

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
*Regents Communication*

Adopted by the Regents  
May 15, 2008

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Charles Loring Brace, Ph.D.**, professor of anthropology and curator, Museum of Anthropology, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2008.

Professor Brace received his B.A. degree from Williams College in 1952, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University in 1958 and 1962, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor of anthropology and curator, Museum of Anthropology in 1967, and was promoted to professor in 1971.

Professor Brace is a leading scholar in biological anthropology, with research interests spanning from our species' earliest evolution through modern scientific understandings of race. Throughout his career, and in more than 190 academic publications, he has been a consistent advocate for the application of a Darwinian perspective to major questions in biological anthropology. He championed the view that the Neanderthals are ancestral to modern humans, and pioneered the use of quantitative metric data to investigate human evolutionary relationships, with particular interest in understanding how changes in culture have affected human anatomy over the past two million years. Professor Brace has been a strong and important voice in critiquing and challenging simplistic biological notions of race, most recently in his 2005 book, *Race is a Four-Letter Word*, and more generally, through his publications in the popular media and through public debates with proponents of creationism and intelligent design.

A distinguished and highly-regarded teacher and mentor in both large undergraduate lecture classes and small graduate seminars, Professor Brace has supervised some 20 doctoral dissertations and served on numerous graduate committees. In 2006, he was honored by the American Association of Physical Anthropologists with its prestigious Charles Darwin Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Charles Loring Brace professor emeritus of anthropology and curator emeritus**.

**Requested by:**



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2008