

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**Adopted by the  
Regents  
December 19, 2013**

## ACTION REQUEST

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

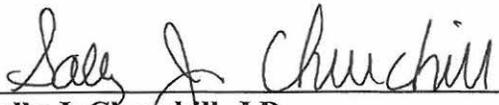
**Eric S. Rabkin, Ph.D.**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, professor of English language and literature, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of art and design in the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2013.

Professor Rabkin received his A.B. degree from Cornell University in 1967 and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Iowa in 1970. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1970, and was promoted to associate professor in 1974, and professor in 1977. He was named Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in 1990 and received an additional appointment of professor of art and design in 2011.

An internationally known scholar and innovator, Professor Rabkin explored several areas of study including fantasy, humanities computing, visual rhetoric, theory of fiction, pedagogy, and American literature. More recently he studied and developed novel methods for digital learning and literacy. He co-authored, with Robert Scholes, *Science Fiction: History, Science, Vision* (1977), and with Macklin Smith, *Teaching Writing That Works: A Group Approach to Practical English* (1990). He also authored *The Fantastic in Literature* (1976), in addition to five other critical books, four anthologies, eighteen editions of essays, eighty-six articles, twenty-three reviews, and innumerable scholarly papers. Professor Rabkin was a frequent invited lecturer and delivered numerous pod casts and radio interviews. He developed the world's first writing-intensive massive open online course (MOOC) for the multi-university collaboration Coursera. From 1979-83, Professor Rabkin served as the associate dean for long-range planning in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. He received numerous University honors for his work including the Excellence in Education Award (2000), the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award (2004), and the Golden Apple Award (2006). Professor Rabkin's notable record of achievements is a testament to his intellectual range, professional grit, persistently interdisciplinary vision, and public presence.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Eric S. Rabkin Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus, professor emeritus of English language and literature, and professor emeritus of art and design.**

**Requested by:**

  
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**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**December 2013**