

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

Item for Information

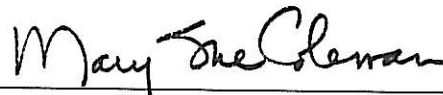
Received by the Regents  
July 19, 2007

**Subject:** Henry Russel Lecturer for 2008

I am pleased to inform you that the Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Janet A. Weiss, selected **Kent V. Flannery**, James B. Griffin Distinguished University Professor of Anthropological Archaeology, Professor of Anthropology, and Curator, Museum of Anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, as the Henry Russel Lecturer for 2008. The Russel Lecture will be delivered by Professor Flannery on March 11, 2008.

The Henry Russel Lectureship is the highest honor that the University bestows upon a senior member of its faculty. A description of the contributions of this extraordinary faculty member is attached.

Respectfully submitted:



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Mary Sue Coleman  
President

July 2007

Attachment

## **Kent V. Flannery**

Kent V. Flannery is a leading theorist and one of the most preeminent archaeologists of our time. His scholarly breadth and influence in archaeological method, theory, and model-building have had an international impact. In addition to his theoretical contributions, he is an active fieldworker who has conducted pioneering excavations in Iran, Mexico, Guatemala, and Peru. Working with firsthand information from so many different regions has given him a strong empirical basis from which to make cross-cultural comparisons and address major questions about the human past.

Professor Flannery has worked on early stages in the emergence of agriculture and animal domestication in both the New and Old World. His concept of the "broad spectrum revolution" in plant and animal use has received increasing support from younger researchers in the field. Flannery's work, which includes recovery of the oldest domestic gourds, squash, beans, and maize ever directly radiocarbon dated, has shed light on the transition from a mobile hunting-gathering society to sedentary farming communities. He has also explored questions of social evolution, involving the forms that early leadership took as agricultural societies grew and the way hereditary elites emerged. He has combined a background in zoology and anthropology to propose processes of social and cultural change that take ecology, agent-based change, ritual, ideology, and other factors into account.

Professor Flannery received his B.A. in 1954, his M.A. in 1961, and Ph.D. in 1964, all in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. After serving for two years as Associate Curator in the Smithsonian Office of Anthropology, Professor Flannery joined the University of Michigan in 1967 as a faculty member in the Department of Anthropology and Curator of the University's Museum of Anthropology. He became an Associate Professor in 1969 and Professor in 1972. In 1985 he became the James Bennett Griffin Distinguished University Professor of Anthropological Archaeology, also continuing in his role as Curator of the Museum of Anthropology.

Professor Flannery is noted as a conscientious teacher and mentor who has created new courses and made major contributions to the development of the Anthropology Department. As a result of his research, he has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society, and has been awarded the A. V. Kidder Medal for American Archaeology.

It seems fitting that Professor Flannery, who in 1972 received the Henry Russel Award given to promising young scholars at the University of Michigan, should receive the Henry Russel Lectureship for what he has accomplished since. His influence and scholarly contributions, coupled with his accomplishments as teacher and mentor, make him an exceptionally worthy selection as the 2007 Henry Russel Lecturer.