

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

Adopted by the
Regents
December 19, 2013

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Lauren D. Friesen, Ph.D., David M. French Professor and professor of theatre and dance in the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Michigan-Flint, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2013.

Professor Friesen received his B.A. degree from Bethel College in 1967, his M.A. degree from the Pacific School of Religion, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 1985. He joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as an assistant professor in 1997, and was promoted to associate professor in 2000, and professor in 2004. He was named David M. French Professor in 2007.

Professor Friesen is a gifted playwright, talented director of theatre, and exceptional teacher. His scholarly work explored ethics and spirituality in drama, religion and drama, and playwrights with spiritual or religious focus. His plays include *King David* (1991), *Hawkfeather* (1994), *Platte River Trilogy* (1996), *Wildflowers* (1999), and *Rothko* (2000). More recently, he completed translations of Hermann Sudermann's *The Storm Komrade Sokrates* (2003) and Carlo Ross' *But Stones Can't Speak* (2011). He also edited countless plays for publication and served as editor of the annual publication *Best Student 1-Acts*, a compilation of plays written by students and performed as part of the American College Theatre Festival. His leadership, as chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance, was instrumental in the design and implementation of undergraduate and graduate degree programs in American theatre, art administration, dance, and theatre and technology. Professor Friesen generously shared his expertise with the academic community as the national vice-chair (1996-99) and chair (1999-2002) for the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival National Playwriting Committee. He received the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival's Gold Medallion for Excellence in Theatre in 1998.

The Regents now salute this outstanding scholar and educator by naming **Lauren D. Friesen David M. French Professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of theatre and dance.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2013