

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

James K. Wight, Ph.D., F.E. Richart, Jr. Collegiate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and professor of civil and environmental engineering in the College of Engineering (CoE), retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2020.

Professor Wight received his B.S.E. (1969) and M.S.E. (1970) degrees from Michigan State University and his Ph.D. (1973) degree from the University of Illinois. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as assistant professor in 1973, and was promoted to associate professor in 1979, and professor in 1986. He was named the F.E. Richart, Jr. Collegiate Professor in 2005.

Professor Wight was well-known both nationally and internationally for his work in earthquake-resistant design and seismic upgrading of concrete structures. He spent a one-year sabbatical leave in Japan and was involved in the construction and simulated earthquake testing of a full-scale reinforced concrete building. He was involved with post-earthquake damage studies following earthquakes in Mexico City, Chile, Armenia, Egypt, California, Japan, and India. Professor Wight was also an active member of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) since 1973, and was named a fellow of the institute in 1984. He held several important positions within ACI, including president of the institute (2012-13). He chaired several technical committees including the ACI Building Code Committee, which writes the structural concrete design standard that is used throughout the U.S., as well as most of Central and South America. He won several awards for his research and service from ACI including the Structural Research Award (2003), the Wason Medal for the most meritorious paper (2012), the Joe W. Kelly Award for educational excellence (1999), and the Delmar Bloem Award for Distinguished Service (1991). He was also recognized as a distinguished alumnus of the civil engineering departments at Michigan State University and the University of Illinois. Professor Wight received many University of Michigan awards, including the CoE 38E Award (1977), the CoE Teaching Excellence Award (1989), the CoE Excellence in Faculty Service Award (1995), and the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies' Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award (2009). He was the primary adviser for 33 doctoral students, and authored or co-authored over 100 journal papers.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **James K. Wight, F. E. Richart, Jr. Collegiate Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and professor emeritus of civil and environmental engineering.**

Requested by:



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

June 2020