

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 **Christopher M. Peterson, Ph.D.**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of psychology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Professor Peterson died on October 9, 2012, at age 62.

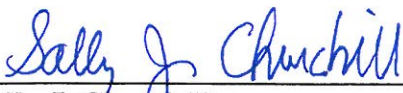
Professor Peterson received his B.S. degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1972, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Colorado in 1974 and 1976, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1986, and was promoted to professor in 1990. He was named Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in 1999.

Professor Peterson was a pioneer in two main research areas of clinical and personality psychology. His work in the first area, explanatory styles, determined that the way people explain events can predict a variety of outcomes such as health and achievement. More recently, Professor Peterson had been a leader in the field of positive psychology, the scientific study of character strengths and human thriving. His work has been utilized in clinical settings, schools, communities, and organizations to boost mental health. Professor Peterson published more than 350 scholarly works, including four undergraduate psychology textbooks, and is one of the most highly cited published researchers in the last 30 years. His work has been featured broadly in the public media, including *Good Morning America*, National Public Radio, and *The New York Times*.

Professor Peterson was a legendary educator who taught thousands of students in some of the University's largest courses. His mentoring of graduate and undergraduate students was unparalleled, as reflected by his service on 130 Ph.D. dissertation committees and 70 undergraduate honors theses committees. His excellence in teaching earned him the Thurnau Professorship and the University's 2010 Golden Apple Award.

Professor Peterson will be remembered for his wisdom, wit, and warmth. As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family.

**Requested by:**



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**Sally J. Churchill**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**November 2012**