involving multiple student dancers, actors, musicians and puppeteers.

Dr. Walton is a well-known ethnomusicologist with research interests in Javanese gamelan music, gender studies, life history studies, and performance studies. She has been studying, researching, and performing Javanese gamelan music since 1968, much of it in Indonesia, where she conducted ethnomusicological fieldwork on many occasions in projects supported by Fulbright-Hays, Social Science Research Council, Luce Foundation, the Mellon Foundation. She also conducted research on shadow puppet theater in Kerala, India. She has become one of the foremost experts in Javanese solo female singing (*sindhenan*) and has performed with numerous gamelan groups in the US, Indonesia, England, Australia, and New Zealand. Her publications include an award-winning monograph on *sindhenan*, *Mode in Javanese Music* (1987), several articles on the cultural significance of this vocal tradition, including a lengthy article on the history of *sindhenan* published in the *Journal for the Society of Ethnomusicology* (2021), and translations from the Javanese of two major treatises on Javanese gamelan music with extensive introductions and commentaries: “*Sulukan Slendro*” (1984) and “*Wedha Pradangga*” (1987).

The Regents now salute this distinguished instructor and ethnomusicologist by naming **Susan Pratt Walton, lecturer IV emerita in the Residential College and lecturer IV emerita in music.**

Requested by:



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

June 2021