

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

Adopted by the Regents

## ACTION REQUEST

May 14, 2009

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Paul W. Zitzewitz, Ph.D.**, professor of physics, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, and professor of science education, School of Education, University of Michigan-Dearborn, retired from the active faculty status on April 30, 2009.

Professor Zitzewitz earned his B.A. degree from Carleton College in 1964, and his A.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University in 1965 and 1970, respectively. Between 1970-73, he was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Western Ontario, and then a senior scientist at Corning Glass Works. He joined the faculty of the University of Michigan-Dearborn as an assistant professor of physics in 1973, and was promoted to associate professor in 1978 and professor in 1983. He was appointed professor of science education in 2004.

Professor Zitzewitz's research focused on positrons and positronium, and in particular, precision measurements of the decay rate of orthopositronium. During his long career, Professor Zitzewitz taught most of the courses in the physics curriculum and also made important contributions in other areas, including the upper-division laboratory courses, electronics and the advanced laboratory, reform of both the pedagogy and laboratories of the introductory calculus-based mechanics course, and development and teaching of three courses for pre-service and in-service elementary school teachers. He has authored four integrated science textbooks for middle and early high school students.

Within the Dearborn campus, Professor Zitzewitz served as chair of the Department of Natural Sciences and associate dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters. He is active in many physics and physics teachers' organizations, and served as president of the Michigan Section, American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), and treasurer and executive board member of the national AAPT. He received the distinguished service award from the Michigan Section of the AAPT in 2001 and was named a Fellow of the American Physical Society in 2002. He received the Dearborn campus's Distinguished Faculty Research Award in 1985, the Distinguished Service Award in 2003, and the Distinguished Teaching Award in 2007.

The Regents now salute this distinguished physicist by naming **Paul W. Zitzewitz professor emeritus of physics and professor emeritus of science education.**

**Requested by:**



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2009