

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents

January 22, 2009

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Allen J. Samuels, B.F.A., professor of art and former dean of the School of Art and Design, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2008.

Professor Samuels received his B.F.A. degree from the University of Illinois in 1966. Upon graduation, he embarked on a successful career as a corporate designer, creating innovative products for firms such as 3M, Corning Glass Works, Bausch and Lomb, Black and Decker, and Westinghouse. From 1974-75 he was a faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor of art in 1975, and was promoted to associate professor in 1980 and professor in 1985. He served as dean of the School of Art and Design from 1993-99.

Professor Samuels is an award-winning industrial designer with a broad portfolio of unique creations, including consumer glassware and cookware, scientific and medical instruments, electric power tools, and communication, industrial, and transportation products. Most recently, his work has focused on the development of hygiene environments for aging individuals and on portable, modular, and disposable emergency shelters and related products. He is the recipient of the prestigious International Design Red Dot Award and has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Science Foundation.

Professor Samuels is a highly regarded teacher and a leader in industrial design education. A pioneer in cross-disciplinary design education at the University, he initiated a dual degree program with the College of Engineering involving industrial design and mechanical engineering. He taught numerous courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and many of his former students have gone on to distinguished careers as artists and designers.

The Regents now salute this distinguished artist and educator for his dedicated service by naming **Allen J. Samuels professor emeritus of art and dean emeritus**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

January 2009