THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Steven J. Wright, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of civil and environmental engineering in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2018.

Professor Wright received his B.S. (1971) and M.S. (1973) degrees from Washington State University and his Ph.D. (1977) degree from the California Institute of Technology. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1977, and was promoted to associate professor in 1983, and professor in 1992. He was named an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in 2006.

Professor Wright’s early research explored environmental fluid mechanics applications involving mixing and transport in stratified flows. In more recent years, his research focused on the two-phase flow phenomena in the rapid filling of large diameter stormwater tunnels. This work was recognized with the 2014 Hydraulic Structures Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers’ Environmental and Water Resources Institute. Professor Wright published over 160 journal articles and conference proceedings as well as co-authored the textbook Essentials of Engineering Fluid Mechanics (5th edition, 1990). He received several publication awards and was recognized by the Michigan Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers as the Outstanding Civil Engineer for 1999. He held a Fulbright Teaching and Research Fellowship at the University of Concepcion and was a visiting professor at several international institutions. Professor Wright received a number of awards, including the College of Engineering’s Class of 38E Distinguished Service Award (1980), the College of Engineering’s Excellence in Teaching Award (2002), the University of Michigan’s Undergraduate Teaching Award (2003), and the President’s Council State Universities of Michigan’s Distinguished Professor of the Year (2009). Professor Wright served as a faculty advisor to numerous student organizations and project teams. He was honored with the Arthur N.L. Chiu Award for his outstanding service as a faculty advisor from the national civil engineering honor society Chi Epsilon (2008-09).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming Steven J. Wright, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of civil and environmental engineering.

Requested by:

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

June 21, 2018