

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

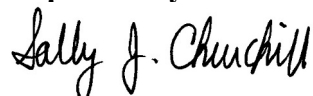
Helen Fox, Ed.D., lecturer IV in the Residential College of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the Sweetland Center for Writing, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2013.

Dr. Fox received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California, Berkley in 1964, followed by her M.Ed. and Ed.D. degrees from the Center for International Education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1988 and 1991, respectively. Upon completion of her doctorate, Dr. Fox began working at the University of Michigan as a writing instructor in the (then) English Composition Board (now Sweetland Writing Center). In 1993, Dr. Fox was hired at the Residential College (RC) to teach the course International Grassroots Development in addition to her current work. By 2006, when Dr. Fox was promoted to Lecturer IV, two-thirds of her courses were taught in the RC. That year, Dr. Fox became program head of the Social Theory and Practice Concentration in the RC, which she directed through 2012.

Dr. Fox's leadership in the RC Social Science program coincided with, and significantly contributed to, several important curricular innovations and the decision to change its name to the current Social Theory and Practice (STP) program. Dr. Fox also played a central role in creating and leading the RC's Peace and Social Justice minor where she served as the minor's advisor through retirement. Dr. Fox demonstrated equally strong dedication to teaching and service around such complex problems as racism and race relations, nonviolence, and social justice writ large. In addition to teaching International Grassroots Development, Dr. Fox taught the courses Nonviolence in Action, Human Rights Activism, and Unteaching Racism. Dr. Fox's courses consistently aligned with the core principles of her teaching philosophy: independent thought and problem-posing rather than lecturing; the incorporation of outside-the-classroom, experiential learning; and a determination to connect how the social and political world works to ethical questions about how it ought to work and to practical questions on how to transform good intentions into real improvements. Dr. Fox published regularly and participated in workshops and events across the university and at national and international conferences. Her academic books include *Listening to the World: Cultural Issues in Academic Writing* (1994), *When Race Breaks Out: Conversations on Race and Racism in College Classrooms* (2001), *Their Highest Vocation: Social Justice and the Millennial Generation* (2012), and *Fractured: Race and Racism in "Post-Racial" American Life* (2015).

The Regents now salute this noted educator and scholar by naming **Helen Fox, lecturer IV emerita in the Residential College**.

Requested by:



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

October 2021