

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

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

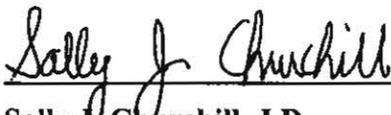
**Barry M. OConnor, Ph.D.**, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and curator of insects in the Museum of Zoology, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2018.

Professor OConnor received his B.S. (1971) degree from Iowa State University and his Ph.D. (1981) degree from Cornell University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor and assistant curator in 1980, and was promoted to associate professor and associate curator in 1986, and professor and curator in 1999.

Professor OConnor was a world authority on mites - thousands of species of tiny arachnids, including important parasites of animals and plants. His research on the evolution and interactions of these parasites and their hosts was published in more than 180 peer-reviewed research articles on mites that he collected, studied, and described from all over the world. The scientific and societal benefits of his research led to 10 research grants from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and others. His ability to make his subjects and his discoveries interesting led not only to successful courses and special lectures at Michigan, but to presentations and short courses at many other universities in the United States as well as Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Scotland, and The Netherlands. He was a popular and informative speaker at departmental retreats and special occasions at Michigan, where his teaching covered general biology, evolution and animal diversity, parasitology, acarology, and co-evolution. He served as the associate chair of the Department of Biology, the associate chair of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and on many administrative committees regarding departmental governance, graduate affairs, promotions and merit, diversity, and student evaluation. He also served on the doctoral committees of 19 students and developed fruitful collaborations with seven post-doctoral fellows. His active scientific career involved participation in eight professional societies, in which he received numerous awards and honors, including the presidency of the Acarological Society of America. He received the LSA Excellence in Education Award in 1995 and the LSA Excellence in Concentration Advising Award in 2006.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Barry M. OConnor, professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology and curator emeritus of insects in the Museum of Zoology.**

**Requested by:**



**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**December 2018**