

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Esperanza Ramirez-Christensen, Ph.D., professor of Japanese literature in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2012.

Professor Ramirez-Christensen received her B.A. degree from the University of the Philippines in 1966, her M.A. degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 1973, and her Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1983. From 1983-87, she was a faculty member at Smith College. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1987, and was promoted to associate professor in 1992, and professor in 2003.

Professor Ramirez-Christensen is a leading authority on pre-modern Japanese literature, with special expertise in the genre of *renga*, or collaborative verse, which is a forerunner of haiku. She was highly regarded as both a translator and a literary critic. She authored numerous publications and monographs, including *Heart's Flower: The Life and Poetry of Shinkei* (1994), the award-winning translation *Murmured Conversations: A Treatise on Poetry and Buddhism by the Poet-Monk Shinkei* (2008), and *Emptiness and Temporality: Buddhism and Medieval Japanese Poetics* (2008). She co-edited *The Father-Daughter Plot: Japanese Literary Women and the Law of the Father* (2001). Professor Ramirez-Christensen was a dedicated teacher of generations of undergraduate and graduate students, and was an active faculty associate of the Center for Japanese Studies.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Esperanza Ramirez-Christensen professor emerita of Japanese literature**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2012