

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

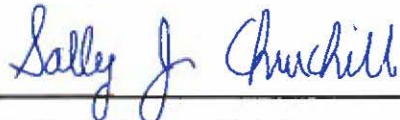
John C. Mitani, Ph.D., professor of anthropology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2019.

John Mitani received his A.B. degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 1976 and his Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Davis in 1984. From 1984-89, he was a postdoctoral fellow and assistant professor at The Rockefeller University. In 1989, he was appointed assistant research zoologist in the Department of Zoology at the University of California, Davis. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1990, and was promoted to associate professor in 1993, and professor in 2002. He was named the James N. Spuhler Collegiate Professor of Anthropology in 2004.

Professor Mitani conducted fieldwork investigating the behavior of our closest living relatives, the apes. He pioneered the use of experiments to examine the behavior of wild gibbons and orangutans before conducting research on bonobos, chimpanzees, and gorillas. In 1995, he initiated a long-term study of a world-renowned group of chimpanzees at Ngogo in Kibale National Park, Uganda. His work there provided new insights into chimpanzee hunting, territorial, and social behavior. Professor Mitani has published over 100 papers and his work was recognized with a Presidential Faculty Fellowship from the National Science Foundation. He was a fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and Animal Behavior Society. Professor Mitani was a dedicated instructor and taught thousands of students. He received several teaching awards from LS&A and the AMOCO Undergraduate Teaching Award. He served on many anthropology department committees and as its associate chair. He was also active on a number of college and university committees, including the Provost's Promotion Review Committee. Professor Mitani was elected a senior fellow of the Michigan Society of Fellows in 2007.

The Regents now salute this distinguished researcher and teacher by naming **John C. Mitani, professor emeritus of anthropology**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2019