

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**  
**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**John F. Riebesell, Ph.D.**, associate professor of biology in the UM-Dearborn College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters (CASL), retired from active faculty status on April 30, 2018.

Professor Riebesell received his B.A. (1970) and M.S. (1971) degrees from the State University of New York at Albany and his Ph.D. (1975) degree from the University of Chicago. He joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn faculty as an assistant professor in 1977, and was promoted to associate professor in 1983.

Professor Riebesell's teaching comprised introductory, intermediate, and advanced courses in biology and environmental sciences. His students admired his depth of knowledge, well-organized lectures, and engaging teaching style. He introduced three new courses to the curriculum: Population Genetics and Evolution, Introduction to Organismal and Environmental Biology (with Professor Richard S. Norman), and Land Use Planning and Management. Professor Riebesell's research interests included population biology and physiological ecology, land use planning, and biogeography. He later became interested in using geographic information systems and statistical analyses to examine patterns in bird species diversity and vegetation in the Adirondack Park of New York. During most of his career, he was the environmental science concentration advisor and chair of the Environmental Science Program. He served on the University of Michigan Senate Assembly, the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs, and the UM-Dearborn Faculty Senate for a number of years. Professor Riebesell was actively involved with a number of CASL committees, including the Curriculum Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Department of Natural Sciences Executive Committee, and he served as the ombudsperson. He received UM-Dearborn's Distinguished Service Award in 2017.

The Regents now salute this distinguished biologist by naming **John F. Riebesell, associate professor emeritus of biology.**

**Requested by:**



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

**March 2019**