

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

### *Regents Communication*

#### **ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

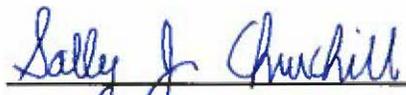
**Lester P. Monts, Ph.D.**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of music in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2019.

Professor Monts received his B.A. degree from the Arkansas Polytechnic College (now Arkansas Tech University) in 1970, his M.M. degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1972, and Ph.D. degree from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in 1980. He began his academic career as an assistant professor of trumpet at Edinboro State University from 1972-75. Professor Monts joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor of music in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance and vice provost for academic and multicultural affairs in the Office of the Provost in 1993. He served as associate provost of academic and multicultural affairs from 1997-2000 and senior vice provost for academic affairs from 2001-14. Professor Monts also served as the senior counselor to the president for the arts, diversity, and undergraduate affairs. He was appointed director of the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments from 2016-19.

Nationally, Professor Monts served as chair of the College Board's Board of Trustees. He also served on the College Board's Academic Assembly Council as a Midwestern regional representative and chair. He was a senior consultant to the Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), which administered more than 450 Confucius Institutes located in colleges and universities around the world. Professor Monts focused his scholarly research on the musical and cultural systems among the Vai people of Liberia and was regarded as one of the world's leading scholars on music and culture in the Guinea Coast region of West Africa. His major professors and mentors include Alan Kagan (University of Minnesota), Johannes Riedel (University of Minnesota), J.H. Kwabena Nketia (University of Ghana), and Harold R. Johnson (University of Michigan). Professor Monts' career as an artist, scholar, teacher, and an accomplished administrator deeply benefitted our students and the entire university community.

The Regents now salute this distinguished artist and teacher by naming **Lester P. Monts, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of music.**

**Requested by:**



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

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**September 2019**