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Honorary Degree Award Citation for Alan Parks

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Alan Parks

ALAN PARKS, you joined Lawrence's Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science department in 1985, eager to teach a range of courses to a range of students, from the supremely confident to those who, in your words, "modestly underestimate their own potential." Over more than 35 years on the faculty, you have relished the challenge of conveying difficult material to eager learners, drawing satisfaction from seeing your students grow in their mathematical abilities.

After receiving your B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, you moved to East Lansing, Michigan to take up an appointment as an Instructor at Michigan State University. In 1984 you accepted an appointment as Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Ohio University. You came to Lawrence the following year, attaining tenure and the rank of Associate Professor in 1989. In the summer of that year, and again in 1992, you served as a consultant for the summer faculty research program at the Center for Communications Research in Princeton.

In 2003, you were promoted to Professor. That same year, you served as the Science Semester Resident Director at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. Other notable service includes the text materials you have produced for a wide range of courses at Lawrence, including Optimization, Foundations of Analysis, Numerical Analysis, Theory of Computation, and Algebraic Structures.

Your papers have been published in the *American Mathematical Monthly*, the *Journal of Algebra*, the *Canadian Journal of Mathematics*, and the *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*. You have also designed software, including extensions of the LISP family of programming languages that have made it easier for students to use the language and allow for the construction of axiomatic mathematical systems.

Alan, in recognition of your many contributions to Lawrence and its students, I am pleased to award you the degree of Master of Arts, *ad eundem*, on the occasion of your retirement from the faculty.

June 13, 2021