

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents

May 17, 2007

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Richard I. Ford, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, professor of anthropology, professor of botany, and curator of ethnology, Museum of Anthropology, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and faculty associate, Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2007.

Professor Ford received his B.A. degree from Oberlin College in 1963 and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan in 1965 and 1968, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1969 as an assistant professor of anthropology and curator of ethnology. He was promoted to associate professor of anthropology and appointed associate professor of botany in 1972, and was promoted to professor of anthropology and professor of botany in 1977. He was honored with the Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship in 1993. He also served as assistant director (1972-75) and director (1975-83 and 2002-05) of the Museum of Anthropology, chair of the Department of Anthropology (1989-96), and associate dean for research and computing in the College of LS&A (1987-89).

As one of the world's preeminent ethnobotanists, Professor Ford has made immense contributions to our understanding of the ways in which native peoples of North America managed and utilized plants as foods, medicines, and cultural symbols. Over the years he has produced a remarkable corpus of studies documenting patterns of plant use by prehistoric Native Americans, and he published a series of landmark papers that have had a lasting impact on the practice of ethnobotany. Professor Ford is an outstanding teacher and mentor who taught a wide range of courses, including a capstone seminar for undergraduate honors students. His many honors include election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1996, and selection by the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts to deliver the Distinguished Senior Faculty Lecture for 2004-05.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Richard I. Ford, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus, professor emeritus of anthropology, professor emeritus of botany, and curator emeritus of ethnology.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2007