

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

**Norman Yoffee, Ph.D.**, professor of near eastern studies, professor of anthropology, and curator, Museum of Anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2010.

Professor Yoffee received his B.A. degree from Northwestern University in 1966, and his M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University in 1971 and 1973, respectively. He began his career at the University of Arizona as an instructor in 1972, and was promoted to assistant professor in 1973, associate professor in 1979, and professor in 1987. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1993 as professor and chair, Department of Near Eastern Studies, and curator of archaeology.

Professor Yoffee's research focuses on the rise and fall of early civilizations. Proceeding from his own area of expertise in the initial stages of Mesopotamian societies, he compared the development and decline of early civilizations from China to Mesoamerica, identifying factors that contributed to the flowering, collapse, and possible recovery of pre-modern complex social formations. More particularly, within Mesopotamian studies, Professor Yoffee's work centered on the ancient Babylonian city of Kish, resulting in the publication of two volumes of cuneiform texts. An active facilitator of the work of others, he edited or co-edited eight volumes of essays, served as series editor of the *Cambridge World Archaeology* series, and for many years was editor of the *Journal of Social and Economic History of the Orient*.

Professor Yoffee taught undergraduate and graduate courses on Mesopotamian history and culture and seminars on anthropological topics. He served on a large number of thesis panels and departmental and college committees. As chair of the Department of Near Eastern Studies from 1993-98, he presided over a reorganization of the undergraduate and graduate curricula.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Norman Yoffee professor emeritus of near eastern studies, professor emeritus of anthropology, and curator emeritus.**

**Requested by:**



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2010