The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Karem A. Sakallah, Ph.D., professor of electrical engineering and computer science in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2026.

Professor Sakallah received his B.E. (1975) in electrical engineering from the American University of Beirut and his M.S. (1977) in computer engineering and Ph.D. (1981) in electrical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. He joined Carnegie Mellon University as a visiting assistant professor in 1981 and then served as principal software engineer at Digital Equipment Corporation from 1982 to 1988. Professor Sakallah joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1988 and was promoted to professor in 1997. He served as associate chair of Computer Science and Engineering Division in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department from 2009–2013.

Professor Sakallah's career has focused on the development of software tools that solve real-world analysis, design, and verification problems using mathematically rigorous modeling and algorithmically-scalable computation. He is known for his work on functional verification, satisfiability testing (SAT), and the Graph automorphism problem.

In 1996, Professor Sakallah and his collaborator developed a method to combine searching for a *satisfiability witness* with searching for an *unsatisfiability proof*, with the two concurrent searches guiding each other, leading to a breakthrough in performance in SAT. They were recognized for this work with the 2009 CAV (Computer Aided Verification) Award. In 2026, Professor Sakallah received an inaugural award from the SAT Association recognizing "Extraordinary Achievements for 30 Years of Clause Learning."

In 2012, Professor Sakallah participated in the launch of the Ibn Sina School for Computer Science, which helped prepare undergraduate students in the Middle East for successful careers in computer science. In 2014, he helped to shape the development of the Qatar Computing Research Institute in Doha, and supervised the growth of its Cyber Security Research Area.

Professor Sakallah is a life fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and a fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Karem A. Sakallah, professor emeritus of electrical engineering and computer science.**

Respectfully submitted:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2026