

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**


**Rudi P. Lindner, Ph.D.**, professor of astronomy and professor of history in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2017.

Professor Lindner received his A.B. (1965) degree from Harvard College, his M.A. (1967) degree from the University of Wisconsin, and his Ph.D. (1976) degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1977, and was promoted to associate professor in 1983, and professor in 1992.

Professor Lindner's research focused on medieval Eurasian history and the history of modern astrophysics and cosmology. He wrote three books and numerous articles on a wide array of topics, including the history of medieval Europe, medieval and modern historiography, the economic and social history of steppe nomads, early Ottoman history, medieval Anatolia, Islamic monetary history, the history of printing in the Near East, the history of relativistic cosmology, and the development of astrophysics between the wars. Professor Lindner's work changed the ways in which scholars viewed many of these areas; in particular, he created statistical methods of analyzing pastoral activities over generations and he did pioneering work on the changing fortunes of the theories of general relativity. He taught the medieval Europe survey course which he built from 70 to 350 students as well as courses on Byzantine history, early Ottoman history, Mongol history, comparative medieval history, medieval studies and anthropology, the history of astrophysics, the modern history of cosmology, and a variety of seminars reflecting his research interests. Professor Lindner won prestigious fellowships from several leading organizations, including the American Council of Learned Societies, the Fulbright-Hayes Program, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Social Science Research Council. He held visiting professorships in Hungary, Israel, and Italy as well as lectureships across Europe, the Near East, and the United States.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Rudi P. Lindner, professor emeritus of astronomy and professor emeritus of history**.

**Requested by:**



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

May 2017