

ITEM 139-2001-R0508

**Title of Professor Emeritus of Geography: Katherine J. Hansen; MSU-Bozeman**

**THAT:**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Katherine J. Hansen from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for her service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

**EXPLANATION:**

Dr. Katherine J. Hansen received her Associate of Arts in General Studies from San Joaquin Delta Junior College in 1969, her Bachelor of Arts in Analysis and Conservation of Ecosystems from University of California, Los Angeles in 1971, her Master of Arts in Geography from Portland State University in 1974, and her Ph.D. in Geography in 1981. She taught at Utah State University from 1981 to 1983, and has taught at Montana State University since the fall of 1983. She has served the Earth Sciences Department, Montana State University Bozeman and the State of Montana for 24 years as an award winning teacher, researcher and public servant.

Dr. Hansen was awarded the Outstanding Woman Teacher Award in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at Utah State University and the prestigious Burlington Northern Teaching Achievement Award by Montana State University-Bozeman. She taught 13 different courses in physical geography and biogeography at MSU. She has taught courses at the introductory, upper-division, and graduate level throughout her career. Kathy has been an excellent advisor for over 400 undergraduate students 25 graduate students and served on 40 graduate committees.

Dr. Hansen is a national leader in biogeography and mountain geography. She has studied the interaction between snow, plants, animals, and people. Her studies and the studies of students under her direction have focused on changes in mountain environments, caused by grazing, fire suppression, forestry, subdivision placement, and recreation primarily in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Her work with scientists at the U.S. Forest Service National Avalanche Center on the spatial variability of snow instability is nearing completion. She has recently begun to study the relationship between the economics of hunting and the conservation of habitats in Montana as well as Africa. She was instrumental in the creation of the Center for High Elevation Studies at Montana State University (now the Big Sky Institute). She has received grants from the National

Science Foundation as well as from foundations such as the Pew Charitable Trusts. She has published over 50 peer reviewed papers, books and scholarly papers as well as 95 presentations at meetings. She received a Career Achievement Award from the Association of American Geographers in 2006. Dr. Hansen plans to continue to work with selected graduate students after her retirement and plans to continue to publish papers in physical geography, biogeography, mountain ecology, the spatial variability of snow strength, and the relationship between hunting and conservation. She will continue to be a great asset to Montana State University and to the state of Montana after her retirement.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Katherine J. Hansen the rank of Professor Emeritus of Geography at Montana State University, and wishes her well for many years in the future.