

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## *Regents Communication*

### ACTION REQUEST

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

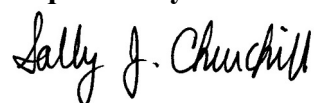
**Naomi A. André, Ph.D.**, professor of Afroamerican and African studies, professor of women's and gender studies, and professor in the Residential College in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of music in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2022.

Professor André received her B.A. degree from Barnard College in 1989, her M.A. degree from Harvard University in 1993, and her Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1996. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1995, and was promoted to associate professor in 2003, and professor in 2019.

Professor André is internationally recognized for her scholarship on opera and race, a musicology field that her research and publications founded. Her first book *Voicing Gender: Castrati, Travesti, and the Second Woman in Early Nineteenth-Century Italian Opera* (2006) and early articles established musicological expertise on topics ranging from Schoenberg, Verdi, Meyerbeer, and teaching opera in prisons. *Black Opera: History, Power, Engagement* (2018) won multiple awards by tracing hitherto unrecognized Black contributions to the genre, identified a “shadow culture” that was contemporaneous with 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century elite opera, and highlighted the increasing popularity of opera as a means of writing Black experiences into history on both sides of the Atlantic up to the present. Along with the co-edited collections *Blackness in Opera* (2012) and *African Performance Arts and Political Acts* (2021), she has charted new territory, interdisciplinary and transnational, by opening up music scholarship to intersectional approaches that engage gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, socioeconomic access, and nation in the United States, Europe, and on the African continent. Her collaborative interventions have played a key role in establishing communities of scholars across music and the humanities. She has served on various departmental committees in the Residential College, WGS, and DAAS, serving as the RC's associate director from 2015-2020 and 2021-2022. She has regularly mentored those in graduate school and at early stages in their careers. Professor André has promoted diversity through recruitment efforts, and she has designed co-curricular DEI events along with DEI education and training opportunities for students, faculty, and staff. In demand as an academic with public-facing scholarship, she has worked with every major opera house in the U.S. along with many regional companies. The Seattle Opera invited her to be their inaugural Scholar in Residence from 2019-2023. She is also a founding member of the Black Opera Research Network.

The Regents now salute this distinguished researcher and teacher by naming **Naomi Andre, professor emerita of Afroamerican and African studies, professor emerita of women's and gender studies, and professor emerita in the Residential College.**

**Requested by:**



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

**July 2022**