The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Philip S. Richards, D.D.S., M.S., clinical professor of dentistry in the School of Dentistry, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2026.

Dr. Richards received his D.D.S. degree in 1984 from the University of Michigan. He also completed his residency in periodontics and M.S. degree in 1988 at UM. Dr. Richards served as a clinical instructor and lecturer at Michigan from 1984-1993. He was then appointed as clinical assistant professor, later promoted to clinical associate professor in 1998 and to clinical professor in 2008.

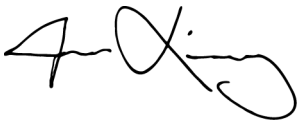
Maintaining a full career focused on predoctoral dental and periodontal education, Dr. Richards served as director of undergraduate periodontics from 1994-2010, 2013-2017, and 2022-2025. In addition to periodontics, he developed and taught courses in dental treatment planning, behavioral science, and education. He served as a faculty coach to support dental students' clinical development and as an advisor for many dental, dental hygiene and graduate student research projects and volunteer activities.

Dr. Richards developed and taught continuing education courses locally, regionally and nationally. He also created, curated, and shared a large digital library of dental patient case scenarios used frequently in teaching and assessment.

Dr. Richards received over forty teaching awards during his career, including the Dr. Paul Gibbons Award (the most influential faculty member during four years of dental school) from twelve Michigan DDS graduating classes between 1994-2014.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Philip S. Richards, clinical professor emeritus of dentistry.**

Respectfully submitted:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2026