

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Helene Neu, M.A.**, lecturer IV in French and director of the Elementary French Program in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2013.

Neu received her B.A. (1970) and M.A. (1972) degrees from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as a lecturer I in 1976, and was promoted to senior lecturer in 1982, lecturer III in 1992, and lecturer IV in 2005. In recognition of her excellence in teaching and course coordination, and her contributions to curricular development, she was named a Regents' Lecturer in 1988.

During her years at the University of Michigan, Neu taught each of the courses within the French language program as well as the undergraduate and graduate courses in teaching and learning Romance languages. She developed a very popular course in French phonetics that gave students the opportunity to apply theory to practice, improve their own pronunciation, and learn how to teach others. As coordinator of first-year French, then as director of the elementary French program, she oversaw the professional development of many graduate students and lecturers as teachers. Neu served on many committees, including the Provost's Task Force on Online Teaching Evaluations, which resulted in the University's move away from paper to online evaluations. Helene Neu was a dedicated and prominent teacher, an outstanding language director and an excellent colleague who led the transition from a grammar- and drill-based language program to one that is built around development of communicative skills, group interaction, critical thinking, and a process approach to writing. Neu co-authored *Parle-moi un peu! Information Gap Activities for Beginning French Classes* (1997) and an online series of videos to teach French pronunciation. She received LSA's Matthews Underclass Teaching Award in 1988 and LSA's Excellence in Education Award in 1991.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Helene Neu, lecturer IV emerita in French**.

**Requested by:**



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

**December 2020**