

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Adopted by the Regents  
December 13, 2012

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Diane E. Larsen-Freeman, Ph.D.**, professor of education in the School of Education, research scientist, English Language Institute and professor of linguistics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2012.

Professor Larsen-Freeman received her B.A. degree from the State University of New York at Oswego in 1967, and her A.M. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan in 1973 and 1975, respectively. From 1987-2002, she was a faculty member at the School for International Training in Vermont. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as director of the English Language Institute and professor of education in 2002, and was appointed professor of linguistics in 2003 and research scientist in 2008.

Professor Larsen-Freeman is one of the world's best-known applied linguists, recognized for her important work in second language acquisition, her capacity to integrate advances in linguistic understanding with principles of foreign language teaching, and her incorporation of complex systems into theories of language learning. Among the most influential of her publications are *The Grammar Book: An ESL/EFL Teacher's Course* (1983), *Techniques and Principles in Language Teaching* (1986), and *An Introduction to Second Language Acquisition Research* (1991). Her ground-breaking 1997 article in *Applied Linguistics*, on the similarities between complexity science and second language acquisition, became the basis for the book *Complex Systems and Applied Linguistics* (2008), coauthored with Lynne Cameron.

Professor Larsen-Freeman was editor of *Language Learning* and served on the executive board of the American Association of Applied Linguistics. Because of her reputation, her commanding stage presence, and her ability to convey complex ideas with clarity and conviction, Professor Larsen-Freeman is regularly invited to give keynote presentations at national and international conferences. Among her many honors are the 2009 Kenneth W. Mildener Prize from the Modern Language Association and the 2011 Distinguished Scholarship and Service Award from the American Association of Applied Linguistics.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Diane E. Larsen-Freeman professor emerita of education, professor emerita of linguistics, and research scientist emerita.**

**Requested by:**



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2012