

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Terrence J. McDonald, Ph.D., former dean, Arthur F. Thurnau professor and professor of history in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2026.

Professor McDonald joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 1980 after receiving his doctorate in history from Stanford University in 1979. He was promoted to professor in 1992. Professor McDonald's career included award-winning research and teaching at all levels and a substantial amount of administrative service to the University. From 2002-2013, he served as dean of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and from 2013 to 2022 he was director of the Bentley Historical Library which contains the archives of the university and important archives of the people and organizations of the state of Michigan.

His work on the history of the American city included five authored or edited books – the most recent published in June of 2026 -- and many articles. He was a Guggenheim fellow, a fellow of the Michigan Humanities Institute, and a senior fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows. He received most of the undergraduate teaching awards conferred by the university, including the Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship in 1993. He directed twenty doctoral dissertations and served on scores of other doctoral committees. Although his deanship coincided with deep recessions in Michigan and the nation, by the end of his term he had expanded the tenure-track faculty and raised \$400 million from donors funding endowed chairs, new research centers and institutes, and an increase in the number of undergraduate scholarships from 200 to 1,200. At the Bentley he provided leadership in both administration and fundraising for projects including the digitization of the Michigan Daily, the opening of the African American Student Project website, and the addition to the Detroit Observatory that provided both better access and additional teaching space to this monument to the university's research leadership.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Terrence J. McDonald, dean emeritus, College of Literature, Science and the Arts, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus, and professor emeritus of history.**

Requested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Kinsey', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2026