THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Julian P. Adams, Ph.D., professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, and professor of ecology and evolutionary biology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2010.

Professor Adams received his B.Sc. degree from the University College of North Wales in Bangor, United Kingdom in 1965, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Davis in 1969. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in what is now the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology as an assistant professor in 1970, and was promoted to associate professor in 1975 and professor in 1984. He was appointed professor of ecology and evolutionary biology in 2005.

Professor Adams’ research focused on genetics and evolutionary biology, specifically the areas of microbial evolution and human population genetics. He worked at the intersection of molecular biology and evolutionary biology, seeking to explain evolutionary changes in biochemical, molecular and physiological terms. His expertise in this area led to his service as chair of the NIH Genetics Study Section and chair of the Gordon Conference on Microbial Population Biology. He was a resident fellow at the Rockefeller Institute in Bellagio, Italy, and a senior fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows. His awards include an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, a Fulbright Scholarship, a U.S. State Department Jefferson Fellowship, and a NATO Fellowship.

While he taught a variety of courses in genetics and biology throughout his career, most recently Professor Adams found great satisfaction in teaching a course for non-science majors in genetics and public policy. Within the Department of Biology, he served as associate chair from 1985–89 and chair from 1996–2001. In 2001, when the biology department was reorganized, he became one of the founding faculty members of the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology.

The Regents now salute this distinguished educator and researcher for his dedicated service by naming Julian P. Adams professor emeritus of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, and professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology.

Requested by:

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

May 2010