

November 17-18, 2011

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Regents Professor Emeritus of History: Paul Lauren; The University of Montana–Missoula

THAT

On the occasion of his retirement from the Department of History at The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation to Professor Paul Gordon Lauren for his years of dedicated and valued service by recommending that the rank of Regents Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

During his thirty-seven years at The University of Montana, Paul has had a remarkably distinguished career. He served as the founding director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center and as the Mansfield Professor of Ethics and Public Affairs. He also was the first person to be named as a Regents Professor at UM. In the annals of the school, it would be difficult to find anyone who has been more fully and deservedly honored than Paul. He has won the Distinguished Scholar Award, the Outstanding Advisor to Students Award, the Most Inspirational Teacher Award, the Robert Pantzer Award, the Award for Distinguished Service to International Education at The University of Montana, as well as the CASE Professor of the year Award and the Governor's Humanities Award. Extraordinarily impressive national honors have come to him, including appointments as a Senior Fulbright Scholar, a Senior Fulbright Specialist, a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, a Peace Fellow, a Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellow, and a Distinguished Lecturer for the United States Department of State. He has presented many lectures to national and international audiences, including addresses before the Smithsonian Institution, the Nobel Peace Institute, and the United Nations.

The foundation of Paul's scholarly reputation consists of an enormous body of published work that the international community of scholars has recognized for its depth, originality, and power. Books and essays of his have been translated into seven different foreign languages. *Diplomats and Bureaucrats* (1976) and *Diplomacy: New Approaches in History, Theory, and Policy* (1979) established his reputation as a leading diplomatic historian. Other major publications in the field of diplomatic history followed, including two edited works: *The China Hands Legacy: Ethics and Diplomacy* (1987) and *Destinies Shared: U.S.-Japanese Relations* (1989); along with a monumental study on which he served as a co-author with Alexander George and Paul's mentor at Stanford, Gordon Craig, *Force and Statecraft: Diplomatic Challenges of Our Time*, (4th ed. 2007). It is in the history of human rights, however, where Paul has made his most critically acclaimed contributions to scholarship. *Power and Prejudice: The Politics and Diplomacy of Racial Discrimination* appeared in 1988 and immediately achieved recognition as a landmark publication. It won an award and appeared in a second edition in 1996. *The Evolution of International Human Rights: Visions Seen* (1998, 2nd ed. 2003) solidified his position in the front rank of scholarly authorities on human rights. This book was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. In February 2007, *Human Rights Quarterly* published a sixty-seven-page-long article, "On the Historiography of Human Rights: Reflections on Paul Gordon Lauren's *Evolution of International Human Rights: Visions Seen*." Only historians of the highest scholarly standing receive this kind of recognition. The author, Reza Afshari, asserted that "Paul Gordon Lauren's book remains perhaps the most significant contribution to the historiography of human rights....Lauren writes as an artist paints, or a Persian carpet-maker weaves densely knotted and intricate designs whose brilliant hues compete with

each other for attention.”

Paul stands out as a striking example of the natural affinity between research and university teaching. Anyone perusing Paul’s Faculty Evaluation Committee records will be struck by the enormous respect in which generations of UM students have held him. He brings a magisterial authority to the classroom that over the years has consistently inspired astonishingly laudatory student evaluations. A powerful sense of stewardship animates his teaching and advising. Paul brings the same moral fervor to the committee work that he has shouldered for the department and the campus. He has been a wise and perceptive counselor on matters large and small. His presence here as teacher and colleague has enriched the institution.

The History Department is honored to recommend Paul Gordon Lauren for the status of Regents Professor emeritus.