

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the
Regents

December 18, 2014

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

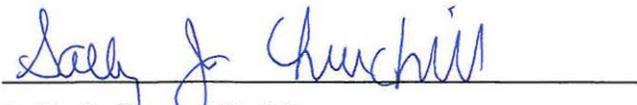
Philip D. Gingerich, Ph.D., professor of earth and environmental sciences, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, professor of anthropology, and curator, Museum of Paleontology, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2014.

Professor Gingerich received his A.B. degree from Princeton University in 1968 and his M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University in 1972 and 1974, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor and assistant curator in 1974, and was promoted to associate professor and associate curator in 1979, and professor and curator in 1983. Professor Gingerich served as director of the Museum of Paleontology from 1981-87 and 1989-2011.

Professor Gingerich's research involved high-resolution biostratigraphy and evolution of mammals across the Paleocene-Eocene epoch boundary, leading to recognition of the global nature of Paleocene-Eocene greenhouse warming and its profound effect on evolution; documentation of the evolution of whales from land to sea during the Eocene epoch based on discovery of fossil skeletons of transitional forms; and quantification and standardization of rates showing that evolution is much faster than previously recognized. He supervised the doctoral research of 13 students and provided a generation of students with hands-on field training through expeditions to Wyoming, Egypt, and Pakistan. Professor Gingerich was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2001, Forschungspreisträger of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in 2005, and member of the American Philosophical Society in 2010.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Philip D. Gingerich professor emeritus of earth and environmental sciences, professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology, professor emeritus of anthropology, and curator emeritus.**

Requested by:



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

December 2014