

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
*Regents Communication*

Adopted by the Regents  
September 18, 2008

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

**Janice G. Bernsten, Ph.D.**, associate professor of linguistics in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Michigan-Flint, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2008.

Professor Bernsten received her B.A. degree from Whitman College in 1968, her M.A. degree from the University of Illinois in 1973, and her Ph.D. degree from Michigan State University in 1990. She joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty in 1990 as a visiting assistant professor, and was promoted to assistant professor in 1991 and associate professor in 1997.

Professor Bernsten was internationally known for her research on sociolinguistics, the study of language and society. Her work on African languages appeared in some of the top journals in the field, including the *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* and *World Englishes*. More recently, she examined gender and discourse issues at auto plants in the mid-Michigan region and in California; the resultant work was part of a collection published by the Oxford University Press. Within the department, she instituted several key pedagogical changes in the curriculum, taught an impressive range of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and was a perennial favorite with students.

Professor Bernsten served on and chaired numerous departmental, college, and university-wide committees. She was instrumental in helping the linguistics program on the Flint campus grow to its current strength and also contributed her energy and expertise to the campus's International and Global Studies Program.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and scholar for her dedicated service by naming **Janice G. Bernsten associate professor emerita of linguistics**.

**Requested by:**



Sally J. Churchill

Vice President and Secretary of the University

October 2008