

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Tomasz K. Baumiller, Ph.D., professor of Earth and environmental sciences and curator, Museum of Paleontology, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2020.

Professor Baumiller received his A.B. degree from the University of Chicago in 1979, his M.S. degree from the University of Illinois in 1984, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago in 1990. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor and assistant curator in 1996, and was promoted to associate professor and associate curator in 1999, and professor and curator in 2005.

Professor Baumiller's research involved three broad areas of paleobiology: 1) the documentation and interpretation of biotic interactions, such as predation and parasitism, and their role in evolution, 2) the reconstruction of the function and ecology of extinct organisms, and 3) the quality of the fossil record—how to use constructively the biological information lost during fossilization. In his approach, he combined experimental studies of living organisms, both *in situ* and in the lab, with data gathered from fossils. His work on modern invertebrate faunas included some 20 submersible expeditions to deep marine environments of the Caribbean, as well as scuba-based studies of shallow reefs of Palau, Australia, and Jamaica, which provided hands-on field training to a number of students. Professor Baumiller's scholarly efforts have resulted in more than 100 publications. At Michigan, he supervised the doctoral research of eight students. Professor Baumiller held visiting positions at the University of Tübingen (May-August 1992) and the National Museum of Natural History, Paris (April-July 2002). He was a recipient of Fulbright Research Awards for Poland (2002-03), New Zealand (2010), and Austria (2016-17), where he engaged in collaborative research with local paleontologists and geologists. Professor Baumiller was elected a fellow of the Paleontological Society in 2014.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher by naming **Tomasz K. Baumiller, professor emeritus of Earth and environmental sciences and curator emeritus, Museum of Paleontology.**

Requested by:



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

May 2020