

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

## ACTION REQUEST

Adopted by the Regents

May 14, 2009

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

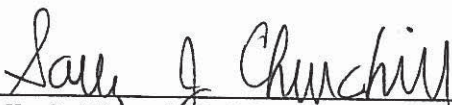
**A. Roberto Frisancho, Ph.D.**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of anthropology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and research professor in the Center for Human Growth and Development, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2009.

Professor Frisancho received his B.H. degree from the National University of Cuzco, Peru in 1962, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from The Pennsylvania State University in 1966 and 1969, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1969 as an assistant professor of anthropology and research associate in the Center for Human Growth and Development. He was promoted to associate professor and associate research scientist in 1973, professor in 1978, and research scientist (now research professor) in 1980. He was appointed Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in 1999.

Throughout his career, Professor Frisancho has been a leader in the field of human population biology, advancing the application of evolutionary principles to understanding the origin and nature of human biological variation. Over the last 40 years, he has been one of the most widely cited scholars in biological anthropology, authoring six books and more than 130 refereed publications. His work on high altitude physiology and development set the standard against which all subsequent high altitude research has been compared, and his theory of developmental adaptation continues to shape ongoing work in anthropology and biomedicine. He also played a major role in developing anthropometric techniques for assessing physical growth and nutritional well-being. His books and scholarly articles on this subject have become standard references in both human biology and human nutritional science, and his books on human adaptation are considered to be *the* essential texts for advanced undergraduate and graduate courses in the field. A popular undergraduate teacher who has won many teaching awards, Professor Frisancho has also been a distinguished teacher and mentor for graduate students. He has supervised 15 dissertations and has served on the committees of more than 20 other doctoral students in a wide range of disciplines. In 2008, he received the Human Biology Association's highest honor, the Franz Boas Distinguished Achievement Award.

The Regents salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **A. Roberto Frisancho Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus, professor emeritus of anthropology, and research professor emeritus.**

**Requested by:**



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2009