

September 18-19, 2024

ITEM 214-2012-R0924

Request Authorization to Confer the Title of Associate Professor Emeritus of Mathematics upon Mark Pernarowski; Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Associate Professor Mark Pernarowski from the faculty in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University and the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Mark Pernarowski obtained his B.S. in Mathematics in 1983 at University of British Columbia, his M.S. in 1986 in Applied Mathematics from the University of Washington, and his Ph.D. in 1990 in Applied Mathematics, also from the University of Washington. He joined the faculty of Montana State University in the Department of Mathematical Sciences in 1992 and was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 1998.

Dr. Pernarowski is an applied mathematician, and over his career he has amassed expertise in a variety of application areas, most notably in mathematical biology. As an undergraduate, he co-authored a technical report on Markov processes and completed his undergraduate thesis on The Mathematical Foundation of Quantum Mechanics, and as a graduate student, he co-authored two consulting technical reports on composite material modelling (Boeing) and moisture detection in log drying systems (Weyerhaeuser). His Ph.D. dissertation was a comprehensive study on models of the pancreatic cells that make insulin. Pancreas cells exhibit ubiquitous “bursting” oscillations. Mark expanded his studies of similar oscillations to include endocrine cells, cortical neurons and sensory neurons (visual system). In totality, Mark’s research has culminated in more than 20 papers, 2 theses, and one patent related to medical imaging. He has completed additional work in mathematical biology related to evolution, population dynamics, genetics and most recently transcranial magnetic imaging. Mark remains active in these studies, which he intends to continue into retirement.

Over his career at Montana State, Mark has taught nearly every undergraduate applied mathematics course, and he is well-known for his clear and thorough lectures. He is a particular favorite among students in Honors Multivariable Calculus and Honors Introduction to Differential Equations. In recognition of his teaching excellence, Mark was the recipient of the 2006 College of Letters and Science Teaching Award.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Dr. Mark Pernarowski the rank of Associate Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None