

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**  
**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Gary R. Solon, Ph.D.**, professor of economics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and faculty associate in the Institute for Social Research's Survey Research Center, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2007.

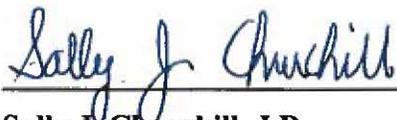
Professor Solon received his B.A. degree from Harvard University in 1975 and his Ph.D. degree from Princeton University in 1983. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1983, and was promoted to associate professor in 1989, and professor in 1994. Professor Solon held additional appointments in the Institute for Public Policy Studies and the Institute for Social Research's Survey Research Center. He was chair of the Department of Economics from 1999-2003.

Professor Solon was an expert in labor economics and applied econometrics. His research focused on the persistence of earnings across time—both within the earnings history of individual workers and across generations within families. This research showed how careful attention—both to the data and the statistical error process—revealed that earnings power is very persistent over time and generations once life-cycle changes and transitory noise are accounted for. This persistence of earnings power implies that income inequality will be transmitted across generations more powerfully than suggested by simple correlations. While changes associated with short-term economic fluctuations are “noise” from this perspective, they are important for other policy contexts, and his care in analyzing this component of earnings changes led to significant contributions to our understanding of business-cycle fluctuations.

Professor Solon was also an outstanding teacher and adviser. He received multiple awards for classroom teaching and was an important mentor to many students. Students eagerly awaited his songs about econometrics that punctuated his lectures on this highly technical material. In teaching, advising, commenting on colleagues' work, and in a wide range of service, his commitment to meeting his own high standards was constant across tasks and over time.

The Regents now salute this faculty member by naming **Gary R. Solon, professor emeritus of economics**.

**Requested by:**



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

**October 2018**