

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

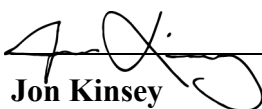
**Perry J. Samson, Ph.D.**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of climate and space sciences and engineering in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2025.

Professor Samson received his B.S. in atmospheric sciences from the University of New York at Albany in 1972 and his Ph.D. in meteorology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1979. From 1973 to 1979, he served as a research scientist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. That same year, he joined the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Space Sciences, and was promoted to associate professor in 1985, and professor in 1990.

Professor Samson’s research has advanced two distinct fields: atmospheric science and educational technology. In atmospheric science, he studied the regional-scale transport of air pollutants, atmospheric ozone, and acid rain, producing widely cited publications, securing sustained external support, and being elected a fellow of the American Meteorological Society (2023). In educational technology, he conducted pioneering research on technology-enhanced learning, leading to the creation of Weather Underground, one of the first internet-based weather services, and LectureTools, a classroom engagement platform integrated into learning management systems worldwide. His work has been recognized with an Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship (1995), Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year by the President’s Council of State Universities (2010), the University of Michigan Distinguished University Innovator Award (2021), and the Alumni Excellence Award, University at Albany (2023). At Michigan, he advanced active learning pedagogy, mentored generations of students, and established an endowment in the Department of Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering to support experiential learning for undergraduates. Collectively, these contributions have enhanced the university’s reputation in both atmospheric science and educational innovation, while advancing its mission of research, teaching, and public service.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Perry J. Samson, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of climate and space sciences and engineering.**

**Requested by:**



---

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

**November 2025**