

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents

May 20, 2010

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Arthur G. Wasserman, Ph.D., professor of mathematics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status May 31, 2010.

Professor Wasserman received his B.S. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1960 and his Ph.D. degree from Brandeis University in 1965. From 1965-68, he was a Benjamin Peirce Instructor in Mathematics at Harvard University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1968, and was promoted to associate professor in 1970 and professor in 1980.

Professor Wasserman's research focused on differential topology. More specifically, he studied manifolds via their symmetry groups—the theory of transformation groups. He established the basic theorems of differential topology for manifolds with a group action, developed methods for classification of manifolds with symmetry up to cobordism, and has worked on “desingularization” of group actions on manifolds and found residue theorems. Algebraic realization of manifolds and foliations are among other topics that he has investigated. Professor Wasserman has published two monographs and more than 75 papers in the field of differential equations, frequently using topological methods. For the past 20 years he has been researching the differential equations that arise in mathematical physics, specifically the Einstein equations of general relativity coupled with other fields including the Yang Mills equations, wave maps coupled to gravity, σ -model solitons, and mini-boson stars.

Professor Wasserman was a dedicated advisor for undergraduate students within the Department of Mathematics. In 1991, he received the LSA Excellence in Concentration Advising Award recognizing his efforts. Professor Wasserman developed two mathematics courses covering computer algebra systems for beginning students in the department. He mentored three graduate students and served on the doctoral committees of several others.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Arthur G. Wasserman professor emeritus of mathematics**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2010