

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: **Report of Faculty Retirement**

Action Requested: **Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

Raymond Van Dam, Ph.D., professor of history and professor of Near Eastern studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2016.

Professor Van Dam received his A.B. (1971) degree from Calvin College and his B.A. (1973), M.A. (1977), and Ph.D. (1977) degrees from the University of Cambridge. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1987, and was promoted to professor in 1994.

Professor Van Dam's research focused on the history of the later Roman Empire, with special attention to religious and cultural change. His books include eight monographs and two much-cited collections of translated ancient texts. His earliest publications on the social and political prominence of religious leaders in late ancient Gaul established his reputation; his subsequent works on the Christian culture of Cappadocia's elites extended it, as he pushed from western into eastern Mediterranean studies. His research on the emperor Constantine and his new capital Constantinople rapidly became famous for the originality of its readings of diverse texts, including inscriptions, coins, laws, and the built environment. The unusual range of Professor Van Dam's erudition, his ability to span the ancient Mediterranean with its different languages, was recognized by many institutions: he lectured extensively on both sides of the Atlantic, and won fellowships from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Commanding Greek and Latin, as well as four modern European languages, Professor Van Dam is an eminence in the lively field of late antique studies. He long taught a very popular Roman history course that fed into advanced classes on the Roman Empire, the history of Christianity, the ancient Mediterranean economy, and frontier societies. Professor Van Dam received the John D'Arms Award for Distinguished Graduate Mentoring in the Humanities in 2014.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Raymond Van Dam, professor emeritus of history and professor emeritus of Near Eastern studies**.

Requested by:



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

May 2016