

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**William James Adams, Ph.D.**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Shorey Peterson Professorship of Industrial Organization, and professor of economics, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2025.

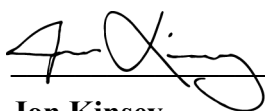
Professor Adams earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate in economics from Harvard University (1969, 1971, 1973). He joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as an assistant professor of economics in 1973 and rose through the ranks to professor of economics in 1988. He also held appointments as a research associate in the Institute of Public Policy Studies, as an associate professor of law in the Law School, and as a professor in the LSA Honors Program. In the Department of Economics, he served as director of undergraduate studies (2002-2019) and department chair (2015-2016). He served in LSA as an elected member of the Executive Committee, as associate dean for faculty affairs, as director of the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Program, and as director of the Center for West European Studies.

Professor Adams, focused his research on the sources and uses of market power, and on the economic integration of Europe. His expertise, combined by his deep knowledge of French language, history, politics, and culture, made him a highly-sought advisor to various units of the U.S. government, including the Federal Trade Commission and the U.S. Ambassador to France. He has held visiting professorships at Harvard, Aix-Marseille II, Paris I, Paris-Dauphine, the European University Institute, and Basel.

Professor Adams taught more than 10,000 students at the University of Michigan. He developed undergraduate courses on American Industries, The European Economy, and Capitalisms. His lectures are known for their clarity and wit. His teaching integrates understanding of history and institutions with economic principles and analysis. He is beloved for his support and continued mentorship by the students who took his classes. Professor Adams received frequent recognition for his teaching including the Amoco Foundation Award (1986) and the Golden Apple Award (1998). He was nominated by the University of Michigan for the U.S. Professors of the Year Award (2007) and the State of Michigan's Distinguished Professor of the Year Award (2008).

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and scholar by naming **William James Adams, Arthur F. Thurnau professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of economics.**

**Requested by:**



**Jon Kinsey**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

**May 2025**