

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Samuel B. Mukasa, Ph.D., Eric J. Essene Collegiate Professor of Geological Sciences and professor of geological sciences in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2010.

Professor Mukasa received his B.Sc. degree from the University of New Hampshire in 1977, his M.Sc. degree from The Ohio State University in 1980, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1984. From 1985-89 he was an assistant professor at the University of Florida. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1989, was granted tenure in 1992, was promoted to professor in 1999, and was appointed Eric J. Essene Collegiate Professor of Geological Sciences in 2008.

Professor Mukasa's research focused on the origin and evolution of the earth's mantle and the role played by magmatism and the recycling of oceanic lithosphere (i.e., subduction). He used radiogenic isotopes as a primary tool to identify and understand chemical heterogeneities in the mantle, coupled with extensive field studies of volcanic and plutonic provinces across the world. He dated the age of rocks using U/Pb and $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ geochronology, which he used to constrain the rates at which juvenile and mature continental crust forms at subduction zones. Professor Mukasa's research took him to Antarctica 9 times (and to the South Pole 4 times), to Bulgaria, Chile, China, France, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, and across the U.S. He published over 65 research papers, served on numerous scientific panels, and began a two-year term as president of the Geochemical Society in 2009.

Professor Mukasa chaired the Department of Geological Sciences from 2007 until his retirement. He taught introductory and upper-level undergraduate courses, and a popular graduate course in isotope geochemistry. He also served for five years on the University's STRIDE ("Strategies and Tactics for Recruiting to Improve Diversity and Excellence") Committee, and lectured nationally and internationally to promote diversity in higher education.

The Regents salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Samuel B. Mukasa professor emeritus of geological sciences**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

March 2011