

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Nancy K. Florida, Ph.D.**, professor of Indonesian languages and literatures in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2020.

Professor Florida received her B.A. (1975) degree from Connecticut College and her M.A. (1982) and Ph.D. (1990) degrees from Cornell University. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as a lecturer in 1987 and was appointed as an instructor in 1989. She was promoted to assistant professor in 1990, associate professor in 1995, and professor in 2003.

Over the course of her long career at the University of Michigan, Professor Florida gained international renown as a scholar of Indonesian and Javanese literature. Her first book, *Writing the Past, Inscribing the Future: History as Prophecy in Colonial Java* (1995) was awarded the Harry J. Benda Prize (1997), the Association of Asian Studies' prize for the best new book on Southeast Asia. She was also highly respected for her three-volume *Javanese Literature in Surakarta Manuscripts* (1993, 2000, and 2012). Her contributions to the field of Indonesian Studies earned her numerous awards from the government of Indonesia, including a royal title in 1999. Professor Florida provided essential service to her department and to the university over the course of her career, serving as both associate chair and chair of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and as director of both the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and the Islamic Studies Program. She also was appointed as a senior fellow of the Michigan Society of Fellows. Her students have gone on to become award-winning scholars at leading universities around the world. She was a generous mentor to a generation of scholars of Southeast Asia.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Nancy K. Florida, professor emerita of Indonesian languages and literatures**.

**Requested by:**



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

**December 2020**