The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Stephen R. Forrest, Ph.D., Peter A. Franken Distinguished University Professor of Engineering, Paul G. Goebel Professor of Engineering, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, professor of material science and engineering, College of Engineering, and professor of physics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on January 10, 2027.

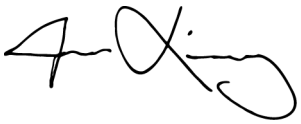
Professor Forrest received his B.A. (1972) in physics from the University of California, Berkeley, and his M.Sc. (1974) and Ph.D. (1979) in physics from the University of Michigan. His career began at Bell Labs in 1979 and then joined the University of Southern California as associate professor (1985), and was later promoted to professor, then director of the Center for Photonic Technology. At Princeton, he became the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor of Electrical Engineering (1992), director, Center for Photonic and Optoelectronic Materials, and chair, Electrical Engineering Department. He joined University of Michigan (2006) as vice president for research, then returned to full-time teaching and research (2014).

Professor Forrest's research focused on photovoltaic cells, organic light emitting diodes, and lasers and optics. He has participated in the founding of 6 start-up companies, issued 418 US patents, written 695 peer-reviewed publications, and graduated 73 Ph.D. students.

He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, National Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, National Academy of Inventors, and Fellow of the Royal Society. He was honored by Princeton University's establishment of the Stephen R. Forrest Endowed Faculty Chair in Electrical Engineering (2012), received the IEEE Daniel Nobel Award for innovations in OLEDs (2007), the IEEE Jun-Ichi Nishizawa Medal (2017), the IEEE William R. Cherry Award (2022), U of M Distinguished University Innovator (2015), and Henry Russell Lectureship (2019), among many others.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Stephen R. Forrest, Peter A. Franken Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Engineering, Paul G. Goebel Professor Emeritus of Engineering, professor emeritus of electrical engineering and computer science, professor emeritus of material science and engineering, and professor emeritus of physics.**

Respectfully submitted:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2026