

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

### *Regents Communication*

#### ACTION REQUEST

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

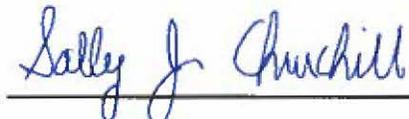
**Arlene W. Saxonhouse, Ph.D.**, Caroline Robbins Collegiate Professor of Political Science and Women's Studies and professor of political science and women's studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2019.

Arlene W. Saxonhouse received her B.A. degree from Oberlin College in 1965 and her M. Phil. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University in 1970 and 1972, respectively. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1972, and was promoted to associate professor in 1978, and professor in 1984. She served as chair of the Department of Political Science from 1990-93. She also had faculty affiliations with the Department of Women's Studies and the Department of Classical Studies.

Professor Saxonhouse published widely in the area of classical and early political thought and women in the history of political thought. She made path-breaking contributions to the study of women in works of political theory, among other things by reading texts with an eye to the question of how female characters find their political voice. She was known for interpretive innovation in the study of ancient political thought and made important interpretive and methodological breakthroughs by her attention to the significance of the narrative form of Platonic dialogues. In a powerful reading of the *Republic*, she shows that Leo Strauss's elitist Plato is a caricature and that interpreters' focus on the story of the cave—a space of propaganda—sells Socrates short. Professor Saxonhouse gives us a democratic Socrates who speaks to our time by modeling what it takes to dwell with the ambiguity of democratic judgment and diversity of democratic public life. Professor Saxonhouse received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities (1988-89 and 2002-03) and the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award from the University of Michigan (1998). She was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1994. Professor Saxonhouse also held fellowships at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University (1995-96, 1999-2000, and 2011-12) and at the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University (2002-03).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Arlene W. Saxonhouse, professor emerita of political science and women's studies**.

**Requested by:**



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**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**December 2019**