

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Andreas R. Blass, Ph.D., professor of mathematics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2024.

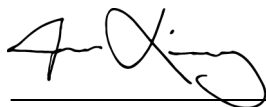
After receiving a B.S. degree in physics from the University of Detroit in 1966, Professor Blass received his Ph.D. degree in mathematics in 1970 from Harvard University. He joined the UM Department of Mathematics faculty in 1970 as a T.H. Hildebrandt Research Instructor and was named an assistant professor in 1972. He was promoted to professor in 1984. Professor Blass served several terms as the associate chair in the mathematics department, in various capacities. He was in charge of course offerings, teaching assignments, student complaints, and undergraduate education; he was responsible for overseeing the graduate program; and managed faculty recruitment and hiring for regular faculty. He also served a term on the College of LSA Executive Committee from 2002-2005. Over the years, Professor Blass held visiting appointments at universities in the U.S. and Germany, as well as the Fields Institute, Newton Institute, and the Simons Institute for Theory of Computing.

During his lengthy career, Professor Blass has primarily studied mathematical logic and foundations, especially set theory. His research interests extend into other areas, including finite combinatorics, category theory, and theoretical computer science. In 1984, Professor Blass proved that the existence of a basis for every vector space is equivalent to the axiom of choice. He made important contributions in the development of the set theory of the reals and forcing. He was the first to point out connections between game semantics and linear logic. He had a long association with Microsoft Research, spending most summers collaborating with them from 1999 through 2017. Initially he worked in traditional computer science, then in 2012 shifted to research in quantum computing.

Professor Blass mentored 29 grad students, as well as numerous young faculty and postdoctoral researchers. He has over 225 publications, both books and articles, with numerous co-authors.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Andreas R. Blass, professor emeritus of mathematics**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2024