

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

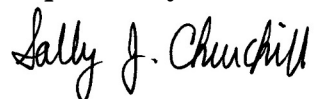
**William Fulton, Ph.D.**, Oscar Zariski Distinguished University Professor of Mathematics and professor of mathematics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2020.

Professor Fulton received his B.A. (1961) degree from Brown University and his Ph.D. (1966) degree from Princeton University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as the M.S. Keeler II Professor of Mathematics and professor of mathematics in 1998 following a distinguished career at Brown University (1970-87) and the University of Chicago (1987-98). He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1997 and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1998. In 2000, he was named a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. In 2009, Professor Fulton was named the Oscar Zariski Distinguished University Professor of Mathematics.

Although his interests were very broad, most of Professor Fulton's research was in the field of algebraic geometry and neighboring areas, and he was considered one of the top leaders in the field at the international level. He made major contributions to many of the most important areas of algebraic geometry, including intersection theory, toric varieties, Schubert calculus, and quantum cohomology. In all of these areas, he had a strong influence not only through his research but also through his exposition and teaching. He repeatedly demonstrated an uncanny ability to recognize areas that were ripe for development and create frameworks that enabled this development. In fact, through his research, writing, and teaching, Professor Fulton set the shape of large parts of the landscape of contemporary algebraic geometry. He authored or co-authored 10 books and 59 other publications. His most famous book, *Intersection Theory* (1984), was awarded the 1996 Leroy P. Steele Prize for Mathematical Exposition by the American Mathematical Society. In 2010, he received the Steele Prize for Lifetime Achievement from the American Mathematical Society. Professor Fulton's presence at Michigan helped to develop the Department of Mathematics into a leading center of algebraic geometry. He was instrumental in attracting many top young scholars to faculty and postdoctoral positions, as well as a large number of graduate students. In his long and distinguished career, he mentored 24 graduate students, many of whom have become leaders in the field themselves.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **William Fulton, Oscar Zariski Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and professor emeritus of mathematics**.

**Requested by:**



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**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**  
**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**May 2020**