

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

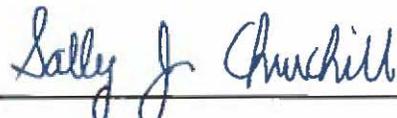
Hugh D. Aller, Ph.D., Ralph B. Baldwin Professor of Astronomy and professor of astronomy in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2018.

Professor Aller received his B.S. (1964), M.S. (1966), and Ph.D. (1968) degrees from the University of Michigan. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1969, and was promoted to associate professor in 1974, and professor in 1982. He was named the Ralph B. Baldwin Professor of Astronomy in 2008. Within the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Professor Aller served as the assistant to the dean for computing from 1989-90 and chair of the Department of Astronomy from 1990-2000.

In 1967, Professor Aller published a seminal paper, in collaboration with his thesis adviser Professor F.T. Haddock, reporting the discovery of the time variation of the polarized emission from quasi-stellar radio sources. This, together with the discovery of flux density variability by W.A. Dent several years earlier, established the field of active galactic nuclei (AGN) variability studies, in which Professor Aller remained a major contributor for his entire career. In the late 1970s, he developed automatic computer control for the 26-m radio telescope of the University of Michigan Radio Astronomy Observatory (UMRAO) on Peach Mountain. This dramatically increased the efficiency of observing and allowed for over one million observations of AGN at the centimeter wavelength to be taken during the observatory's lifetime. These data were pivotal in revealing the nature of AGN and their radio band emission: shocked relativistic jets, originating in the supermassive black hole in the nucleus of the AGN parent galaxy. The data continue to be shared widely with the astronomical community, aiding in the interpretation of very long baseline imaging data, in diverse broadband studies of AGN, and in studies of galactic superluminal sources and supernova remnants. The value of the UMRAO data led to numerous collaborations, yielding almost 300 refereed papers and hundreds of conference contributions. These data have remained relevant in the era of space-based astronomy, and appear as an important component in analyses of both X-ray and gamma-ray observations.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Hugh D. Aller, Ralph B. Baldwin Professor Emeritus of Astronomy and professor emeritus of astronomy**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2018