

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

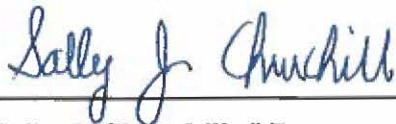
Robyn J. Burnham, Ph.D., associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, associate professor of Earth and environmental sciences, and associate curator in the Herbarium Museum, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2018.

Professor Burnham received her B.S. (1980) degree from the University of California, Berkeley and her M.S. (1983) and Ph.D. (1987) degrees from the University of Washington. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor and assistant curator in 1991, and was promoted to associate professor and associate curator in 1997. She also served as director of the University of Michigan's Edwin S. George Reserve. She held research associate positions at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, Missouri, and The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, Illinois.

Professor Burnham's research explored a number of topics, including population biology, biogeography, and systematics of dominant neotropical lianas; the conservation status of neotropical lianas, particularly the corridors and preserves as biodiversity banks; angiosperm migration, radiation, and phylogeny in northern South America; and the biodiversity, ecosystem structure, and biotic change during the Andean uplift. Her extensive record of publications includes journal articles, book reviews, field guides, and contributed meeting papers. Professor Burnham co-edited, with Stefan Schnitzer, Frans Bongers, and Francis Putz, the comprehensive book titled *The Ecology of Lianas* in 2015. She served as editor of the journal *Paleobiology* from 2004-07. Professor Burnham was a member of a number of professional associations, including the Association for Tropical Biology, the Botanical Society of America, and the Latin American Botanical Association. A gifted teacher and dedicated mentor, she designed a number of innovative courses on plant diversity and neotropical plants; actively engaged students in her research endeavors; and shepherded an informal group that kept plant-oriented undergraduate students abreast of jobs, internships, grants, and other opportunities. She received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts in 2006.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Robyn J. Burnham, associate professor emerita of ecology and evolutionary biology, associate professor emerita of Earth and environmental sciences, and associate curator emerita in the Herbarium Museum.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2018