

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Adopted by the Regents  
December 15, 2011

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**John E. Fornæss, Ph.D.**, professor of mathematics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status December 31, 2011.

Professor Fornæss received his Cand.Mag. and Cand.Real. degrees from the University of Oslo in 1968 and 1970, respectively, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Washington in 1974. After serving on the faculty at Princeton University from 1974-90, he joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor of mathematics in 1990. From 1996-2011, he held the additional title of Frederick W. Gehring Collegiate Professor of Mathematics.

Professor Fornæss studies multivariate complex analysis. His early work did much to clarify the central notion of pseudoconvexity, and he developed many deep and useful new tools, and stunning counterexamples, that forced a re-examination of expectations in the subject. More recently, he has been a major force in extending the study of complex-analytic dynamical systems to the multivariate setting. Many important tools from the one-dimensional setting do not carry over well to higher dimension, so Professor Fornæss' deep understanding of plurisubharmonic functions stemming from his earlier work has often provided vital leverage in his work on dynamics.

During his career at the University of Michigan, Professor Fornæss supervised 22 successful Ph.D. students, served on the committees of several others, and energetically mentored many postdocs. He was the Analysis area leader for the department for six years, served as associate chair for graduate studies (2007-09), and was coordinator for the large Calculus 215 and 216 courses. Professor Fornæss oversaw a special two-year period in the department, which involved hosting numerous distinguished visitors and presenting large conferences in several complex variables. He has authored or co-authored over 150 research papers and has written four books. Professor Fornæss served on the editorial boards of a number of mathematical journals, including 15 years as a member of the editorial board of the *Michigan Mathematical Journal*. He is the recipient of a Sloan Fellowship (1977-79) and the Bergman Prize (1994), among other awards, and has held visiting appointments at institutions worldwide.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **John E. Fornæss professor emeritus of mathematics**.

**Requested by:**

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

**December 2011**