

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**James L. Hilton, Ph.D.**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of information in the School of Information, retired from active faculty status on February 14, 2025.

Professor Hilton received his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1985. He joined the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts in 1985. In 1991, he was promoted to associate professor and was named undergraduate chair. In 1997, Professor Hilton was named an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and in 1999, he was promoted to professor in the Department of Psychology. Professor Hilton served Special Assistant to the Provost for Media Rights from 1999 to 2000, Associate Provost for Academic, Information, and Instructional Technology Affairs from 2001 to 2006, and Interim University Librarian from 2005 to 2006. In 2006, Professor Hilton was appointed as professor in the Department of Psychology and Vice President and Chief Information Officer at the University of Virginia. In 2013, Professor Hilton returned to the University of Michigan as professor of information at the School of Information and was named an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor. From 2013 to 2022, he served as University Librarian and Dean of Libraries and as Vice Provost for Academic Innovation from 2013 to 2023.

Professor Hilton is a prominent social psychologist, educator, and academic administrator, recognized for his leadership in information technology and innovative academic practices. His leadership led to significant initiatives, including data center construction, information system migrations, and the establishment of robust security policies. Under his stewardship, the University of Michigan's Center for Academic Innovation expanded from three to over 100 employees, generating revenue exceeding \$31 million, and significantly enhancing the university's educational capabilities. Professor Hilton received multiple accolades for his teaching and leadership, including the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Excellence in Education Awards, the Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award, and designation as an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor. In recognition of his contributions to the field, he was honored with Educause's Leadership Award in 2015, its highest individual achievement award.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **James L. Hilton, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of information.**

**Requested by:**



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

**June 2025**