

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Bram van Leer, Ph.D., Arthur B. Modine Professor of Engineering and professor of aerospace engineering in the College of Engineering, will retire from active faculty status on August 31, 2012.

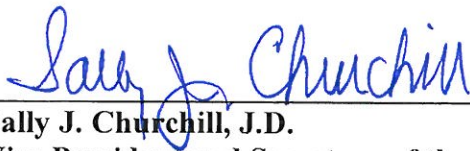
Professor van Leer received his Candidate, Doctorandus, and Ph.D. degrees from Leiden State University in the Netherlands in 1963, 1966, and 1970, respectively. From 1964-86, he held research positions at Leiden State University, the University of California, Berkeley, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Langley Research Center, and Delft University of Technology. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor in 1986, and was named Arthur B. Modine Professor of Engineering in 2008.

Professor van Leer's early work arose from his interest in modeling astrophysical flows. In a series of papers published in the 1970s, "Towards the Ultimate Conservative Difference Scheme," he laid out the methodology for creating schemes that combined second-order accuracy and monotonicity, breaking a barrier theorem due to S. K. Godunov. More recently, he has done influential research on many aspects of computational fluid dynamics, which has led to greatly improved accuracy and efficiency of methods. Professor van Leer's influence has also extended to the teaching of computational fluid dynamics; the two-course graduate sequence he instituted at the University was one of the first of its kind in the country.

In recognition of his contributions to the field, Professor van Leer received an honorary doctorate from the Vrije Universiteit Brussels in 1990 and was elected a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) in 1995. In 2010, he received the AIAA's Fluid Dynamics Award, "for his seminal, groundbreaking work in computational fluid dynamics,...and his outstanding contributions in aerospace education." Professor van Leer's interests and talents extend beyond his research and teaching. He is an accomplished pianist and carillon player and the author of a carillon composition that was published by the School of Music in 2002. He also co-authored a published technical paper written entirely in limerick form.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Bram van Leer Arthur B. Modine Professor Emeritus of Engineering and professor emeritus of aerospace engineering.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

July 2012