

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Martin M. Kaufman, Ph.D.**, David M. French Professor and professor of geography, planning and environment in the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Michigan-Flint, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2023.

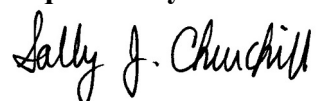
Professor Kaufman received his B.A. (1976), M.U.P. (1980), and Ph.D. (1994) degrees from the University of Michigan. He joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as an assistant professor in 1995, and was promoted to associate professor in 2000, and professor in 2005. He was named the David M. French Professor in 2009. Professor Kaufman served as chair of the Department of Earth and Resource Science from 2000-2010.

Professor Kaufman was a highly productive and innovative scholar in the areas of environmental risk assessment, water resources, and geographic information systems (GIS). He authored or co-authored 27 peer-reviewed papers, with most as the primary or sole author. His research developed new automated procedures for groundwater risk assessment and GIS modeling. In addition to the journal articles, Professor Kaufman published three books, one as sole author: *Critical Thinker's Guide to the Environment* (1996), and two as co-author *Urban Watersheds* (2001), and *Physical Geography* (2013). *Urban Watersheds* has been adopted for course use in several countries. He was an award-winning and gifted teacher; taught 22 different courses, founded the GIS program at UM-Flint and designed its associated courses, and in 2004 was invited to teach in Japan at the Japan Center for Michigan Universities. As department chair, he designed and implemented a new major in environmental science and sustainability and oversaw the steady growth of the department. He was a dedicated mentor to a generation of undergraduate and graduate students in the environmental sciences, and as a sought-after academic advisor, often advised students from outside his department.

When the Flint Water Crisis occurred, Professor Kaufman approached the city of Flint and volunteered to map the locations of the lead pipes within the city. This *pro bono* effort attracted international attention, culminating in an invitation to participate and speak at the White House in 2016 during its annual Mapathon.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Martin M. Kaufman, David M. French Professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of geography, planning and environment**.

Requested by:



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

July 2023