

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**  
**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**John V.A. Fine, Jr., Ph.D.**, professor of history in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2015.

Professor Fine received his A.B. (1961), M.A. (1965), and Ph.D. (1969) degrees from Harvard University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1969, and was promoted to associate professor in 1974, and professor in 1980.

Professor Fine's academic interests ranged from theology and the history of Christianity to Byzantium and the medieval and modern Balkans. His pioneering monographs include *The Bosnian Church: A New Interpretation* (1975), *The Early Medieval Balkans: A Critical Survey from the Sixth to the Late Twelfth Century* (1983), *The Late Medieval Balkans: A Critical Survey from the Late Twelfth Century to the Ottoman Conquest* (1987), *Bosnia and Hercegovina: A Tradition Betrayed* (1994), and *When Ethnicity Did Not Matter in the Balkans: A Study of Identity in Pre-Nationalist Croatia, Dalmatia, and Slavonia in the Medieval and Early-Modern Periods* (2006). Professor Fine raised our understanding of Bosnian history and worked tirelessly to correct popular misconceptions especially during the Balkan wars of the 1990's. He was elected a member of the U.S. National Committee on Byzantine Studies and a foreign scholarly associate member of the Historical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Bosnia and Hercegovina. A legendary teacher and dedicated mentor, he was honored by his former students with a tribute and symposium in 2007. Professor Fine received a variety of honors including a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship (1982-83), the University of Michigan Press Book Award (1984 and 2007), and the Department of History's Hudson Research Professorship (1986).

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and scholar by naming **John V.A. Fine, Jr., professor emeritus of history**.

**Requested by:**



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

**December 2015**