The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Christopher Ratté, professor of classical studies and curator, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2026.

Professor Ratté attended Harvard University, where he completed a Bachelor of Arts in 1981. He then attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he completed a Master of Arts in 1984 and a Doctorate in 1989. After teaching at Florida State University and New York University, he joined the faculty of the University of Michigan as associate professor in 2006. He was promoted to the rank of professor in 2012.

An internationally recognized expert in the archaeology and architecture of the ancient eastern Mediterranean, Professor Ratté led three archaeological excavations and surveys in Turkey and the Republic of Georgia over the course of his career, most recently at Notion, Turkey. His work has been supported by numerous grants totaling more than $2,350,000 to date. His commitment to decolonizing the practice of archaeology is unwavering; he works in close partnership with archaeologists, students, and local communities in the countries where he conducts research. His major publications include a single-authored monograph, *Lydian Architecture* (Harvard 2011), and multi-authored final reports on the two surveys he has directed in Turkey at Aphrodisias (von Zabern 2012) and Notion (Michigan 2026) that he has edited. He is the editor or co-author of another four volumes and the author or co-author of more than fifty scholarly articles. Professor Ratté is the (co-)curator of two exhibitions at U-M's Kelsey Museum of Archaeology: "Rock, Paper, Memory: Wendy Artin's Watercolor Paintings of Ancient Sculptures" (2015) and "Urban Biographies, Ancient and Modern" (2019). His influence in the field comes not only from his scholarly work and teaching, but also his long service to numerous organizations, among which are the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and the American Research Institute in Turkey. His service to the college and university has been just as substantial. He directed, sequentially and without interruption, the Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology (IPCAA) and the Kelsey Museum from 2009 until 2017. He directed IPCAA again in 2020-23, during which time he led a comprehensive restructuring of that program.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Christopher Ratté, professor emeritus of classical studies.**

Respectfully submitted:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2026