THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: **Report of Faculty Retirement**

Action Requested: **Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

B. Alan Taylor, Ph.D., professor of mathematics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2009.
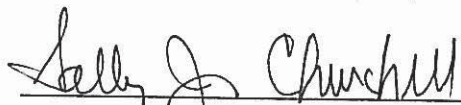
Professor Taylor received his B.A. degree from the University of Kansas in 1961, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois in 1962 and 1965, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1965 as a T.H. Hildebrandt Research Instructor and was promoted to assistant professor in 1967, associate professor in 1970, and professor in 1974.

Professor Taylor's research is in complex analysis. His early work studied the zeros of analytic functions and their connection with the classification of closed ideals in algebras of such functions. The connection of this work with classical potential theory and the problem of extending it to functions of several complex variables led him to the study of pluripotential theory, a new area of study in the theory of functions of several complex variables. Much of his research throughout the 1970s and 1980s was fundamental in establishing the tools and principles of this field. His latest research has focused on how geometric properties of analytic varieties influence the growth rates possible for plurisubharmonic and analytic functions, and the connection of these properties with properties of linear partial differential operators. He has authored or co-authored over 120 papers.

A popular and effective lecturer, Professor Taylor taught mathematics courses at all levels. He was the dissertation advisor for ten doctoral students and served on many doctoral committees. Professor Taylor established a seminar on teaching mathematics, and worked tirelessly to promote and support the department's introductory calculus program. Between 1994 and 2001 he served two terms as department chair, during which time the department saw a surge in the hiring of pure and applied mathematics faculty and the establishment of the Applied and Interdisciplinary Mathematics Graduate Program. Professor Taylor was instrumental in establishing Mathematics Career Day and the Mathematics Awards Ceremony to recognize outstanding undergraduate students.

The Regents salute this distinguished scholar by naming **B. Alan Taylor professor emeritus of mathematics.**

Requested by:

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

May 2009