

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Death**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Memorial Statement**

The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death of **Peter Smereka, Ph.D.**, professor of mathematics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Professor Smereka died on September 15, 2015.

Professor Smereka received his B.S. degree from the University of Waterloo in 1983 and his Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1989. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1994, and was promoted to associate professor in 1997, and professor in 2003.

An exemplary applied and computational mathematician, Professor Smereka was widely recognized for his original ideas, research achievements, and scientific leadership. His research focused on mathematical modeling, analysis, and numerical simulation for fluid mechanics, material science, and other areas. This is an important field for mathematics because the power of scientific computing is one of the motivations for much of applied mathematics and analysis. Professor Smereka's work on algorithms for multi-phase flow, such as simulating the motion of two immiscible fluids and the surface that separates them, has been particularly influential in many branches of science and engineering. He has a notable history of successfully securing research funding, authored sixty research articles in the leading scholarly journals, and was a frequent invited speaker at national symposia. Professor Smereka played an instrumental leadership role in the development and growth of the Applied and Interdisciplinary Mathematics Graduate Program. He received the prestigious National Science Foundation Career Award in 1996 and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts' Excellence in Education Award in 1997. Professor Smereka will be remembered for his inquisitive nature, sense of humor, and remarkable insights.

As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Brenda, his son Aidan, and his many loving relatives and friends.

**Requested by:**



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

**October 2015**