

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**James A. Slavin, Ph.D.**, professor of climate and space sciences and engineering in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on September 30, 2023.

Professor Slavin completed his undergraduate work at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland (B.S. degree in physics, 1976). He was then accepted into the University of California at Los Angeles Ph.D. program in space physics. He received his M.S. degree in geophysics and space physics in 1978 and a Ph.D. degree in space physics in 1982.

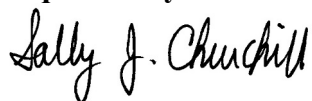
Professor Slavin accepted a resident research associateship at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) at the California Institute, Pasadena in 1982. He was soon promoted to a staff scientist position in 1983 and named study scientist for the Mars aeronomy observer mission concept (1984-86). Professor Slavin was posted to NASA headquarters in 1986 where he was appointed the discipline scientist for magnetospheric physics in the newly established space physics division. He accepted a civil service position in the Laboratory for Extraterrestrial Physics at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in 1987. He was later appointed head of the electrodynamics branch (1990-2004) and director for Heliophysics Science Division (2005-2011) at GSFC. In 2011, Professor Slavin was appointed a professor and chair of the UM's Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences (now the Department of Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering).

Professor Slavin's primary teaching assignments were SPACE 595, magnetospheric physics, and SPACE 582/583 in the MEng space systems program led by Professor Nilton Renno. Overall, his teaching results included the awarding of 19 new Ph.D. students and training of six post-doctoral fellows. Professor Slavin's MESSENGER Mercury orbiter and magnetospheric multiscale research groups published ~ 200 refereed journal articles.

Professor Slavin received a number of honors, including two NASA medals for exceptional achievement in space science and engineering (2004; 2008); American Geophysical Union fellow (2012); AOGS 14th annual Distinguished Lecturer in Planetary Sciences (2017); UCAR High Altitude Observatory heliophysics summer faculty (2018); and 10 NASA Group Achievement Awards for space flight missions (1981- 2017).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **James A. Slavin, professor emeritus of climate and space sciences and engineering**.

**Requested by:**



---

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

**October 2023**