

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

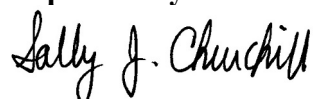
Daniel C. Fisher, Ph.D., Claude W. Hibbard Collegiate Professor of Paleontology, professor of Earth and environmental sciences, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, and curator, Museum Paleontology, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2023.

Professor Fisher attended Harvard University where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1971, his Master of Arts degree in 1972, and his doctorate in 1975. He subsequently began his instructional career at the University of Rochester as an assistant professor. Professor Fisher joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1979, and was promoted to associate professor, with tenure, in 1984, and professor in 1992. He served as director of the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology from 2011-2018.

Professor Daniel Fisher is a paleobiologist with research interests spanning diverse taxonomic groups (proboscideans, horseshoe crabs, crocodylians, stylophoran echinoderms, and receptaculid algae), temporal range (Cambrian to late Pleistocene), and themes (extinction, macroevolution, phylogenetic inference, taphonomy, skeletochronology, and functional morphology). His work on the macroevolution of horseshoe crabs in the early 1980s anticipated the ghost lineage concept by a decade and eventually led to development of stratocladistics and the widespread use of temporal data in phylogenetic inference. His research on the megafaunal extinction of mammoths and mastodons relied on time series constructed from incremental growth and compositional analysis of their tusks, molars, and hair, as well as careful examination of their skeletons and depositional context. This research program identified in proboscidean tusk samples subtle signals of environment, diet, health, and life history events such as calving, weaning, and musth. It also led to inferences of carcass utilization and caching by ancient humans, which had wide-ranging implications for both the possible role of humans in the megafaunal extinction and the early peopling of North America some 37,000 years ago. Professor Fisher is a fellow of the Paleontology Society (2005) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2005), was a Senior Fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows (2006-2010) and is a recipient of the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation (2011) and the Schuchert Award, Paleontological Society (1984).

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Daniel C. Fisher, Claude W. Hibbard Collegiate Professor Emeritus of Paleontology, professor emeritus of Earth and environmental sciences, professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology, and curator emeritus, Museum of Paleontology.**

Requested by:



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

December 2023