

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

**Adopted by the
Regents
December 19, 2013**

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir


Robert K. Lazarsfeld, Ph.D., Raymond L. Wilder Collegiate Professor of Mathematics and professor of mathematics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2013.

Professor Lazarsfeld received his B.A. degree from Harvard University in 1975 and his Ph.D. degree from Brown University in 1980. He was a Benjamin Pierce Instructor at Harvard University from 1980-83. Professor Lazarsfeld served on the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles from 1983-98. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor in 1997 and was named Raymond L. Wilder Collegiate Professor in 2007.

A leading authority on algebraic geometry, Professor Lazarsfeld explored the use of positivity methods, intersection theory and connectivity, syzygies and the Koszul cohomology on algebraic curves, generic vanishing theorems, Hilbert's Nullstellensatz theorem, and measuring singularities with invariants. More recently, Professor Lazarsfeld pioneered new directions of research through his work on the asymptotic behavior of syzygies and on connections between linear systems and convex geometry through the notion of Okounkov body. He was instrumental in securing and managing a large Vertical Integration of Research and Education grant and other National Science Foundation grants. Professor Lazarsfeld published more than 60 articles in highly distinguished journals and authored the monograph *Positivity in Algebraic Geometry* in 2004. Professor Lazarsfeld's extensive editorial experience includes serving as editor (2002-07) and managing editor (2007-09) of the *Journal of the American Mathematical Society* and managing editor (2012-13) of the *Michigan Mathematical Journal*. A gifted teacher, he directed 21 Ph.D. students and mentored countless postdoctoral fellows. He received numerous honors for his work including the Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship (1984-87), the National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator Award (1985-90), a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship (1998-99), and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2006).

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Robert K. Lazarsfeld professor emeritus of mathematics**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2013