

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Paul Conway, Ph.D., associate professor of information in the School of Information, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2020.

Professor Conway received his B.A. (1975) degree from Indiana University and his M.A. (1980) and Ph.D. (1991) degrees from the University of Michigan. Professor Conway joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 2006. Prior to joining the faculty, Professor Conway held leadership positions in several academic libraries, including director of Information Technology Services at Duke University and head of the Preservation Department at Yale University.

Professor Conway was known for his expertise in the preservation of cultural materials, particularly in the area of digitization. He was involved in standards setting activities around digitization, and was one of the first to research their efficacy. His research explored the quality assessment in digital surrogates and digitization error and its consequences in the HathiTrust. More recently, in two separate projects, his scholarship focused on how to best digitize and make our audio legacy accessible. In the first, he worked with Ann Arbor's Ark music venue organizing, preserving, and digitizing recorded sound music from several decades. The second project was with the Leo Sarkisian Collection "Music Time in Africa" broadcast on Voice of America. The Sarkisian collection contains unique recordings documenting sub-Saharan African music traditions that are endangered, or now lost. The collection amounts to over 10,000 audio reels, 45 rpm singles, and cassette tapes. In addition to working with Voice of America on the Sarkisian Collection, Professor Conway has collaborated with ethnomusicologists, anthropologists, and copyright specialists to ensure that this invaluable collection of African music was described in a culturally appropriate manner and made available in a way that respects the rights of the musicians. Finally, Professor Conway used both of these projects as engaged learning projects, and scores of University of Michigan School of Information graduate students have organized, prepared, digitized, and preserved the materials through classes or co-curricular internships. Professor Conway turned these projects into learning spaces in which to train a new generation of preservationists. His greatest legacy may be helping to form a new generation of preservationists who can approach preservation problems with the same innovative and collaborative spirit that he embodied.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Paul Conway, associate professor emeritus of information**.

Requested by:



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

December 2020