

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Edmund H. Durfee, Ph.D.**, professor of electrical engineering and computer science in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2021.

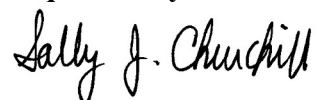
Professor Durfee received his A.B. (1980) degree from Harvard University and his M.S.E.C.E. (1984) and Ph.D. (1987) degrees from the University of Massachusetts. He completed a postdoctoral appointment (1987-88) at the University of Massachusetts. Professor Durfee joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1988, and was promoted to associate professor in 1994, and professor in 2000.

Professor Durfee's research focused on artificial intelligence mechanisms for planning and coordinating the activities of sophisticated, autonomous computational agents that adapt their behaviors to achieve individual and collective objectives in complex, time-critical environments. He pioneered distributed planning and constraint satisfaction techniques for safely coordinating teams of agents (and often also humans), and led NSF, DoD, NIH, and industrially-sponsored projects employing these techniques in applications including schedule management for families of adolescents with disabilities, cooperative reconnaissance by unmanned vehicles, coordination of distributed human teams, organizational self-design for disaster response, military coalition coordination, and delegation of command and control tasks to computational agents in reduced-crew-size ships. His doctoral students are now leaders in academia and industry.

Professor Durfee served as director of the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and the Master of Engineering Program in Robotics and Autonomous Vehicles, and received a number of college and departmental awards for spearheading sweeping improvements to U-M's undergraduate computer science programs. He was president of the International Foundation for Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (IFAAMAS), and was a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). He received the NSF's Presidential Young Investigator Award in 1991 and the IFAAMAS' Influential Paper Awards in 2008 and 2010.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Edmund H. Durfee, professor emeritus of electrical engineering and computer science**.

**Requested by:**



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

**July 2021**