

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Kent V. Flannery, Ph.D.**, James B. Griffin Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology, professor of anthropology, and curator, Museum of Anthropological Archaeology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2025.


Professor Flannery attended the University of Chicago where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1954, a Master of Arts in 1961, and his Doctorate in 1964. He became an associate curator at the Smithsonian Institution in 1964, and then joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as assistant professor in 1967 and was promoted through the ranks to professor in 1972.

Flannery's research has centered on prehistoric sociopolitical evolution, especially the early stages. He has published on the origins of agriculture and village life in the Near East (*Prehistory and Human Ecology of the Deh Luran Plain*, 1969, with Frank Hole and James Neely) and Mexico (*Guila Naquitz: Archaic Foraging and Early Agriculture in Oaxaca, Mexico*, 1986). He has also published synthetic overviews such as *The Early Mesoamerican Village* (1976), *Zapotec Civilization: How Urban Society Evolved in Mexico's Oaxaca Valley* (1996, with Joyce Marcus), and *The Creation of Inequality: How Our Prehistoric Ancestors Set the Stage for Monarchy, Slavery, and Empire* (2012, with Joyce Marcus). He also co-authored an ethnography of Peruvian llama herders, *The Flocks of the Wamani: A Study of Llama Herders on the Punas of Ayacucho, Peru* (1989, with Joyce Marcus and Robert Reynolds). During the course of his career, Flannery excavated in Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Iran, and North America.

Flannery taught undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of Michigan for 56 years. During this period he was named Russel Lecturer (2008), received the A. V. Kidder Medal for achievement in American archaeology (1992), and was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania (1987). In 1978, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, and served as its chair of anthropology from 2008-2010. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1996, and to the American Philosophical Society in 2004. Professor Flannery was named Distinguished University Professor of Anthropological Archaeology in 1985.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Kent V. Flannery, James B. Griffin Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, professor emeritus of anthropology, and curator emeritus, Museum of Anthropological Archaeology.**

**Requested by:**



---

**Jon Kinsey**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

**May 2025**