

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

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

Jeffrey J. Prentis, Ph.D., professor of physics in the University of Michigan-Dearborn College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2019.

Professor Prentis received his B.S. (1977) and his Ph.D. (1982) degrees from the University of Michigan. He joined the UM-Dearborn faculty as an assistant professor in 1984, and was promoted to associate professor in 1989, and professor in 1997.

During his 35-year career at the university, Professor Prentis taught a full range of physics courses and designed all the mechanics laboratory experiments currently used in the introductory courses. His innovations in teaching were featured on the covers of the October 1996, April 2001, and January 2007 issues of *The Physics Teacher*. The *American Journal of Physics* (AJP) designated his papers titled “Experiments in Statistical Mechanics” and “Equation Poems” as a ‘Classic AJP Paper’ and an ‘Editor’s Choice,’ respectively. For his exceptional contributions to classroom instruction and innovation, he was the recipient of UM-Dearborn’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 1997. Professor Prentis received UM-Dearborn’s Distinguished Research Award for his original contributions to the study of quantum theory, statistical mechanics, and thermodynamics in 2005. This work included an invited paper titled “The Art of Statistical Mechanics” that was published in the AJP’s theme issue on thermal and statistical physics in 1999. He received the U-M Office of Technology Transfer’s Inventor Recognition Award for his two inventions, the Boltzmann Machine and the Statistical Physics Demonstrator, in 2001.

The Regents now salute this distinguished physicist for his service to the University of Michigan-Dearborn by naming **Jeffrey J. Prentis, professor emeritus of physics**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

February 2020