

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Adopted by the Regents

May 17, 2007

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

David K. Rea, Ph.D., professor of geological sciences in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2007.


Professor Rea received his B.A. degree from Princeton University in 1964, his M.S. degree from the University of Arizona in 1967, and his Ph.D. degree from Oregon State University in 1974. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1975, and was promoted to associate professor in 1980 and professor in 1986.

Professor Rea's early research efforts focused on the plate tectonics of the Pacific Ocean, with pioneering studies of sea-floor spreading along the East Pacific Rise, and then on the tectonic history of the North Pacific Ocean. These studies contributed to the understanding of mountain uplift on three continents. More recent paleoceanographic work concerned the history of deep-sea circulation over millions of years, a crucial aspect of global climate. Professor Rea has also conducted research on the Great Lakes, with emphasis on lake level history, records of the melting of the last glacial ice sheet, and details of mid-continent climatic change over the past 13,000 years. He participated in seventeen deep-sea research cruises, ten as chief scientist.

Professor Rea served as chair of geological sciences from 1995-2000 and as interim director of the Center for Great Lakes and Aquatic Science during 1988-89. Among the subjects he taught were oceanography, marine geology, ocean basin tectonics, paleoclimatology and climate change, and the Great Lakes; he also served as advisor for a number of graduate students. He served on and chaired national advisory panels, committees, and scientific societies, and within the University, he served on numerous departmental, graduate school, college, and university-wide committees. In recognition of his research accomplishments, Professor Rea has been elected Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Geological Society of America.

The Regents salute this distinguished teacher and scholar by naming **David K. Rea professor emeritus of geological sciences**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2007