

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir


David A. James, Ph.D., professor of mathematics in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2016.

Professor James received his B.A. (1964) degree from Miami University of Ohio and his M.A. (1966) and Ph.D. (1970) degrees from the University of Wisconsin. He joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn faculty as an associate professor in 1976, and was promoted to professor in 1983.

Professor James' scholarly work focused on pure research on automorphic functions, applied work in computer-aided geometric design, and the pedagogical treatments of Möbius strips and the singular value decomposition. His articles have been published by a number of notable journals, including the *College Mathematics Journal*, *The American Mathematical Monthly*, and the *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society*. Professor James' interdisciplinary and collaborative research examined the mathematical structure underlying the color-reversing friezes of buildings façades in the village of Pírgi on the Greek island of Chios. He also led a 10-year project to study the mathematical patterns represented in European folk costumes. A superb instructor and dedicated mentor, Professor James taught a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses on pure and applied mathematics as well as guided the early integration of computers in the calculus curriculum. He received a number of UM-Dearborn awards, including two Distinguished Teaching Awards (1982 and 2007), the Best in Class Award (1990), and the Distinguished Service Award (1997).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **David A. James, professor emeritus of mathematics**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2016