

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
*Regents Communication*  
**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

Gopal Prasad, the Raoul Bott Collegiate Professor of Mathematics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2017

Professor Prasad received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Bombay, India, in 1976. In 1975 he got tenure at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, and was named a Professor there in 1984. He was appointed a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Michigan in 1992, and in 2008, he was named the Raoul Bott Collegiate Professor of Mathematics. Professor Prasad's numerous visiting appointments have included stays at Yale University and the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, Berkeley. He has been a many-time Member of and frequent visitor to the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

Considered a leading expert on Lie groups and algebraic groups, Professor Prasad has done ground-breaking research with many collaborators. In his early work, he proved the strong rigidity of lattices in real semi-simple groups of rank 1 and also of lattices in  $p$ -adic groups, and later studied the topological central extensions of these groups, and computed the metaplectic kernel for isotropic groups. Professor Prasad and A. Rapinchuk gave a precise computation of the metaplectic kernel for all simply connected semi-simple groups. He proved a useful volume formula for semisimple groups, and with UM colleague Allen Moy, worked on the representation theory of reductive  $p$ -adic groups, developing the "Moy-Prasad filtration" of parahoric subgroups. In recent work with B. Conrad and O. Gabber, Professor Prasad has given a classification of and structure theory for non-abelian pseudo-reductive groups over all imperfect fields. This work settles an outstanding problem in the area and has several important arithmetic applications.

From 1998 to 2011, Professor Prasad was the managing editor of the Michigan Mathematical Journal, during which time he broadened the editorial board to include mathematicians from around the world, and significantly enhanced the Journal's stature. He was an associate editor for the Annals of Mathematics for 6 years. He served on many departmental and University committees, and chaired the department's Library Committee for many years. Professor Prasad was recognized with a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in 1998 and a Humboldt Senior Research Award in 2006. He was a devoted teacher of both undergraduate and graduate courses, directed 4 Ph.D. students, published 3 research monographs, and had more than 60 research papers and 7 collaborators.

The Regents salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Gopal Prasad the Raoul Bott Collegiate Professor Emeritus of Mathematics**.

**Requested by:**

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**Vice President and Secretary of the University**