

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

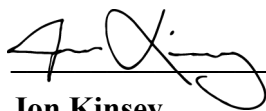
**Diarmaid Ó Foighil, Ph.D.**, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and curator, Museum of Zoology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2025.

Professor Ó Foighil received his B.Sc. (1981) degree from the National University of Ireland, Galway and his Ph.D. (1987) from the University of Victoria (1987). He served as a postdoctoral fellow at the Friday Harbor Labs, University of Washington (1987), independent researcher at the Bamfield Marine Station (1988-1989), NSERC postdoctoral fellow at Simon Fraser University (1989-1992), and research associate professor at the University of South Carolina (1993-1995). He joined the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in the Department of Biology (now the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) and assistant curator in the Museum of Zoology in 1995 and was promoted to associate professor/curator in 2001 and professor/curator in 2007. He served as the director of the Museum of Zoology from 2011 to 2014 and as the chair of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from 2014 to 2020.

Professor Ó Foighil's research focused on the evolution, biogeography, reproduction, life history, and systematics of molluscs. He is a coauthor on nearly 100 scientific publications that describe investigations of varied themes concerning terrestrial, freshwater and marine molluscs from across the world. Some of his recent work involved phylogenetic studies of French Polynesians tree snails to better understand their evolutionary history prior to recent episodes of extinction. He was instrumental in advancing the digitization of specimen records of the Museum of Zoology's Mollusk Division, for which he obtained support from several major external awards. As director of the Museum of Zoology, he helped plan and coordinate the move of many millions of specimens from the Alexander G. Ruthven Building to the Research Museums Center. During his tenure as chair of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, he oversaw the planning of and move of the department to the new Biological Science Building and recruited the next generation of faculty to the department. Professor Ó Foighil was an effective mentor and teacher and was awarded an LSA Excellence in Teaching Award in 2008.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Diarmaid Ó Foighil, professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology and curator emeritus, Museum of Zoology.**

**Requested by:**



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

**May 2025**