

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**Adopted by the  
Regents  
May 15, 2014**

## ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**William L. Fink, Ph.D.**, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and curator, Museum of Zoology, in the College of Literature, Science, & the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2014.

Professor Fink received his B.S. degree from the University of Miami in 1967, his M.S. degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1969, and his Ph.D. degree from George Washington University in 1976. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor and assistant curator in 1982, and was promoted to associate professor and associate curator in 1987, and professor and curator in 1996. He served as director of the Museum of Zoology from 2005-11.

Professor Fink is a leading authority on the biology and systematics of fish, with special expertise in Neotropical species, higher classification, and the theory of systematics and biogeography. His research explored the phylogenetics of piranhas, including the evolution of growth patterns and trophic specializations, and the historical biogeography of the group. Professor Fink also studied the interrelationships of ostariophysan fish. His phylogenetic analyses emphasized non-traditional characters including ontogenetic trajectories and morphometrics. He was a frequent invited speaker, authored numerous articles in the leading scholarly publications, and coauthored the seminal book entitled *Geometric Morphometrics for Biologists: A Primer* (2004). A gifted teacher and dedicated mentor, Professor Fink taught comparative anatomy courses with a special emphasis on evolutionary relationships to a generation of students. He received the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts' Excellence in Education Award in 1999.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **William L. Fink professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology and curator emeritus.**

**Requested by:**



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

**May 2014**