

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents

May 14, 2009

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Jens C. Zorn, Ph.D., professor of physics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2009.

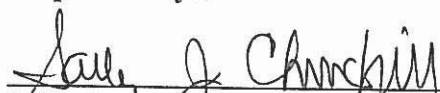
Professor Zorn received his A.B. degree from Miami University in 1955 and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University in 1957 and 1961, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1962 as an assistant professor, and was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and professor in 1970.

Professor Zorn's research focus was on atomic and molecular physics. He and his students did precision measurements of atomic polarizabilities, molecular structure, and nuclear shapes using molecular beam methods that included the first observation of individual molecules absorbing photons of sub-kilohertz frequencies. Their experiments on metastable atoms and molecules created by impact of low-energy electrons revealed a previously unobserved state of molecular hydrogen and also showed a novel way to produce and trap ultra-slow atoms and molecules. His experiments on the electron-proton charge difference ruled out theories that had proposed electrostatic force as a mechanism for the expansion of the universe. Professor Zorn's teaching ranged from introductory courses on elementary physics to graduate seminars on applications of quantum mechanics to a course in the Residential College on the effects of industrialization on the Appalachian region of eastern Kentucky. He also directed the dissertation research of 24 Ph.D. students. In recognition of his contributions to the art of teaching physics, his effectiveness as a teacher, and his concern for the development of his students, he was honored with the Amoco Foundation Faculty Teaching Award in 1994. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and co-chaired the 1990 International Conference on Atomic Physics

In 1989 Professor Zorn produced a monograph to celebrate the centennial of physics research at Michigan, and this led to the construction of large, welded bronze sculptures that he created to commemorate achievements in physics. Three of these sculptures are now displayed on campus and three more are at other universities.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher, scholar and artist by naming **Jens C. Zorn professor emeritus of physics**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2009