

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Paul G. Rasmussen, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, professor of chemistry in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of macromolecular science and engineering in the College of Engineering, will retire from active faculty on May 31, 2006.

Professor Rasmussen received his B.A. degree from St. Olaf College in 1960 and his Ph.D. degree from Michigan State University in 1964. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as assistant professor of chemistry in 1964, and was promoted to associate professor in 1970 and professor in 1979. He was appointed professor of macromolecular science and engineering in 1992 and was named Arthur F. Thurnau professor in 2002. Within the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Professor Rasmussen served as associate dean for research and facilities from 1975-82 and as associate dean for research and graduate studies from 2001-04.

Professor Rasmussen's early research focused on the coordination chemistry of transition metals and the use of imidazoles as ligands to these metals. His most recent research has dealt with the synthesis and characterization of pyrazine cyanocarbons as electron acceptors and n-carrier materials. He has published over 100 papers and patents, as well as a number of abstracts and meeting preprints, and has advised 28 Ph.D. students. Professor Rasmussen has also developed innovative instructional methods, including "Seeing Through Chemistry," an interactive computer/video tool, and "The Business of Chemistry," which consists of curricular modules that relate chemistry to everyday life. His dedication as a teacher was recognized by the LS&A Excellence in Education award in 1994, by his appointment as an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in 2002, and by election as an honorary member of *Phi Eta Sigma* for excellence in the teaching of general chemistry. In recent years he has been especially interested in improving minority student representation in the sciences. He held a Sloan Foundation grant for the support of minority students in materials research and received the University's Harold R. Johnson Diversity Service Award in 2004.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher, scholar, and administrator, by naming **Paul G. Rasmussen Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus, professor emeritus of chemistry, and professor emeritus of macromolecular science and engineering.**

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2006