

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Thomas J. Armstrong, Ph.D.**, professor of industrial and operations engineering in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2024.

Professor Armstrong's education includes a B.S.E. (1971) degree in aerospace engineering, an M.P.H. (1972) degree in industrial health, and a Ph.D. (1976) degree in industrial health, physiology and engineering, all from the University of Michigan. He joined the Department of Industrial and Operations Engineering as an assistant research scientist and lecturer in 1977 and joined the Department of Environmental and Industrial Health in the School of Public Health as an assistant professor in 1978. He was promoted to associate professor in 1983 and professor in 1990. He also was appointed professor of biomedical engineering in 1998. In addition to his teaching and scholarship, he held appointments as director of the occupational health program in the School of Public Health from 1989 to 1995, director of the Center for Ergonomics from 1998 to 2016, and director of the U-M Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center from 1998 to 2004.

Professor Armstrong's research focused on work design for the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders. Working with colleagues from the Medical School, School of Public Health, and College of Engineering, and with support from government and industry sources, he conducted laboratory and field studies of biomechanical factors related to muscle, tendon, and nerve disorders, such as carpal tunnel syndrome and hand/wrist tendonitis. Professor Armstrong mentored 30 Ph.D. students and produced over 140 peer-reviewed publications. In 2003, he was named a senior visiting fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study (ISA) of the University of Bologna. Professor Armstrong received the ACGIH Wagner Award in 2019 for his outstanding commitment to the creation and dissemination of occupational exposure values in the field of national and international worker health and safety. In 2020, he was honored with the ACGIH Meritorious Achievement Award for his outstanding, long-term contributions to the field of occupational health and environmental hygiene. In 2005, Professor Armstrong was the recipient of the College of Engineering's Research Excellence Award. Additionally, he is a fellow of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, the Ergonomics Society (GB), the American Industrial Hygiene Association, and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Thomas J. Armstrong, professor emeritus of industrial and operations engineering**.

**Requested by:**



**Jon Kinsey**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

**December 2024**