

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Rodney D. Fort, Ph.D., professor of kinesiology in the School of Kinesiology, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2022.

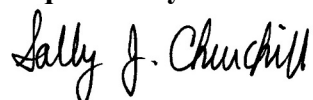
Professor Fort received his B.S. (1978) degree from Utah State University and his M.S. (1980) degree from Montana State University. He received his Ph.D. (1985) degree from the California Institute of Technology. He joined Washington State University as an assistant professor in 1984, and was promoted to associate professor in 1990, and professor in 1997. Professor Fort joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor in 2007. He served as the Graduate Program Committee chair from 2009-10 and associate dean for graduate programs and faculty affairs from 2010-12.

Professor Fort can rightfully claim to be among the small number of scholars who established the field of sport economics. When he began his career there had been a small handful of economists who had written important papers focusing on sport as a unique business, but those individual papers did not establish a subfield. Professor Fort's decades long focus on a different aspect of the sports business and what separates it from other entrepreneurial activities is what created the field of sport economics. Today there are scores of economists and social scientists who describe themselves and their research as sport economics. Before Professor Fort there were no journals focused on sport economics. Today there are several journals focused on sport economics. Two of these journals are anchored to universities in North America. There is now a sport economics journal at a European university and another at a Korean university. As important as his contributions to create a new field of study within economics has been his mentorship of doctoral students who have now become leaders in the field. His former students are now members of the faculty at universities in the U.S. and Europe. In each instance his students have built sport economics specialties in management programs.

Professor Fort's dominance and definition of field of sport economics is defined by his publications, his presence as a source for the popular media, and his service as an expert witness.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Rodney D. Fort, professor emeritus of kinesiology**.

Requested by:



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

June 2022