

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Michael R. Combi, Ph.D.**, Freeman Devold Miller Collegiate Research Professor, Office of the Vice President for Research, Distinguished Research Scientist, and research professor, climate and space sciences and engineering, College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on September 30, 2023.

Professor Combi received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Toledo in 1979. He joined the University of Michigan as an associate research scientist in 1989, and was promoted to research scientist in 1993, and research professor in 2003.

Professor Combi's research focused on the production, distribution, physics and chemistry of tenuous planetary atmospheres including those of comets, planetary satellites and the exospheres of terrestrial planets where fluid conditions breakdown. He was the first to apply Monte Carlo techniques to comet atmospheres. He carried on space-based observations of comets for several decades including the Hubble Space Telescope. He was a co-investigator on two instrument teams, European Space Agency (ESA) Rosetta mission to comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko and a participating science on the MAVEN mission to Mars. He has received several NASA achievement awards and ESA recognition certificates. For his contributions to cometary science, Asteroid 17060 (1999 GX7) was named *Mikecombi*. He co-authored over 200 scholarly refereed publications and edited several monographs and proceedings books, most recently as co-lead editor of the upcoming *Comets III* book in the space science series of planetary books. He served as editor of the planetary science journal, *Icarus*. He chaired seven Ph.D. dissertations and advised and supported many postdocs, masters and undergraduate students. For 18 years, he directed the AOSS and then CLASP research experiences for the undergraduate program. He served on the Faculty Senate Assembly, SACUA, and search advisory committees for the vice president for research and the College of Engineering dean.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Michael R. Combi, Freeman Devold Miller Collegiate Research Professor Emeritus, Distinguished Research Scientist Emeritus, and research professor emeritus, climate and space sciences and engineering.**

**Requested by:**



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

**December 2023**