

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Douglas Richstone, Ph.D.**, Lawrence H. Aller Collegiate Professor of Astronomy and professor of astronomy in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2024.

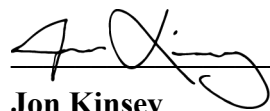
Professor Richstone attended the California Institute of Technology, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1971. He then attended Princeton University, earning a doctorate in 1975. Professor Richstone joined the University of Michigan in 1980 and was promoted through the ranks to professor in 1988. In recognition of his many contributions to the University of Michigan across many levels, Professor Richstone was awarded a collegiate professorship in 2006, and has been the Lawrence H. Aller Collegiate Professor of Astronomy since that time.

Professor Richstone's science focused on understanding the cores of galaxies, where black holes were expected to reside. This culminated with his leadership of a team that leveraged groundbreaking imaging and spectroscopy from the Hubble Space Telescope to measure the masses of black holes in a number of nearby galaxies. The modern astrophysical understanding that all sufficiently massive galaxies harbor a black hole in their nuclear region — and that black holes affect the evolution of their host galaxy — is laid on this groundwork. Among many other recognitions of this pioneering research, Professor Richstone shared the 2017 Carl Sagan Prize from the American Astronomical Society.

Professor Richstone showed extraordinary commitment to the university during his career. He twice served as chair of the Department of Astronomy (1985-1990, and 2000-2010). During these terms, Professor Richstone oversaw a revitalization of the Department of Astronomy at all levels, including joining the large Magellan Telescope consortium in Chile. Professor Richstone later served as the associate dean for natural sciences in the College of Literature, Sciences, and the Arts (2015-2018). Throughout his career, Professor Richstone was a dedicated teacher in the classroom, and an important mentor to many faculty and students at all levels.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Douglas Richstone, Lawrence H. Aller Professor Emeritus of Astronomy and professor emeritus of astronomy**.

**Requested by:**



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

**December 2024**