

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Approved by the Regents
January 17, 2008

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 **Juha Heinonen**, professor of mathematics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, who died of kidney cancer on October 30, 2007, at the age of 47.

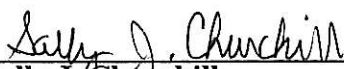
Professor Heinonen was born in the small town of Toivakka in central Finland. He enrolled in the University of Jyväskylä in 1980 and received his Ph.D. degree 1987. His thesis was on non-linear potential theory. He first came to the University of Michigan in 1985 to spend a semester as a visiting graduate student, and returned in 1988 for a three-year appointment as a post-doctoral assistant professor of mathematics. In 1992, he accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position, and was promoted to associate professor in 1994, and professor in 2000. From 2004-07, he also served as associate chair for graduate studies in the Department of Mathematics.

An internationally esteemed mathematician, Professor Heinonen was a leading figure in geometric function theory. He co-authored two books and more than 60 research papers, many of which laid the foundation for a new branch of mathematics, now known as analysis on metric spaces. Among numerous awards, he addressed the 2002 International Congress of Mathematicians, and in 2004, he was inducted into the Finnish Academy of Science. An inspirational teacher and generous collaborator, Professor Heinonen was widely admired by the countless young mathematicians he mentored, including the eight doctoral students for whom he served as thesis advisor.

When Professor Heinonen first arrived in Ann Arbor in 1988, he intended to stay for only a short period. However, his plans changed when he met his future wife, Karen Smith, a first-year graduate student of mathematics. They married in 1991, and she joined him on the mathematics faculty in 1996. In addition to his wife, Karen, Professor Heinonen is survived by his older daughter, Sanelma, born in 1998, his twins, Tapio and Helena, born in 2003, his mother, his sister, and his niece.

Professor Heinonen is deeply mourned by his family, friends, and many colleagues in the mathematics department, who have established the Juha Heinonen Memorial Graduate Student Fellowship to continue his legacy as a mentor to young mathematicians.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

January 2008