

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

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

Rob Van der Voo, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Frank H.T. Rhodes Collegiate Professor of Geological Sciences, and professor of Earth and environmental sciences in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2015.

Professor Van der Voo received his B.Sc. (1961, geology), M.Sc. (1965, geology), M.Sc. (1969, geophysics), and Ph.D. (1969, geology and geophysics) degrees from the University of Utrecht. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a visiting assistant professor in 1970, and was promoted to assistant professor in 1972, associate professor in 1975, and professor in 1979. He was named the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in 1994 and the Frank H.T. Rhodes Collegiate Professor of Geological Sciences in 2001.

Professor Van der Voo's research combined geophysics and tectonics to explore paleomagnetism and its application to mountain-building processes and pre-Mesozoic plate tectonics. He also studied the theoretical and historical aspects of the Earth's magnetic field and the processes by which sedimentary and igneous rocks acquire their magnetizations. Professor Van der Voo enjoyed teaching a range of undergraduate and graduate courses in Ann Arbor and at Camp Davis Field Station in Wyoming, including a signature offering in tectonics. He served as chair of the Department of Geological Sciences for eleven years and director of the LSA Honors Program for five years. Professor Van der Voo was actively involved in a number of prestigious professional associations including the American Geophysical Union, the Geological Society of America, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, and the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters. He received numerous awards including the University's Henry Russel Award (1976), the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award (1990), three Excellence in Education Awards (1991, 1992, and 1993), the LSA Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award (1998), and the M. and H. Sokol Faculty Award in the Sciences (2006). Professor Van der Voo received the Franklin Institute's Benjamin Franklin Medal in Earth Sciences in 2001.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Rob Van der Voo, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus, Frank H.T. Rhodes Collegiate Professor Emeritus of Geological Sciences, and professor emeritus of Earth and environmental sciences.**

Requested by:



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

December 2015