

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Roy Clarke, Ph.D., Marcellus L. Wiedenbeck Collegiate Professor of Physics and professor of physics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 24, 2026.

Professor Roy Clarke (B.S. 1969, Ph.D. 1973) earned both degrees at Queen Mary College, University of London. He completed his doctoral dissertation at the laboratory founded by Nobel Laureate Sir C.V. Raman in Bangalore (Bengaluru), India. Following postdoctoral research at the Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, he was named James Franck Fellow at the University of Chicago. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1979. He served as founding director of the U-M Applied Physics Program, a unique doctoral program that unites more than a dozen science departments to develop new applications across physical sciences, engineering, and biomedical sciences. He also directed the University of Michigan Ultra-small Structures Research Office, which marked the U-M's entry into nanotechnology.

Professor Roy Clarke's pioneering research on phase transitions in low-dimensional materials was conducted largely at major synchrotron facilities worldwide. In 1990, he established his own beamline at Argonne National Laboratory in a historic partnership with AT&T Bell Labs and Howard University. This consortium built the first research facility dedicated to the study of atomic processes on the sub-nanosecond time scale. A leader in his field, Clarke's group was also the first to report on the atomic-level structure of compound semiconductor nanostructures.

An active entrepreneur, Professor Clarke co-founded k-Space Associates Inc. in 1992, a student-led spin-off that has become a global leader in thin-film semiconductor metrology. His commitment to renewable energy also led to pioneering solar-powered refrigeration for off-grid healthcare clinics in East Africa. Throughout his career, he has mentored more than 100 Ph.D. students and chaired 40 dissertations, with a dedicated focus on supporting scholars from underrepresented backgrounds. In recognition of this impact, he was named a University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor in 2022.

Professor Clarke is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2009, he was awarded a Royal Society Visiting Professorship at

the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. He also won the Sokol Prize. In 2011, he received the Presidential Award for Excellence in STEM Mentoring from President Obama.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scientist by naming **Roy Clarke, Marcellus L. Wiedenbeck Collegiate Professor Emeritus of Physics and professor emeritus of physics.**

Requested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Kinsey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2026