Adopted by the Regents
May 15, 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: **Report of Faculty Retirement**

Action Requested: **Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

Arthur J. Ashe, III, Ph.D., professor of chemistry in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of macromolecular science and engineering in the College of Engineering, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2008.

Professor Ashe received his B.A., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University in 1962, 1965 and 1966, respectively. In 1964 he attended the University of Cambridge on a Henry Ford Fellowship, and he also held an N.S.F. predoctoral fellowship from 1963-66. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1966, and was promoted to associate professor in 1971 and professor in 1976. He received an additional appointment as professor of macromolecular science and engineering in 2000.

Professor Ashe is known world-wide for his scientific work on organometallic chemistry of the main group elements. Over a period of years he prepared a large number of minimally or unsubstituted novel heterocycles. These syntheses, which are concise and invariably elegant, have focused on the simplest members of new classes of compounds. Most notable are his syntheses of the entire family of heterobenzenes: phosphabenzene, arsabenzene, stibabenzene and bismabenzene. As a result of this work, it was established that even the heaviest elements could be incorporated into aromatic rings. Professor Ashe has also prepared important aromatic boron compounds including 1H-borepin and boratabenzenes. He found that zirconium complexes of boron heterocycles can be excellent catalysts for converting olefins to important plastics. His extensive research work has been documented in 150 scientific publications.

Professor Ashe was chair of the Department of Chemistry from 1983-86. He has trained more than 30 doctoral and postdoctoral students and large numbers of undergraduates in research. He has been awarded external funding from a wide variety sources and has been recognized with an A. P. Sloan Fellowship (1972-76), the LS&A Excellence in Teaching Award (1993), and the LS&A Excellence in Research Award (1995).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Arthur J. Ashe, III, professor emeritus of chemistry and professor emeritus of macromolecular science and engineering.**

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill

Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2008