THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir


Mr. Dunnigan received his B.A. (1971) and M.A. (1973) degrees from the University of Michigan and his M.A. (1979) from the Cooperstown Graduate Programs at the State University of New York at Oneonta. He was the managing director of Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. from 1974-79 and the executive director of the Old Fort Niagara Association, Inc. from 1979-1996. He joined the staff of the Clements Library in 1996 as the curator of maps and head of research & publications in 1996, served as the interim director of the library from July 2007-November 2008, and was appointed the associate director of the library in July 2010.

Mr. Dunnigan was a respected authority in the fields of early American cartography, the history of Michigan, and early American military history. His publications include dozens of scholarly articles, essays, encyclopedia entries, chapters, and monographs, as well as such books as Frontier Metropolis: Picturing Early Detroit, 1701-1838 (2001), A Picturesque Situation: Mackinac Before Photography, 1615-1860 (2008), and The Pioneer Americanists: Early Collectors, Dealers, and Bibliographers (2017). He served as a consultant at Fort Ticonderoga, Fort George, Fort Loudon State Historic Site, and Fort Michilimackinac, and as a board member for the Wayne State University Press, the Michigan Commission on the Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, and the American Battlefield Protection Program of the United States Department of the Interior, among others. From 1980-96, he was an adjunct assistant professor of anthropology at the State University of New York at Buffalo. At the Clements Library, he delivered hundreds of presentations to U-M classes, and he lectured on American history topics to audiences throughout the nation. He appeared frequently as a historical expert on television and radio broadcasts. During his Clements Library tenure, he edited the library’s The Quarto serial for two decades, managed a robust publishing program of books and pamphlets on early American history, and mentored dozens of U-M students and Clements Library staff.

The Regents now salute this distinguished librarian and scholar for his dedicated service by naming Brian Leigh Dunnigan, curator emeritus of maps, William L. Clements Library.

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

July 2019