THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Peter P. Pronko, Ph.D., research scientist in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2002.

Dr. Pronko received his B.S. degree from the University of Scranton in 1960, his M.S. degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1962, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Alberta in 1966. He served as assistant professor of physics at the University of Scranton (1967-68), research associate at McMaster University (1968-72), physicist with Argonne National Labs (1972-80), and senior physicist, chief scientist, and director at University Energy Systems, Inc. (1980-92). Dr. Pronko joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1992 as a research scientist, and he served as the associate director for industrial liaisons in the Center for Ultrafast Optical Science.

Throughout his career, Dr. Pronko pursued an interdisciplinary approach in his research in physics and materials. He made seminal contributions in the study of the response of materials to ultrafast laser pulses in solids, which led to new insights into plasma formation and ion dynamics. These accomplishments have led, through widely disseminated publications, to Dr. Pronko’s international reputation in the application of laser and ion beams to technology and engineering. He has lectured and published widely and is a recognized leader in these subject areas.

Dr. Pronko has also been very involved in technology transfer and commercialization of new discoveries emanating from research at the University, and his efforts have led to the formation of several start-up companies. It is unusual for a research scientist to have as broad an array of accomplishments as Dr. Pronko does. His mentorship of students, interaction with colleagues, and relentless pursuit of new knowledge is noteworthy and deserving of recognition.

The Regents salute this distinguished scholar by naming Peter P. Pronko research scientist emeritus.

Requested by:

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Lisa A. Tedesco
Vice President and Secretary of the University

March 2003