

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents

ACTION REQUEST

May 17, 2007

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Charles R. Cowley, Ph.D., professor of astronomy, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active status on May 31, 2007.

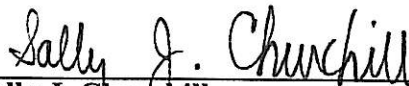
Professor Cowley received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Virginia in 1955 and 1958, respectively, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan in 1963. From 1963-67 he was a faculty member at the University of Chicago. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1967 as an assistant professor, and was promoted to associate professor in 1970 and professor in 1977.

Professor Cowley became one of the world's experts on elemental and isotopic peculiarities in the spectra of stars and their implications for nucleosynthesis. His early, pioneering analyses of peculiar A stars represented significant contributions to unraveling the mysteries of their anomalies. Critical to Professor Cowley's success was not only his deep understanding of model stellar atmospheres and abundance analysis techniques, but his commitment to a thorough vetting of the basic laboratory astrophysics data critical to accurate determinations. Among Professor Cowley's more than 220 publications is a highly regarded textbook, *Cosmochemistry*. This book is notable for exploring a wide range of geological and astronomical aspects of chemistry, as seen in rocks in our solar system and gas chemistry in other galaxies. This type of broad focus ties together chemical phenomena seen in the Universe.

Professor Cowley has been a member of the National Research Council on Line Spectra, chair of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) Working Group on Ap Stars, president of the XXIII IAU Colloquium on chemically peculiar stars, and a member of the Scientific Organizing Committee for IAU Commission 29.

The Regents salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Charles R. Cowley professor emeritus of astronomy**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2007