

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## *Regents Communication*

**Adopted by the Regents  
December 13, 2012**

### **ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Stephen Kaplan, Ph.D.**, professor of psychology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of electrical engineering and computer science in the College of Engineering, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2012.

Professor Kaplan received his A.B. degree from Oberlin College in 1957 and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan in 1962. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor of psychology in 1962, and was promoted to associate professor in 1966 and professor in 1971. He was appointed professor of electrical engineering and computer science in 1971.

Professor Kaplan has made fundamental contributions to the development and vitality of environmental psychology and the process of positive environmental change. His influential work on attention restoration theory and the Reasonable Person Model have spawned far-reaching research programs, yielding an understanding of the important ways in which the environment can respond to the informational and emotional needs of human functioning in an uncertain world. His books – *Humanscape*, *Cognition and Environment*, *The Experience of Nature*, and *With People in Mind* – are widely used and cited, as are many of his 120 other publications that have been praised for their clarity and applicability.

The conceptual clarity and rigor of Professor Kaplan's theoretical contributions, combined with a commitment to application, have also contributed to his teaching effectiveness. Throughout his 50 years of teaching, students have credited Professor Kaplan with changing their way of thinking by helping them see the big picture. His service on 87 doctoral committees includes chairing or co-chairing 38 dissertations in such diverse disciplines as psychology, computer science, engineering, natural resources, geography, architecture, and nursing. Professor Kaplan received the University of Michigan Distinguished Service Award in 1965, and the Career Award from the Environmental Design Research Association in 1992.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Stephen Kaplan professor emeritus of psychology and professor emeritus of electrical engineering and computer science**.

**Requested by:**



**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**December 2012**