

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Joel D. Blum, Ph.D., Jerry Keeler Distinguished University Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, John D. MacArthur Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and professor of Earth and environmental sciences in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2025.

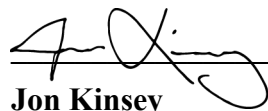
Professor Blum received his B.A. from Case Western Reserve University (1981), his M.Sc. from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (1982), and his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology (1990). He served on the faculty of Dartmouth College (1990-1999) before joining the faculty of the University of Michigan in 1999 as the John D. MacArthur Professor. He served as department chair for geological sciences (now Earth and environmental sciences) from 2000 to 2006. Professor Blum was named the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in 2010 and the Jerry Keeler Distinguished University Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences in 2015.

Professor Blum's wide-ranging research addressed topics in atmospheric chemistry, hydrogeochemistry, chemical oceanography, aquatic and terrestrial foodwebs, animal migrations, forest nutrient cycling, meteoritics, ore deposits, and archaeology. His work focused on heavy metals in the environment and on the application of stable and radiogenic isotopes to problems across Earth and environmental sciences and ecology. Professor Blum is known as a pioneer of techniques for high precision measurement of mercury stable isotope ratios, for advances in understanding the processes that fractionate those isotopes, and in particular the discovery of unprecedented patterns of mass-independent isotope fractionation. His research group experimentally calibrated the isotope fractionation due to biotic and abiotic oxidation-reduction reactions and used this information to explore and understand mercury chemistry and cycling in the environment. This has led to major advances in understanding of mercury biogeochemistry in the atmosphere, oceans, lakes, rivers, forests, soils, rocks, ore deposits and meteorites.

Professor Blum is the editor in chief of the *American Chemical Society - Earth and Space Chemistry* journal and an elected fellow of the Geochemical Society, the American Geophysical Union, the Geological Society of America and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2020, Blum was elected as a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He was also the winner of the C.C. Patterson Award of the Geochemical Society for his innovative work in environmental geochemistry.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Joel D. Blum, Jerry Keeler Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus, and professor emeritus of Earth and environmental sciences.**

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2025