The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Steven Yalisove, Ph.D., professor of materials science and engineering, College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2026.

Professor Yalisove received an M.S. in 1979 from University of Rochester, in mechanical and aerospace engineering after studying mathematics at Rochester as an undergraduate. He then worked at General Electric Re-entry and Environmental Systems for the next two years as an aerothermodynamics engineer until 1980 when he entered the Materials Science and Engineering Ph.D. program at the University of Pennsylvania. After earning his Ph.D. in 1986 he spent short time as a post-doc at University of Pennsylvania followed by a post-doc at Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, NJ from 1987 to 1989.

He joined the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in 1989. He was awarded tenure in 1995 and became a professor in 2009, continuing through to his retirement.

Professor Yalisove is a nationally and internationally renowned materials scientist and a leading figure in the ultrafast laser-material interaction community. His primary scholarly contributions have been in the fields of thin film growth, the roles of strain and defects in microstructural and morphological development, thin film characterization, and laser-solid interaction. His research group developed critical mechanisms that explain the formation of laser induced periodic structures for ultrafast laser irradiated surfaces as well as fundamental mechanisms that lead to 15-20 orders of magnitude higher atomic transport without melting.

Professor Yalisove is also an accomplished educator as evidenced by his publications and presentations at international materials education meetings. He was the first at UM to use audience participation technology (now known as clickers) in 1996 and worked for more than a decade on implementing team based/project based replacements for large lectures. He is currently producing a podcast with a colleague called “Undercooled: A Materials Education Podcast” that is in its 4th season with over 75 episodes published.

In 1996, he was named a Fulbright Fellow. He was awarded a Provost’s Teaching Innovation Prize at UM in 2014, and in 2019, he was awarded the North American Materials Education Symposium Award for Outstanding Contributions to Materials Education.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Steven Yalisove, professor emeritus of materials science and engineering.**

Respectfully submitted:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2026