

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Ralph T. Yang, Ph.D.**, John B. Feen Distinguished University Professor of Engineering, Dwight F. Benton Professor of Chemical Engineering, and professor of chemical engineering in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2021.

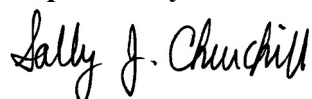
Professor Yang earned his B.S. degree in chemical engineering from the National Taiwan University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering from Yale University in 1968 and 1971, respectively. In 1995, he moved from SUNY-Buffalo to join the University of Michigan's Department of Chemical Engineering as department chair and professor. He served as the department chair until 2000, was named the Dwight F. Benton Professor of Chemical Engineering in 2002, and received a distinguished university professor designation in 2017.

Professor Yang's research interests focused on solid surfaces and their new applications. He is widely known as a leading expert on gas adsorption. He published two books: *Gas Separation by Adsorption Processes*, Butterworth, London, 1987 and its paperback edition, Imperial College Press, 1997; and *Adsorbents: Fundamentals and Applications*, Wiley, NJ, 2003. Professor Yang and his students have published 450 journal papers in adsorption and related areas, and he holds 33 U.S. patents. His primary research area is separations, particularly separations by adsorption, and he has focused extensively on carbon materials and environmental catalysis.

In recognition of his research accomplishments, Professor Yang was elected to the National Academy of Engineering (2005), Academia Sinica (Taiwan, 2008), and as a foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (2015). He has received the highest awards in his fields, including three awards from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE): William H. Walker Award (1991) for "Excellence in Contribution to Chemical Engineering Literature," the Institute Award (1996) for Excellence in Industrial Gases Technology, and the AIChE Separations Division's Clarence Gerhold Award (1997). Professor Yang has advised over 40 doctoral students, mentored over 30 postdoctoral fellows and visiting scholars, and taught classes at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in chemical engineering.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Ralph T. Yang, John B. Feen Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Engineering, Dwight F. Benton Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering, and professor emeritus of chemical engineering.**

Requested by:



---

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

**December 2021**