

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Robert E. Whallon, Jr., Ph.D., professor of anthropology and curator, Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, College of Literature, Science and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2016.

Professor Whallon received his B.A. (1961) degree from Harvard College and his M.A. (1963) and Ph.D. (1966) degrees from the University of Chicago. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor and curator in 1966, and was promoted to associate professor in 1971, and professor in 1977. He served as acting director (1978-79) and director (1997-2002) of the Museum of Anthropology.

Professor Whallon's scholarly contributions to the field have appeared in monographs, book chapters, and journal articles. An active and influential editor, he founded the *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* and made it one of the major journals in the field. His methodological and theoretical interests have been as diverse as the areas of his field research. He was a first-generation practitioner of the "New Archaeology," a movement begun in the mid-1960's that had a major impact in his field. He was especially known for his development of statistical and other quantitative methods for the analysis of archaeological data, work that led to his election as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Later in his career, Professor Whallon focused on the organization and adaptations of hunter-gatherer societies as an aid to understanding the origins and evolution of human culture. His work on these topics has culminated in international, multidisciplinary symposia and groundbreaking, edited volumes. Professor Whallon's most recent research focused on the behavior and ecology of our recent, Eurasian, hominin relatives, based on the excavation of a Neanderthal site in Montenegro. Professor Whallon was elected as a foreign member of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and the Arts in 2015.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Robert E. Whallon, Jr., professor emeritus of anthropology and curator emeritus.**

Requested by:



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

December 2016