

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Adopted by the Regents
May 17, 2012

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

John D. Speth, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, professor of anthropology, and curator of North American Archaeology, Museum of Anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2012.


Professor Speth received his B.A. degree from the University of New Mexico in 1965, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan in 1966 and 1971, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor and assistant curator in 1976, and was promoted to associate professor and associate curator in 1980, and professor and curator in 1985.

Professor Speth's research focused on past and present hunters and gatherers, the evolution of human diet, subsistence, food processing technologies, zooarchaeology, hunting strategies, modern human origins, Neanderthals, Paleoindians, and the Plains-Pueblo interaction. In the southwestern United States, his research involved the forager-farmer interaction in the late prehistoric. In Israel, Professor Speth has been analyzing the role of large mammal hunting in the adaptations of Near Eastern Neanderthals toward the end of the Middle Paleolithic. He has also studied big game hunting, exploring the reasons why foragers invested a lot of time and effort into hunting these large animals. Specifically, he has been studying the flip side of hunting high protein game, looking at the costs and the negative effects of large intakes of protein.

Professor Speth was a highly-regarded teacher who taught undergraduate and graduate archaeology courses. He received numerous honors, including the Horace H. Rackham Faculty Recognition Award (1989, 1990, 1997, 1998), the LSA Excellence in Education Award (1992, 1994, 1996, 1999) and appointment to a Thurnau Professorship (1995). He has served on numerous departmental committees, was director of the Museum of Anthropology, and served on the editorial board for the *Annual Review of Anthropology*, the executive board of the Society for Ethnobiology, and the executive committee of the Society for American Archaeology.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **John D. Speth Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus, professor emeritus of anthropology, and curator emeritus.**

Requested by:



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

May 2012