

# The University of Michigan Regents Communication

## Request for Action

### Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

#### Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

**Mojtaba Vaziri, Ph.D.**, David M. French Professor, professor of physics, and professor of mechanical engineering in the College of Innovation and Technology, University of Michigan-Flint, retired from active status on May 19, 2026.

Professor Vaziri began his studies in physics at Purdue University, earning an M.S. in 1982 and a Ph.D. in experimental solid-state physics in 1985. After graduation, he served as a research associate at the University of Illinois Chicago and later worked in electrical engineering at Purdue University before joining UM-Flint in 1990. Over the course of his career at the university, he advanced through the faculty ranks to professor and was appointed the David M. French Professor in 2013.

Throughout his tenure, Professor Vaziri has been a steadfast advocate for a student-centered approach to science education. His teaching philosophy emphasizes active engagement as essential to effective learning. In recognition of his excellence in teaching, he received the Distinguished Professor of the Year Award from the President's Council, State Universities of Michigan in 2013, the state's highest teaching honor. Colleagues and students alike have noted his ability to integrate laboratory and lecture, making complex theoretical concepts accessible through hands-on experience.

Professor Vaziri also established a solid-state research facility at UM-Flint, securing support from the Research Corporation, IBM, and the UM-Flint Office of Research and the UM-Ann Arbor Information Technology Division. His scholarship has spanned topics from diluted magnetic semiconductors to the synthesis of graphene-enhanced nanocomposites and has appeared in leading journals, including *Physical Review Letters* and *Applied Physics Letters*. He has consistently integrated undergraduates into his research program, providing meaningful opportunities to publish and present at national conferences.

In addition to his teaching and research, Professor Vaziri has made significant contributions through institutional leadership. He served for many years as chair of the Department of Computer Science, Engineering, and Physics, overseeing faculty hiring and supporting the development and implementation of new degree programs. He contributed to the early visioning of the College of Innovation and Technology and provided sustained service through program revision efforts and faculty governance at multiple levels. Widely regarded by peers as a dedicated educator and an innovative thinker, Professor Vaziri has strengthened the university through exemplary teaching, sustained scholarship, and devoted service.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Mojtaba Vaziri, professor emeritus of physics and professor emeritus of mechanical engineering.**

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

June 2026