

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir


Gary S. Was, Sc.D., Walter J. Weber, Jr. Professor of Sustainable Energy, Environmental and Earth Systems Engineering, professor of nuclear engineering and radiological sciences, and professor of materials science and engineering, in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2021.

Professor Was received his B.S. (1975) degree from the University of Michigan and his S.M. (1977) and his Sc.D. (1980) degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1980, and was promoted to associate professor in 1985, and professor in 1990. Professor Was served as associate dean for research of the College of Engineering (2000-05) and chair (1994-99) and interim chair (2018) of the Department of Nuclear Engineering Radiological Sciences. He was the founding director of the Michigan Ion Beam Laboratory, the High Temperature Corrosion Laboratory, and the Irradiated Materials Testing Laboratory as well as the director of the Michigan Memorial Phoenix Energy Institute.

Professor Was studied the response of materials to the unique environments of nuclear energy systems, including radiation damage, corrosion, and stress corrosion cracking. He was a leader in developing the use of ion beams to understand radiation effects and in decoupling the complex interactions that lead to stress corrosion cracking in metals. His work was recognized across his career from his selection as a Presidential Young Investigator Award by the National Science Foundation through his selection as a fellow in multiple societies, including TMS, the Materials Research Society, the American Nuclear Society, NACE International, and ASM International. He won national awards for both his research and his teaching, as exemplified by the Glenn Murphy Award (2017) from the ASEE and the Mishima Award (2017) from the ANS. He published over 300 refereed archival journals and authored a seminal textbook on the effects of radiation on materials. Professor Was' commitment to students was demonstrated by graduating 44 Ph.D. students over his 41-year career. He was a guiding force for his technical field through five years of service as the editor-in-chief for the *Journal of Nuclear Materials*, the premier journal in his field.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Gary S. Was, Walter J. Weber, Jr. Professor Emeritus of Sustainable Energy, Environmental and Earth Systems Engineering, professor emeritus of nuclear engineering and radiological sciences, and professor emeritus of materials science and engineering.**

Requested by:



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

June 2021